



# UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

Donald S. Nesti, CSSp  
Center for Faith and Culture

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## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

### Sacramental Preparation

We are so excited that you are interested in becoming Catholic or completing your initiation into the Catholic Church through Confirmation!

### Becoming Catholic

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** (or RCIA) is a learning and preparation process for those interested in becoming Catholic. The RCIA begins with a period of Inquiry in which we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the foundations of Christian faith. The second stage of the RCIA is the Catechumenate, marked by the Rite of Acceptance on the first Sunday of Advent. The Catechumenate is a time of pastoral formation and learning the life of the Catholic faith community. During this time, baptized Christians seeking full communion with the Catholic Church receive the Rite of Welcome. This stage of the RCIA concludes with the Rite of Election (or the Call to Continuing Conversion for those already baptized) at the beginning of Lent. The third period of Purification and Enlightenment, a time of spiritual preparation and meditation, culminates in the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion – during the Easter Vigil.

In the weeks following the Vigil, those who have been received into the Catholic Church participate in Mystagogy, the final (and ongoing!) stage of the RCIA. During this time, you are invited to reflect more deeply upon the Easter mysteries and the Sacraments that you have received, as well as to begin discerning how you will participate in the life and mission of the Church.

### RCIA Calendar

RCIA sessions will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 5 to 6:30 pm during the 2018-2019 academic year in the Chapel of St. Basil. Each gathering will consist of prayer, teaching given by faculty and staff of the UST community, and small group conversation. Any student and member of the UST community desiring to learn more about the Catholic faith is welcome to attend.

September 19	Introductions and Welcome Our Desire for God and the Call to Conversion
September 26	Teaching Mass and Tour of the Chapel
October 3	Knowing God – Reason and Revelation
October 10	God the Father – Salvation History in the Old Testament
October 17	Jesus Christ and the New Testament
October 24	The Holy Spirit – God's Presence with Us Today
October 31	The Church I: One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic
November 7	Prayer
November 14	The Church II: History and Leadership
November 21	No RCIA (Thanksgiving Break)
November 28	The Liturgical Year and the Sacramental Life
<i>Sunday, December 2</i>	Rite of Acceptance and Rite of Welcome
January 16	Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation
January 23	Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist

January 30	Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick Reconciliation Service
February 6	Discernment and Vocation: Listening to the Voice of God
February 13	Holy Orders and the Role of the Laity
February 20	Marriage
February 27	Mary and the Communion of Saints Salvation, Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory
March 6	Catholic Social Teaching – Living the Works of Mercy Ash Wednesday Mass
March 13	No RCIA (Spring Break)
<i>Sunday, March 17</i>	Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion
March 20	The Moral Life
March 27	Ecumenism, Interreligious Dialogue, and the Missionary Mandate Q&A I
April 3	Q&A II / Invite a friend
April 10	Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum
<i>Tuesday, April 16</i>	Chrism Mass at Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
April 17	Rehearsal for the Easter Vigil
<i>Saturday, April 20</i>	Easter Vigil
April 24	Debrief post-Vigil: Sharing the Experience
May 1	Spiritual Gifts and Charisms Living the Catholic Life

We recognize that everyone's journey of faith is unique. If you are desiring to receive the Sacraments of Initiation once the formal process of the RCIA has begun or have a scheduling conflict, we are here to give you the formation and preparation that you need in order to receive the Sacraments. Simply email Nicole Driscoll at [driscond@stthom.edu](mailto:driscond@stthom.edu) and set up a time to meet to discuss further options.

### **Confirmation**

For baptized Catholics interested in being Confirmed, Campus Ministry offers semester-long Confirmation preparation twice per year. Weekly gatherings of prayer, teaching, and small group conversation will form and prepare you for full and active participation in the life of the Church. Confirmations are celebrated twice per year. For more information, please contact Nicole Driscoll at [driscond@stthom.edu](mailto:driscond@stthom.edu).