

## FAQs about Becoming Catholic (Christian Initiation for Adults) at St. Joseph Catholic Church

Christian Initiation for Adults offers individuals who may wish to enter the Catholic Church an opportunity to examine the faith in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. A team of lay parishioners and clergy welcome new participants.

Christian Initiation for Adults is not a course or class in Catholicism. Rather, it is a gradual, guided period of formation and conversion leading participants toward initiation into the Catholic Church. Initiation into the Church is marked by the celebration of three sacraments as needed: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

Who is Christian Initiation for Adults for?

First, Christian Initiation is for those adults *who have not been Baptized* in a Christian faith tradition. Through prayer, reflection, and participation in liturgy you enter the Christian church through Baptism. Easter is the usual time for Adult Baptism in the Catholic Church. At the time of your Baptism, you complete your initiation into the Catholic Church by celebrating the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

Second, Christian Initiation is for those adults *who have been Baptized in another Christian denomination*. Through a period of formation that includes prayer and participation in liturgy candidates are received into full communion of the Catholic Church by a Profession of Faith and the celebration of the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at a Sunday Mass.

Third, Christian Initiation is for those adults *who have been Baptized in the Catholic Church* but have not celebrated the other sacraments of initiation. The celebration of Confirmation and Eucharist at a Sunday Mass will complete your journey into the Church.

We want to listen to your needs and wishes, as well as to offer you the opportunity fully to discern God's call at this important moment in your life. Time is needed for your faith formation. All we ask is that you be open to the process.

Is there any cost to participate in Christian Initiation for Adults?

No, there is no charge to participate. We will provide you with all necessary materials.

Who is a sponsor?

A godparent/sponsor serves as a model of Catholic living for the individual that he/she is serving. They should be someone who is an active member of their parish who is willing to be a friend, a listener, a guide, and who will participate with you. The team can help you find a godparent/sponsor if you don't already have someone in mind.

In order to serve as a godparent/sponsor, a person must:

1. Be a fully initiated Catholic in good standing (received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) and who is currently living a sacramental life (attending Mass and Reconciliation regularly) and does not labor under a canonical penalty;
2. Be at least 18 years of age;
3. Not be a parent or spouse of the individual to be confirmed.

What if I get started and decide this isn't for me?

Faith in God and the decision to become a member of the Catholic Church are personal choices that must be made in an atmosphere of complete freedom. We will try our best to help you understand what it means to be a Catholic Christian. However, we believe that you must be allowed to use God's gifts of conscience and free will without feeling any pressure from us.