



**Monday Evening Inquiry Sessions**  
**Begin August 26, 2019**  
**7:00pm \* Leo Hall**

Individuals come forward seeking to learn more about the Catholic faith. You may have a friend who is Catholic... you may be dating, engaged, or married to a Catholic ...you may have been baptized Catholic but never completed your initiation.

If you are such a seeker, we welcome you! The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA, is not a class but a process of prayer, reflection, and learning. Every person's participation in the program is a response to an invitation from Jesus to get to know Him better. We welcome new participants and are happy to work with people from all backgrounds and circumstances. **No matter where you are on your faith journey, there is a place for you at Saint Catherine Labouré Parish.**

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*Please complete, detach, and return to the parish office or  
contact Deb at 717-564-1321 or [dsalldin@schbq.org](mailto:dsalldin@schbq.org)*

**I THINK I MAY BE INTERESTED IN RCIA**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## How Does a Person Become Catholic?

Years ago, if a person was interested in becoming Catholic, he or she would meet with a priest, receive instruction concerning aspects of the faith, and after a period of time, be baptized privately or received into the Church. That person became another face in the crowd at Sunday Mass. Realizing that we are a faith family, a community of believers, the Church has changed its approach to bringing new members into the community.

**Conversion, not instruction:** Becoming a Catholic is an important decision in a person's life requiring much thought and prayer. Coming to the Catholic Church is a person's response to an invitation made by Jesus to know Him through His Church, the sacraments, and community. Conversion describes the process of coming to know Him more deeply and be in relationship with Him. While we learn many facts of the Church in RCIA (Why do Catholics genuflect? What is going to confession all about? Why do Catholics pray to Mary?) and these things are important, it is the relationship with Christ which we hope to nurture and support.

**A process, not a program:** Once again, RCIA is best described as a process of coming into relationship with Jesus on a personal level. Everything to know about Him could not fit into an eight month instruction program or a lifetime for that matter. In RCIA, we realize that there is a space in our hearts that only Christ can fill and that our faith will be what we make of it. This is a new beginning on our life's journey with Him.

**Public, not private:** The process of becoming Catholic involves ceremonies called "rites" that take place during certain Sunday liturgies. The public nature of these rites is important because we are a community of believers. Those who are already Catholic pray for and support those on the path towards initiation and those who are in RCIA remind all of us to be more committed to ongoing conversion in our own lives.

