

Find out more:

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**Parish Website**

[www.stjosephaustintown.org/rcia](http://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

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Saint Joseph Parish

4545 New Road, Austintown, OH 44515

# Saint Joseph Parish RCIA

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The journey of following  
Christ's call to Baptism and  
beyond





## Our journey

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At Saint Joseph Parish, the Christian Initiation Team members are grateful for the opportunity to walk with you as you discern the call of Christ and enter into 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 welcomes new members.

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

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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 hear the Gospel, practice prayer, and experience a sense of Church. When you are ready, you are welcomed into the Church, and by celebrating the **Rite of Acceptance** with the community, you enter into the Order of the Catechumenate and are called (within the Church), a “catechumen.”

### The Catechumenate

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

You will begin to experience the Liturgy of the Word within Mass, which means that you will hear the Word of God, and the homily that helps apply it to our lives. Then you are sent forth from Mass in the company of someone who helps you further understand God’s Word.



### Purification and Enlightenment

This time of intense reflection takes place during Lent. 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 **Rite of Election**. You are then called “the elect”!

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

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 communion with Christ.

### The Easter Sacraments

On Holy Saturday night, during the Easter Vigil Mass, the whole faith community will celebrate with you the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.



### Reflecting on the Mysteries

After your Baptism, your feet stay on the path of prayer, learning, serving, and belonging to community. Together we explore your new life in Christ.

