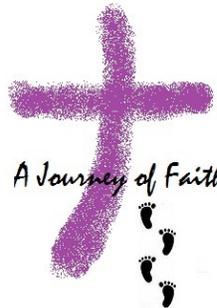


## What is the Rite of Christian Initiation?

The Rite of Christian Initiation prepares children for the lifetime commitment that comes with reception into the Catholic Church. The Rite of



Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) is a *process*, not a program. The process is one of faith development

where the children grow in their relationship with God, as expressed through Roman Catholic beliefs. Because each child's journey of faith is different; some may need more time than others to prepare for full initiation into the Church. The usual length of time is between one and two years.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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## What's Inside...

This is a process of answering God's call for a deeper relationship. Inside this brochure you will learn about the following:

- For Whom RCIC Is Intended
- What to Do If Your Child Is Baptized in Another Faith
- What the Process Is
- What You the Parent Need to Do
- What a Sponsor Is
- When and Where the Classes Are
- And Some Additional Information...

### Extreme Weather Policy

Extremely cold weather or dangerously icy roads may result in a cancelled class. When the North Pole *Time and Temperature* message (488.1111) at 5 pm states the temperature is -40 degrees or colder, or when the roads are too icy, classes will be cancelled. Notifications will be sent out via Flocknote.

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) 2018 - 2019

**St. Nicholas Catholic Church**



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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# The Rite of Christian Initiation for Children Explained

## For Whom RCIC Is Intended

RCIC is intended for children, not baptized as infants, who have attained the use of reason and are of catechetical (school) age. They seek Christian initiation either at the direction of their parents or guardians or, with parental permission, on their own initiative. Such children are capable of receiving and nurturing a personal faith and of recognizing an obligation in conscience.

Once readiness is reached, the children will receive the three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Communion) at the Easter Vigil Mass.

## If Your Child Is Baptized in Another Faith...

Those second through fifth grade students who are already baptized but need to receive First Penance and First Eucharist will attend their age-appropriate class on Sundays as well as the monthly classes for Sacramental Preparation.

If they have no exposure to Catholic beliefs and practices, however, they should be enrolled in RCIC.



**Prayer is essential to the process.**

## What the Process Is...

The process involves prayer, study, play activities, and listening to the Word of God through Bible Stories.

- \* The process is Jesus-centered. It focuses on Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher, and His teachings.
- \* RCIC provides opportunities for children to hear the Word of God and to begin to apply the Word to their daily relationships.
- \* The program allows children to discover the love of Jesus and to respond to His love by their actions and deeds.

## What You Need to Do...

- 1) Complete the RE Registration Form.
- 2) Provide a copy of a Birth Certificate (if already baptized a Baptismal Certificate) for each child.
- 3) Attend Sunday Mass, the RCIC classes, retreats, and Rites with your child.
- 4) Bring each child to participate in their age-appropriate Sunday RE classes.
- 5) Help your child select a sponsor.

## What a Sponsor Is...

A sponsor is a practicing Catholic who will attend the RCIC sessions with your child and who, like Jesus the Good Shepherd, will provide spiritual support and guidance while they journey through the initiation process together. The sponsor should have a strong knowledge of Catholic beliefs and traditions, be confirmed, be at least 16 years of age, and a person other than the parent of the child. You may have a



**Christ, the Good Shepherd**

sponsor in mind or there may be a member of the community who would like to assist you and your child as a sponsor.

## When and Where the Classes Are...

RCIC classes are held on Thursday evenings at 7 pm in Room 204 in the Pastoral Center beginning September 20th. Sessions last about an hour.

Sessions may be cancelled due to special events or bad weather. Children, their parents, and their sponsors will be notified in advance should a session be cancelled.



**Christ, the Teacher**

## Also...

- \* The children in RCIC are expected to attend all weekly sessions on a regular basis with a parent and sponsor present.
- \* The support from the parents and sponsor allows for the continual education and spiritual growth of the child.

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