

What Sacraments are you seeking?

Baptism ____; Reception into the Church ____; Confirmation ____; Eucharist ____

**St. John Vianney
RCIA Registration Form**

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____

Maiden Name: _____

Address : _____ City:: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ City and State of Birth: _____

Have you ever been Baptized?: _____ Name of Church: _____

City and State Baptized: _____

How old were you when you were baptized?: _____

Married?: _____ How many times married?: _____

Have you ever been married in a Catholic Church?: _____

Has your spouse been married previously?: _____

Mother's Name (include maiden name): _____

Father's Full Name: _____

Who will be your sponsor (godparent)?: _____

(If you don't have a sponsor in mind, you can choose from the RCIA team or RCIA community or name your sponsor later.)

What do you hope to get from the RCIA?

About the RCIA

RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process by which a person 7 years or older becomes Catholic. They will go through a process which follows the natural path of faith – a real Journey of Faith. It's divided into phases or stages. Each new phase is marked with a Rite – a ceremony held at a Sunday Mass. Candidate and Sponsor come before the congregation for prayer.

At first, there is the **Inquiry** stage where we begin to seek something greater than ourselves. We are seekers for *something or Someone*. We know there must be more to life. During this stage in the RCIA we talk about beliefs that all Christians hold, plus some things that uniquely Catholic. This is the “come and see” stage – no commitments, just exploring the Catholic Faith and stirring up the faith we have within us.

The second stage is the **Catechumenate**. This begins in Advent (about one month before Christmas) with our first Rite -- the **Rite of Acceptance**. The Inquirer, if he or she decides to continue, becomes a **Catechumen**. This stage can last more than one season. It ends when the Catechumen is ready to be baptized. Normally, this stage continues until the beginning of Lent. This is the learning stage. Catholic topics such as Sacraments are explained as well as other general Christian topics such as prayer. **Dismissals** begin at the beginning of this stage which is marked by the **Rite of Acceptance**. Each Sunday, we attend the 9 a.m. Mass, where the Catechumen are “dismissed” after the homily to go as a group to discuss the scripture they just heard and to break it open further. We apply the Word of God to our everyday lives. It does *so much good* to delve into the scripture and to share with each other. We grow by leaps and bounds!

On the first Sunday in Lent, the **Rite of Election** is held and the “Catechumen” become the “**Elect**”. This begins the stage of **Purification and Enlightenment**. The Catechumen enter this stage only after it has been determined they are ready for Baptism. This is a more intense period of preparation which has 3 minor rites within it. The **First, Second, and Third Scrutinies** are held on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent. They are held at different Masses so that we can witness to the parishioners and have them become acquainted to the newest members of our parish. Each of the Elect are preparing their hearts to be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil which is just a few short weeks away. Their Sponsor speaks for them: “they are ready”.

At the **Easter Vigil (the night before Easter Sunday)**, those ready for Baptism, **will receive their full initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Eucharist**. Their sins washed completely away, they shine with the Light of Christ and become a full, true member of God's Family through St. John Vianney Catholic Church. From here on out they are welcome at the Table of the Lord (to receive Holy Communion) and to participate in the Sacraments.

SPONSORS: Each person will have a Sponsor – someone who is willing to walk with their candidate through all the preparations for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. If you have someone in mind who is a fully initiated Catholic Christian (practicing Catholic) and who is willing to come with you, that's great, but if you don't, we have some people in RCIA who are very willing to walk with you through this Journey of Faith. Parents can't be sponsors, but husbands and wives can.

FOR THOSE MARRIED MORE THAN ONCE (OR WHO HAVE SPOUSES MARRIED MORE THAN ONCE): These situations can be obstacles to a smooth entry into the Church. It may take a little longer to happen, but it most assuredly will happen with patience, faith and a little effort. Please don't let it keep you from beginning your walk to Full Communion with the Catholic Church. Many people have faced this obstacle and overcome it and are now happy Catholics, but it takes some time. You should **make an appointment with Fr. Tom *immediately*** for a discussion if you or your spouse has been married more than once. The parish office number is 262-8317. He is very kind and understanding. If you don't make your appointment right away, it will take you two years to go through the RCIA at the least.

Please don't miss the **RCIA Overview on August 30 at 7 p.m.** in the Parish Lounge. Registration is also at all the Masses on August 29. **RCIA is every Monday night from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. from August 30 to May 16 with the exception of holidays.**

Any questions? Please don't hesitate to call Pam Aqui at 262-2875 or cell 387 4821. Or you can leave me a message on my voice mail box in the church office (772-5604).