

Find out more:

Parish Website

www.stjosephaustintown.org/rcia

See what our parish does and how it serves.

Parish Christian Initiation Team

Tom Sauline, Pastoral Associate

Joyce Whited

Tom and Margie Williams

Frank and Diane Mineo

Questions?

Parish Rectory

330-792-1919

Saint Joseph Parish

4545 New Road, Austintown, OH 44515

Saint Joseph Parish

Are you already a
Christian, and are
interested in

**Becoming a
Catholic
Christian?**

The journey of following
Christ's call to communion
with the Catholic Church





Our journey

At Saint Joseph Parish the Christian Initiation Team members are grateful for the opportunity to walk with you as you discern the call to live out your Baptism in the practice of the Catholic faith.

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him...”Where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” (John 1:38-39)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process of the Church through which individuals prepare for and celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, and through which the entire faith community also welcomes new members who are already one with us in Baptism.

This process of preparation, celebration, and welcome is described as a “spiritual journey.” We are on the path together, fostering a deep relationship with Jesus Christ. The journey takes place through distinct steps that allow for exploration, experience, learning, and deep reflection.

The steps

The journey is taken in stages and marked along the way by celebration of rites with the entire faith community.

Inquiry

When you begin to ask questions about becoming Catholic, you are called an “inquirer.” You can ask question for as long as you have them. You begin to practice prayer in the Catholic way, and experience a sense of this Church. When you are ready, you are welcomed into the Church, and by celebrating the **Rite of Welcome** with the community and become a “candidate” for reception into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Candidacy

As a candidate, you explore our beliefs, experience prayer and scripture, live out our call to serve others, and explore the importance of Catholic community. This takes as long a period of time as it needs to.



Lent

Lent is a time of praying, fasting, and giving for all Catholics, as it will be for you. In addition, you will experience a “**penitential rite**” once on a Sunday during Lent, when you are called to silent interior examination and the community prays together for you.

On the First Sunday of Lent, the faith community will celebrate with you the **Rite of Sending**. Later that day, you will gather with many others like you at St. Columba Cathedral, where you will celebrate the **Call to Continuing Conversion**.

The RCIA Team will also journey with you through a “retreat,” a day of prayer that pulls us back from ordinary activities and leads us toward deeper communion with Christ.

Reception into Full Communion

When you are ready, which may be on Holy Saturday night during the Easter Vigil Mass, or at another time, the whole faith community will celebrate with you your Confirmation and reception into Full Communion.



Reflecting on the Mysteries

After your Confirmation and First Communion, your feet stay on the path of prayer, learning, serving, and belonging to community. Together we explore your new life in the Catholic Church.

