

STAGES AND RITUALS OF THE RCIA FOR BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS & UNCATECHIZED CATHOLICS

1. Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate – Adapted & Modified

This is a time of no fixed duration or structure, for inquiry and introduction reflection and understanding one's Baptism, and sharing Gospel values.

First Rite: The Rite of Welcoming the Candidates

This is the liturgical rite, usually celebrated on several annual dates, when candidates who are already marked by Baptism are formally welcomed into the life of the community. The Church community commits itself to surrounding and supporting them as they prepare to be sealed by Confirmation and to take their place at the Eucharistic table.

2. Period of the Catechumenate - Adapted

This is the time, in duration corresponding to the progress of the individual, for the nurturing and growth of the candidates' faith and conversion to God, for postbaptismal catechesis, and for an apprenticeship to the full life of the Catholic community; celebrations of the word and blessing are meant to assist the process.

Second Rite: Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion

This is the liturgical rite, celebrated six weeks before the Rite of Reception, often celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent, by which the Church formally affirms the candidates' increasing fidelity to their Baptism, and their readiness for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist

3. Period of Purification and Enlightenment - Adapted

This is the time of preparation immediately preceding the reception of the candidates. It may be during the Lenten season or at another time; it is a time of reflection, intensely centered on a deepening relationship with Jesus Christ, marked by celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Third Rite: Celebration of the Rite of Reception into Full Communion

This is the liturgical rite, celebrated anytime during the liturgical year, by which baptized Christians make a profession of faith, are received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church, and receive Confirmation and First Eucharist.

4. Period of Postbaptismal Catechesis or Mystagogy

This is the time during which the new Catholics reflect on the liturgical rites and experience being fully a part of the Christian community by means of ongoing participation with all the faithful in the Sunday Eucharistic celebration, and in the life of the community.