

Frequently Asked Questions About Becoming Catholic

How Does One Become Catholic? Those who have never baptized as well as those baptized but haven't received the sacrament of Confirmation, are initiated through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) process that leads to the full initiation into the sacramental life of the Church. You will likely take the OCIA class which runs from September to May on Wednesday nights, 6-8pm, in which you will be exposed to the teachings of the Church and taught how to live out the Catholic faith. Typically, the people in OCIA will receive the sacraments during the Easter Vigil Mass, but the need of each individual is different and your timeline can change (could be longer or shorter) based off of your personal needs.

What is Inquiry? This is the first step to become a Catholic in the OCIA process. This period may vary in length according to God's timing and the work of the Holy Spirit in you. Conversion is a gradual process or a faith journey. The aim of this period is to awaken one's faith. Once God's time has been fulfilled and the inquirer is ready to take the first step in the process of conversion, the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome is celebrated.

What is the Rite Of Acceptance and Welcome? It is a celebration where baptized and unbaptized inquirers publicly declare to the church their intentions to continue their faith journey. The Church, in turn, welcomes and accepts them as persons who intend to become its members. It will usually take place during the fall (usually in October) during a Sunday Mass.

I'm interested in starting this OCIA process. What Do I Do Next? Please reach out to Lydia Ross at lross@allsoulscatholic.org. We will set up a meeting so our team can know how to best support you in your faith journey.

If I Begin, Am I Obligated to Become a Catholic? There is no obligation to make any kind of commitment nor is there pressure exerted on anyone to become a Catholic. We respect the conscience and decision of every inquirer. We hope you will gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of Catholic beliefs and practices through your attendance at Inquiry.

I Am Already Baptized. Will I Need to Be Baptized Again? Generally not. The Catholic Church recognizes the action of the Holy Spirit in other Christian communities and accepts valid Christian baptisms. We will need to confirm that a valid baptism took place, either by a baptismal certificate or verifying with witnesses.

What is A Sponsor? What if I Don't Know Anyone Who Can Be My Sponsor? A sponsor is a confirmed Catholic who has volunteered to be your companion during your faith journey. Sponsors commit to pray with and for you, attend OCIA sessions with you and generally help you to become a part of the parish family. If you do not have someone to be your sponsor, we'll provide you with one.

Are Catholics Christians? Yes. The term Christian refers to all who recognize Jesus as the Christ (Messiah) and Lord. Catholics are the one group of Christians who can trace their lineage as a Church back to Jesus' Twelve Apostles.

Why Can't I Go to Communion? Sharing of the Eucharist is a sign of full unity, an expression of shared belief, practice and fellowship in the Catholic Church. We respectfully ask those who are not yet one with us in belief to refrain from receiving the Eucharist. Everyone is invited to come forward at the time of Communion to receive a blessing from the priest or Eucharistic minister. Simply indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms across your chest.

Who Can I Contact if I Have Additional Questions? Please feel free to contact Lydia Ross at lross@allsoulscatholic.org with any questions you might have.

