



THE INQUIRY PERIOD: YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

NOT BAPTIZED

You are an inquirer. In this period, you will receive help and attention, answers to your questions, and a suitable explanation to the Gospel. This period is indefinite, but you will proceed when you feel a readiness and the fundamentals of Christian life have taken root.

THE RITE OF ACCEPTANCE: You publically declare your intention to enter the Church; The Church accepts & embraces you. You now have an established relationship with the Church, You are now called a Catechumen.

BAPTIZED

THE RITE OF WELCOMING: You are welcomed into the community and acknowledged as having been marked with the seal of baptism. You are now called a Candidate for full Communion with the Church.

THE CATECHUMENATE PERIOD

You are an apprentice Catholic. Formation in morality, prayer, Catholic doctrine, and pastoral life is deepened to strengthen your faith and comprehensive knowledge in the Christian way of life and Catholic Church. This is the longest period and you will proceed after a discernment and when you feel a conversion in mind and action.

THE RITE OF ELECTION: You are presented and affirmed by your Godparent. The Bishop formally acknowledges the readiness of you, as a Catechumen, and calls you to the Sacraments of Initiation. You are now called the Elect.

THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION: You are presented and affirmed by your Sponsor. The Bishop recognizes you to join with the Church in a spirit of repentance in the Act of Recognition. You are still called a Candidate.

THE PURIFICATION & ENLIGHTENMENT PERIOD

This is a time for spiritual preparation of the Sacraments. It is a time of repentance, holiness, and interior reflection. You will participate in the Scrutinies. This period takes place during lent.

This is a time for spiritual preparation for receipt of the Sacraments. It is a time of repentance, holiness, and interior reflection. You participate in Confession. This period takes place during lent.

THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: You are presented on Easter Vigil and receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. You are called a Neophyte until the anniversary of your initiation.

THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: The Profession and Act of Reception occurs. You receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist. You are called a Neophyte until your anniversary of your initiation.

THE MYSTAGOGIA PERIOD

You have completed initiation or received into full communion of the Catholic Church- Church and participate in the Eucharistic life. You grow & deepen your faith, Christian experience, and participate with the Community.

TERMS FOR PARTICIPANTS:

Inquirer: A person, unbaptized or baptized, who participates in the period of Evangelization and the Precatechumenate (also known as the Inquiry Period), up to the Rites of Acceptance and Welcoming.

Catechumen: A person who is preparing for Baptism. This term is used for a person who has taken part in the Rite of Acceptance following the period of Inquiry, until the time when he or she goes through the Rite of Election.

Candidate for Confirmation and the Eucharist: A person who has been baptized Catholic and who is now preparing to complete his or her initiation by receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist.

Candidate for Full Communion: A person who has been validly baptized in a separate ecclesial community and who now is preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. This term is used for a person who has taken part in the Rite of Welcoming following the Period of Inquiry. Following sacramental Confession, a candidate makes a profession of faith, is confirmed, and receives the Eucharist.

Elect: An unbaptized person (catechumen who has gone through the Rite of Election on the First Sunday of Lent signifying their being chosen for the sacraments of initiation). This term applies to the period that begins with the Rite of Election to the time until the person is baptized.

Neophyte: A person who has entered the Catholic Church. The term applies to all new Catholics until the following Easter, or a year following their initiation.

PERIODS:

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults: The Christian Initiation process for adults as a whole.

Precatechumenate- first period of instruction. Period that ends when it is decided that an inquirer is ready and freely chooses to become a member of the church and to participate in the celebration of the Rite of Acceptance or the Rite of Welcoming

Catechumenate- The second period: extended instruction and preparation following the Rites of Acceptance and Welcoming and preceding the Rites of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion, the purpose of which is pastoral formation and guidance aimed at training participants in Christian life. It includes a comprehensive catechesis on the truths of Catholic doctrine and moral life

Purification and Enlightenment- third period: intense spiritual preparation for the sacraments of initiation (coincides with lent)

Mystagogy: The **fourth & final period:** continued instruction from Easter to Pentecost of formal instruction in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, lasting for seven weeks from Easter to Pentecost.

rites (LITURGICAL TRADITIONS):

The Rite of Acceptance & Welcoming

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

Scrutinies: Three minor rites for elect (unbaptized) during lent to prepare for Sacraments and repent on sins and God's mercy.

The Penitential Rite is for baptized candidates

The Sacraments of Initiation

CREED

A summary statement or profession of our faith.

- Comes from the Latin word *credo*, “I believe”; It is a short summary of the truths of faith and a rule of faith; to commit to memory and pass on.
- Apostles’ Creed: The earliest creed that attributed to the twelve apostles.
- Nicene Creed: The statement of faith professed at **Mass every Sunday** dating back to the 4th century.

Articles of Faith	Apostle's Creed	Nicene Creed
God the Father	I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.	I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
Jesus Christ, the Son of God	I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.	I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.
Incarnation	He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary.	For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
The Passion and Death of Christ	He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.	For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,
Resurrection of Christ	He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.	and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
Ascension	He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.	He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
Judgment	He will come again to judge the living and the dead.	He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.
The Holy Spirit	I believe in the Holy Spirit,	I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
The Church	the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,	I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
Forgiveness of Sins	the forgiveness of sins,	I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
Resurrection of the Body	the resurrection of the body,	and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
Everlasting Life	and the life everlasting.	and the life of the world to come.

You need to know what you believe

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

1. The Creed: What the Church Believes
2. The Sacraments: What the Church Celebrates
3. The Commandments: How the Church Lives
4. The Our Father: How the Church Prays

Basic Gospel Message

1. God loves you and He has a wonderful plan for your life and your happiness.
2. Because of sin, man is separated from God and cannot know the happiness God has planned.
3. But God loved you so much that He sent His only son Jesus Christ to die for you in order that you could be reconciled to the Father, and discover His plan for you.
4. Therefore, turn away from sin! Say yes to Jesus; become His disciple by being part of his Church so that you can receive all that he has for you.