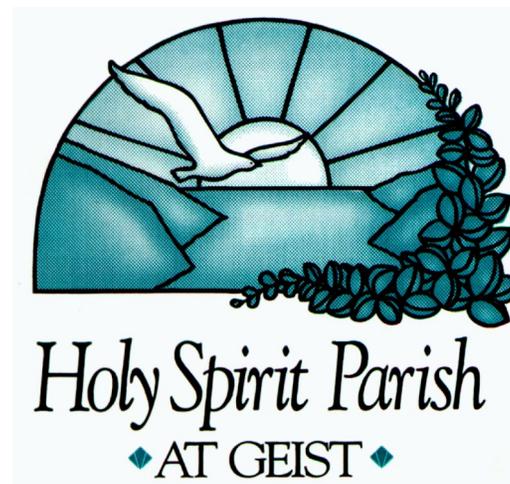


**Dates to save (now) on your calendar:**

October 30, 2016	<b>Mass Rite of Acceptance / Rite of Welcome</b> (9:30 a.m. Mass)
November 14, 2016	Sponsor Led Night
November 19, 2016	Parish Thanksgiving Basket Drive
December 12, 2016	Advent Evening of Reflection (7:00 p.m.)
January 8, 2017	Rite of Acceptance / Rite of Welcome (for those who did not participate in October)
February 20, 2017	Sponsor Led Night
<b>March 5, 2017</b>	<b>Rite of Sending (9:30 a.m. Mass); Rite of Election / Rite of Recognition (2:30 p.m.)</b> Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Lafayette, IN)
<b>March 11, 2017</b>	<b>RCIA Retreat</b> (10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Holy Spirit)
March 19, 2017	<b>First Scrutiny</b> (9:30 a.m. Mass) - required for those to be baptized
March 26, 2017	<b>Second Scrutiny</b> (9:30 a.m. Mass) - required for those to be baptized
April 2, 2017	<b>Third Scrutiny</b> (9:30 a.m. Mass)- required for those to be baptized
<b>April 13, 2017</b>	<b>Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper</b> (7:00 p.m.)
<b>April 14, 2017</b>	<b>Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion</b> (1:30 p.m.)
<b>April 15, 2017</b>	<b>Easter Vigil / celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation</b> (7:00 p.m.)

## ***Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults***



*Holy Spirit Parish at Geist*  
10350 Glaser Way  
Fishers, IN 46037  
[www.hspgeist.org](http://www.hspgeist.org)

317-585-1257 ext. 102  
Email: [nancy@hspgeist.org](mailto:nancy@hspgeist.org)  
Question box: [catholic411@hspgeist.org](mailto:catholic411@hspgeist.org)

**WELCOME!**

Thank you for your interest in the Catholic Faith and for coming to Holy Spirit Parish at Geist. Whether you are new to Holy Spirit or here to accompany a family member or friend, we invite you to participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), the process through which adults take time to reflect on their relationship with God, to learn how Catholic faith and practice may support and enhance that relationship, and to prepare for the Catholic sacraments of initiation: baptism, confirmation and Eucharist.

Each person's faith journey is unique. Throughout the process the RCIA team members, parish staff and parishioners are here for support and encouragement. Please ask questions and share any concerns you might have. Contact information may be found on the front of this brochure.

May you know God's blessing each day,

Nancy Goldfarb, RCIA coordinator  
Parishioners of the RCIA Team

**Notes:**

## MAY I BRING A FRIEND TO RCIA?

Absolutely! All RCIA sessions are open to any interested adult.

## IS THERE A SCHEDULE?

Yes. A current schedule is available on the website or through the RCIA coordinator. The schedule contains the Sunday Scripture readings as well as the dates and times we will gather. ***If you must miss a session, please contact Nancy and /or your sponsor.*** *Should there be the need to change any of the planned dates, updated schedules will be emailed and some paper copies made available at the next Monday evening meeting.*

## IS THERE A TEXT?

While there is no required text, **Handouts** for upcoming Monday evenings are emailed on Friday prior to the session. Please contact Nancy if you are not receiving the handouts. We can also recommend books that may be useful to you.

## WHICH BIBLE TRANSLATION DO CATHOLICS USE?

A **New American Bible** Revised Edition is used in Catholic worship. The **New Revised Standard Version** and **The Jerusalem Bible** also contain all the Scriptures used by Catholics. The Catholic Study Bible (Fr. Don Senior, editor) contains particularly helpful notes and background.

## WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS THAT AREN'T ADDRESSED ON MONDAY EVENINGS?

There is a "question box" outside the meeting room. You may also ask questions during a session or submit them to [catholic411@hspgeist.org](mailto:catholic411@hspgeist.org).

## HOW LONG DOES THE RCIA PROCESS TAKE?

It depends.

Each person's faith journey is unique. Some unbaptized persons will spend the better part of a year preparing for initiation while others may want to take longer to discern whether or not to become Catholic. Please allow God to set the timetable that is right for you. At each stage of the process there are special celebrations called *rites*, to mark the transition from one stage to the next.

*Please note that the process is adapted for those who have already been baptized in a Christian tradition. Validly baptized Christians are NOT re-baptized when they enter into full communion of the Catholic Church.*

## WHAT ARE THE STEPS IN THE RCIA PROCESS?

**Inquiry** – A person may begin Inquiry at any time of the year. Beyond addressing questions of "why do Catholics....?" Inquiry should be a time for beginning to explore who God is and for developing a relationship with God.

When an Inquirer is ready to commit to prepare for baptism, The **Rite of Acceptance**, celebrated during a Sunday Mass, marks his/her transition to the *Catechumenate*. The catechumen is expected to attend Mass each weekend with the RCIA group and will be dismissed from Sunday Mass after the homily to "break open" the Scriptures that were proclaimed. A member of the RCIA team facilitates the "Breaking Open the Word."

*A baptized person's transition from Inquiry to candidacy for full communion of the Catholic Church is marked by the **Rite of Welcome** which sometimes is celebrated at the same time as the Rite of Acceptance.*

**Catechumenate (formation)** — is the period during which the **Catechumens** (unbaptized persons) prepare to celebrate the sacraments of initiation. Formation takes place in many ways: through participation in Mass each Sunday, in formation sessions on Monday evenings (7-8:30 p.m.), in participation in parish activities and by shadowing a sponsor/mentor. The topics for most Monday evening formation sessions are connected either to the

Sunday Scripture readings or the liturgical season.

When a catechumen is ready for baptism, (s)he would participate in the **Rite of Election, usually celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent**. Bishop Doherty, our diocesan bishop, presides at the rite and it is he who will formally “elect” the Catechumens for Baptism. This **rite is a required component** of the RCIA process for all catechumens. From this point forward, the former catechumen is now known as member of the **Elect** and the parish is obligated to baptize him / her at the next **Easter Vigil**.

*Baptized candidates participate in formation for as long as needed and may be received into the church at any time of year. They may choose to participate in the **Rite of Recognition and Call to Continuing Conversion**, celebrated with the bishop at the end of the Rite of Election.*

**Purification and Enlightenment**—this is the Elect’s immediate preparation for the sacraments of initiation and it coincides with the liturgical season of Lent. Formation during this time becomes more reflective. A **Retreat** day for the Elect, candidates, sponsors and RCIA team is part of this seasonal preparation. It takes place at the parish on a Saturday during Lent.

**Mystagogy**—this is the time to deepen your grasp of all that you have experienced and to begin to incorporate your Catholic faith into your daily life. Formal mystagogy sessions take place from Easter to Pentecost. Informal mystagogy continues for the rest of your life.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT RCIA AT HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

### WHEN DOES RCIA MEET?

There are several types of “meetings” during the RCIA process:

**Breaking Open the Word**—held during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the weekend RCIA Mass (9:30 a.m. Sunday, except on the retreat weekend). Those who are preparing for initiation are dismissed after the Homily to reflect on the day’s prayers, scripture readings and homily to discover ways to apply God’s Word to everyday life. Breaking Open the Word is usually held in the Parish Library and is facilitated by a member of the RCIA team or a parishioner.

**Formation**—Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Parish Life Center. The “theme” of the evening is usually connected with the prior Sunday’s Scripture readings but might also address a liturgical season or major feast. Please bring your bibles (physical or electronic) to each Formation session as well as your journal and red RCIA folder.

**Sponsor Led Nights**—these are special times for you and your sponsor/mentor to spend together doing whatever is most helpful to your journey. You could participate in parish outreach, meet for conversation, pray together, watch a video....the list is endless.

**Days of Reflection / Retreat**—An Advent time of reflection helps us to observe Advent well and to prepare for the coming Christmas season. A day-long Lenten retreat provides an extended time to prepare for the sacraments of initiation. **If, for a serious reason, you are unable to attend the days of reflection / retreat, it is expected that you will arrange to attend a similar event at a diocesan or religious order retreat house.**

### WHY DO I NEED A SPONSOR/MENTOR?

Your mentor during this RCIA faith journey is the person who attends formation sessions with you, prays with and for you, and helps you become familiar with and involved in parish life. This person may or may not be the same person who stands with you during the sacraments of initiation, so you could have 2 persons—a parish mentor and a sacramental sponsor (godparent) who is the person who will support your faith journey after initiation.