

**ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**231 Second Street, Clifton, NJ 07011**

*Rite of Christian Initiation of  
Adults (R.C.I.A.)*



*"The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity." —Catechism of the Catholic Church—*



***Welcome to St. Paul's R.C.I.A. Program  
A Journey of Faith***

***How Does One Become Catholic?***

Most Catholics are born into Catholic families and gradually come to share in the full sacramental life of the Church.

Others previously baptized in other Christian Churches, have become Catholic by making a solemn profession of faith, being confirmed, and sharing in Eucharist with the Catholic Community.

Some never baptized, have been initiated through the process that leads to Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Church's annual celebration of the Easter Vigil.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the Catholic Church's way of initiating new members. It warmly welcomes new members and tries to provide an appropriate spiritual formation for each inquirer.



### **Who May Participate?**

Those never baptized as Christians.

Those baptized in another Christian faith tradition and now interested in the Catholic tradition.

Those baptized in the Catholic tradition whose total formation has never been completed.

### **What Amount of Time does this Process Require?**

The RCIA is not a class or program. It is a process of conversion. It prepares one to embark on a journey of faith that leads to a lifelong commitment as a Catholic. All Catholics are called to daily conversion and renewal to be on this faith journey.

RCIA stresses the need for a living experience of the Church as a “people of God” and not just “knowledge” about the Church. A person’s desire to turn towards God (conversion) and become connected to a community does not happen instantly, but takes time as the Holy Spirit nurtures that deepening desire within.

The usual length of preparation is approximately seven months, and the initiation of new members is celebrated at the Easter Vigil.



### **What Takes Place in The RCIA?**

The RCIA involves four stages, each marked by a special ritual celebrating the person's deepening desire to say "yes" to living the Catholic Faith.

#### **The Inquiry Period:**

A time for searching for God, for meaning in life, or for asking initial questions and seeking answers about the basics of the Catholic Faith.

#### **The Catechumenate Period:**

A time of being formed by the Gospel and of learning more in depth about the Catholic tradition.

#### **Purification & Enlightenment Period:**

A time during the Season of Lent involving prayer and deeper reflection as one prepares to receive God's new life at the Easter celebration.

#### **Mystagogy Period:**

A time after the Easter celebration to deepen one's understanding of what it means to "become" Eucharist and live Christ's mission in our world.

### **Why Are There Rituals?**

The RCIA is the Catholic Community initiating new members into itself. This takes place in community, not a private celebration. The rituals express outwardly the community's support and joy for those walking the journey of RCIA.

### **When and Where are the Classes Held?**

The RCIA classes are held every Sunday starting with the 9:30am Mass in St. Paul Roman Catholic Church immediately followed by class from 10:30am -12:00pm in the Parish House.

### **What are the Requirements?**

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You are to:

1. Attend weekly Sunday Mass at St. Paul Roman Catholic Church.
2. Attend your scheduled weekly Sunday class. Due to the nature of our curriculum and the time of preparation, no more than 3 absences will be allowed.
3. Provide copies of (i) your Baptismal Certificate (if this applies to you); and (ii) your First Communion Certificate (if this applies to you).
4. You are to attend all the Rites and Scrutinies.
5. If you are going to receive the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation you will need: Two (2) Godparents for Baptism and one (1) Sponsor for Confirmation. **Baptismal Godparents & Confirmation Sponsor Certificates are due no later than Sunday February 26, 2017.**
6. You are to attend a Diocesan Spiritual Retreat before the reception of the Sacraments.

## **About the Sacraments of Initiation**

### **The Sacrament of Baptism:**

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (vitae spiritualis ianua), and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word." **-Catechism of the Catholic Church #1213-**

### **The Sacrament of the Eucharist**

The Lord addresses an invitation to us, urging us to receive him in the sacrament of the Eucharist: "Truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." **-Catechism of the Catholic Church #1384-**

### **The Sacrament of Confirmation**

From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace: it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!", it unites us more firmly to Christ; it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us; it renders our bond with the Church more perfect; it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross: Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts. **-Catechism of the Catholic Church #1303-**

### **Sponsor/Godparent Guidelines**

Follow these guidelines when choosing your Baptism or Confirmation Sponsor/Godparents.

Sponsor/Godparents requirements:

- They must be a Baptized Roman Catholic.
- Have done their First Communion and Confirmation.
- If the Godparents are married to each other, they must be married in the Catholic Church.
- If they are married to other people, they must be married in the Catholic Church to their spouse. Should the Godparents be single they must not be living outside of marriage with anyone, and they must be a practicing Catholic.
- Over the age of 18 years old.
- If you are receiving both Baptism and Confirmation, either your Baptism Godfather or Godmother may be your Confirmation Sponsor. You may choose one but not both.
- Sponsor/Godparents must provide a Sponsor/Godparents Certificate from their parish Priest, stating his/her good standing to be a Sponsor or Godparent. They can obtain this by going to the Parish they attend regularly and request it from them.

If you are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are required to choose a Patron Saint Name or remain with your Baptismal Name.



**SCHEDULE OF RITES AND SCRUTINIES**

**9:30am Mass in St. Paul R.C. Church**

1. Sunday, October 16, 2016

Rite of Entry

2. Sunday, March 5, 2017

Rite of Sending

Rite of Election@ St. Phillip the Apostle Church, Clifton, NJ

3. Sunday, March 12, 2017

Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion

4. Sunday, March 19, 2017

First Scrutiny

5. Sunday, March 26, 2017

Second Scrutiny

6. Sunday, April 2, 2017

Third Scrutiny

**Saturday, April 15, 2017**

Easter Vigil and Reception of the Sacraments

1. Rehearsal at 9:00am

2. Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00pm (must arrive at St. Paul Church by 7:00pm)





# RCIA Prayer

Lord, we pray for those in the RCIA  
process who journey to you.

Strengthen their faith.

Open their hearts to the fullness of your  
love.

Deepen their understanding.

Set their hearts on fire for the  
kingdom of God.

We ask this through Jesus, who is the  
Way, the Truth, and the Life for all.

Amen.

**ST. PAUL R.C. CHURCH**  
**2016-2017 IMPORTANT DATES**

- \* **Canonization of Mother Teresa of Calcutta**  
Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016, all Masses
- \* **Fish and Chips Dinner**  
Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> 2016
- \* **First Day of Class**  
Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- \* **Feast of St. Francis and Outdoor Blessing of the Animals in front of the 9/11 Memorial**  
Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at 3:30pm
- \* **Parish Beefsteak Dinner**  
Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016
- \* **All Souls Day Masses**  
Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at 8:00am & 7:30pm
- \* **All Saints Day Masses**  
Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016; Children's Saint Parade @ 11:30am Mass
- \* **Mass of Nations**  
Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 11:30am; No 1:00pm Spanish Mass
- \* **Thanksgiving Day Mass**  
Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 9:00am in the Church
- \* **Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass**  
Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 8:00am and 7:30pm
- \* **Christmas Concert**  
Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 5:30pm in the Church
- \* **Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass**  
Monday, December 12, 2016 at 8:00 am
- \* **Advent Penance Service**  
Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 7:30pm
- \* **Nine Day Christmas Novena/Simbang Gabi**  
7:30pm December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 in the Church
- \* **Christmas Eve Masses**  
Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 5:30pm (English), 7:30pm (Spanish) and 10:30pm (English)
- \* **Christmas Day Masses**  
Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am (English) and 1:00pm (Spanish)

- \* ***Feast of the Holy Family***  
Friday, December 30th, 2016 at 5:30am and 7:30pm
- \* ***Parish New Year's Eve Events***  
Saturday, December 31st, 2016, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 5:00pm in the Chapel, 5:30pm Mass in the Church; New Year's Eve party at 7:30pm
- \* ***Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Masses***  
Sunday, January 1st, 2017, 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am (English) and 1:00pm (Spanish)
- \* ***The Epiphany of the Lord/Three Kings***  
January 7th & 8th, 2017, all Masses
- \* ***The Baptism of the Lord***  
Monday, January 9th, 2017, 8:00am and 7:30pm
- \* ***Conversion of St. Paul Feast Day***  
Wednesday, January 25th, 2017, 8:00am and 7:30pm
- \* ***The Presentation of the Lord/Blessing of the Throat***  
February 4th & 5th, 2017, all Masses
- \* ***Ash Wednesday Services and Masses***  
March 1st, 2017 at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm (English) and 8:00pm (Spanish)
- \* ***Palm Sunday, Masses***  
April 8th & 9th, 2017, all Masses
- \* ***Lenten Penance Service***  
Tuesday, April 11th, 2017 at 7:00pm
- \* ***Holy Thursday Mass***  
April 13th, 2017 at 7:30pm (Trilingual)
- \* ***Good Friday Services***  
April 14th, 2017, 11:00am Outdoor Living Stations of the Cross, Liturgies: 3:00pm (English), 5:30pm (Spanish) and 7:30pm Tenebrae (Trilingual)
- \* ***Easter Vigil***  
Saturday, April 15th, 2017 at 1:00 pm Blessing of the Food and 8:00pm Vigil Mass
- \* ***Easter Sunday Masses***  
April 16th, 2017, all Masses
- \* ***Confirmation Day***  
Sunday, April 30th, 2017 at 11:30am Mass (reception after Mass)
- \* ***First Communion Day/May Crowning***  
Sunday, May 7th, 2017 at 11:00 am Mass (reception after Mass)
- \* ***Pentacost***  
June 3rd & 4th, 2017, All Masses

## **ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**



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