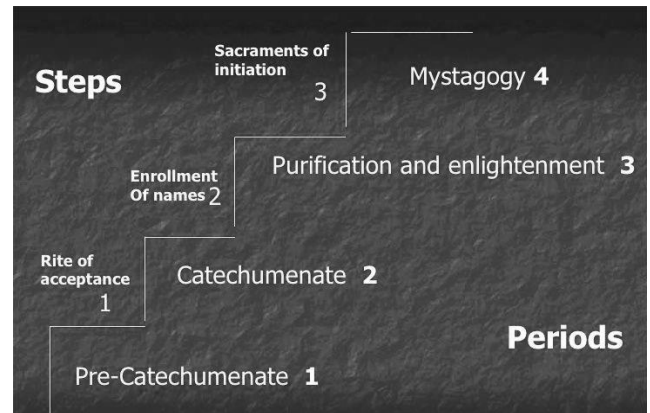


# RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is a process to become a fully initiated member of the Catholic-Christian community. The process may span a matter of almost a year one is baptized, confirmed and receives first communion. The following describes the stages and steps of the RCIA process.



- **Stage 1: The Period of Pre-Catechumenate (Title: *Inquirer*)**

During the Pre-Catechumenate, you have made an initial inquiry about joining the Catholic-Christian community. During this period of exploration: you to listen to the Gospel; learn the basics of the faith; and gain a sense of the faith community.

- **Step 1: Rite of Acceptance**

- The inquirer is formally received into the Church, dependent upon if they have so discerned that that is where their faith journey is calling them.

- **Stage 2: The Period of the Catechumenate (Title: *Catechumen*)**

The Catechumenate is a time of learning and deepening one's faith, of prayer, discernment and faith formation usually through a series of formal instructions.

- **Step 2: The Rite of Election**

- During the Rite of Election, your name is enrolled in the Book of the Elect in a liturgy with others, who themselves, will be initiated at the Easter Vigil.

- **Stage 3: The Period of Purification & Enlightenment (Title: *Elect*)**

Throughout Lent, a deeper focus of purification and enlightenment will ensue. You are asked to scrutinize yourself, that is, to think and feel deeply about the journey you are undertaking as you prepare for the sacraments.

- **Step 3: The Sacraments of Initiation**

- You will be baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist at the solemn Easter Vigil Liturgy, the climax of the Liturgical year.

- **Stage 4: Mystagogy (Title: *Neophyte*)**

In the period of Mystagogy, you are growing in your new found faith and faith community. You are encouraged to receive the sacraments, to live the Gospel, and to practice the faith of which you are now a full and active member.

