

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

RCIY(Rite of Christian Initiation of Youth)

Welcome!

I hope that you will be able to find some valuable information in this bulletin. However feel free to call or e-mail me with any further questions.

The Catholic Church is always ready to welcome those who wish to become part of our faith community. We of Immaculate Conception Church make a special effort to reach out to anyone interested in exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic. There is never any pressure or obligation to actually become Catholic.

If you have ever asked yourself any of the following questions the RCIA will help you answer them.

- Will becoming a Catholic help me develop and strengthen my relationship with God?**
- Will becoming a Catholic make a difference in my life?**
- Will my participation in the Mass and the sacraments really enhance the fullness of life for me that is promised in the Scriptures and help me in my pilgrimage to heaven?**

Life is a journey in which a person is constantly learning, growing, and changing.

This RCIA process is a step in that journey and lays the groundwork through information and experiences in helping you to decide if you want to be a member of the Catholic faith. The RCIA will provide you an opportunity to ask questions, pray and experience what is meant by being a Catholic Christian and entering into a relationship with God and the catholic community.

You may be wondering: Who can be part of the RCIA?

- **Someone who has never been baptized**
- **Someone who has been baptized in another faith tradition but wishes to join the Catholic faith**
- **A person who has been baptized as a Catholic but not fully catechized, that is not having received the first Holy Communion and the sacrament of Confirmation.**

ALL THE PARISH COMMUNITY IS WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY OR ALL MEETINGS!

Our instructional group begins after the 10:15 Mass in the Parish Center, runs from 11:30-1:00 and generally follows the

Religious Education schedule. Allowing this amount of time provides time to get a cup of coffee and briefly socialize with those in our group before reading the Sunday Scriptural Readings, talking about what they mean to us and how they can be applied in our daily lives. Each week we will have a brief focused discussion on one of the following topics in order to delve deeper into Catholic beliefs. These topics include: The Meaning of the Mass; What it Means to be Catholic; The Apostles Creed; The Bible; How Catholics Interpret the Bible; Catholics and Prayer; Tour of the Church and Religious Symbols; Catholic Practices; Intro to the Sacraments; Who Is Jesus Christ?; Mary and All The Saints; What is Advent?; What is Lent?; Christian Moral Living; Social Justice; Life Ethics/ Dignity of Life; Lord's Prayer; Meaning of Holy Week; Conversion; our Special Gifts and Talents; Discernment; Evangelization and Family Life.

If your spouse or someone who is close to you has stopped attending Sunday Mass and the sacraments and desire to return to the church, they are welcome to attend your faith meetings, can speak to our pastor Father Jim Fahey or myself anytime and may find some interesting information on the internet website [Once Catholic.org](http://OnceCatholic.org).

In closing we enthusiastically welcome you to join us on our spiritual journey. If you or someone you know is interested please call me Kathy Bendixen at 508-230-22300 or e-mail me at Kathleen.bendixen@verizon.net or call the Parish Office at 508-238-3232 and ask for our pastor Jim Fahey

If we are not available at the time of your call we will get back to you ASAP. However we will need your name and your telephone number for future contact.

A brief interview with Father Fahey and myself will have to be conducted in order to find out whether you were baptized or you will be in need of Baptism The pre-meeting has multi purposes. First the pre-meeting is always helpful in clarifying any confusions or problems. Second it always is helpful in ascertaining if the time scheduled is a convenient time for RCIA sessions or if a more creative or flexible use of time is needed. Third it allows time for the RCIA leader to explain the role of the Sponsor (an active confirmed Catholic) and to find out whether or not you have someone who would be able to fulfill this role for your journey in faith or if you will be in need of someone. If you have a sponsor at this meeting we will need to get your sponsor's name and telephone number and at the first meeting with your sponsor we will need his or her Baptismal/

Confirmation certificates in order to prove the authenticity of his/her faith membership. It will be necessary to find a sponsor who is able to attend as many RCIA sessions as possible. If you have no one you can ask us to provide you with one We have people within the parish who are eagerly awaiting this call to sponsorship so this should not be considered an area of concern or worry.

I am looking forward to meeting you and joining you on your journey in faith. God Be With

Kathy Bendixen

RCIA Director