

ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

231 Second Street, Clifton, NJ 07011



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR CHILDREN/TEENS (R.C.I.A.)

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." Mark 10:14-15

**MOTHER CABRINI CENTER
97 WASHINGTON AVE.
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**Welcome to St. Paul's Rite of Christian
Initiation Program for Children/Teens
A Journey of Faith**

For Whom is the RCIA for Children/Teens

RCIA for children/teens is intended for children not baptized as infants, who have attained the use of reason and are of catechetical (school) age. They seek Christian initiation either at the direction of their parents or guardians or, with parental permission, on their own initiative. Such children are capable of receiving and nurturing a personal faith and of recognizing an obligation in conscience.

Once readiness is reached, the children/teen will receive the Sacraments of Baptism and/or First Eucharist.

- * **Baptism** for 7-12 year olds from September to Easter.
- * **Baptism and First Eucharist** for 13-17 year olds from September to Easter.

- * **Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Masses**
Monday, January 1st, 2018 at 11:00am (English) and 1:00pm (Spanish)
- * **The Epiphany of the Lord/Three Kings**
January 6th & 7th, 2018, all Masses
- * **The Baptism of the Lord Masses**
Monday, January 9th, 2018, 8:00am and 7:30 pm
- * **Conversion of St. Paul Feast Day Masses**
Thursday, January 25th, 2017, 8:00am and 7:30pm
- * **The Presentation of the Lord & Feast of St. Blaise/Blessing of the Throats**
February 3rd & 4th, 2018, all Masses
- * **Ash Wednesday Services and Masses**
February 14th, 2018 at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm (English) and 8:00pm (Spanish)
- * **Palm Sunday**
March 24th & 25th 2018, all Masses
- * **Lenten Penance Service**
Tuesday, March 27th, 2018 at 7:30pm
- * **Holy Thursday Mass**
March 29th, 2018 at 7:30pm (Trilingual)
- * **Good Friday Services**
March 30th, 2018, 11:00am Outdoor Living Stations of the Cross, Liturgies: 3:00pm (English), 5:30pm (Spanish) and 7:30pm Tenebrae (Trilingual)
- * **Easter Vigil**
Saturday, March 31st, 2018 at 1:00 pm Blessing of the Food and 8:00pm Vigil Mass
- * **Easter Sunday**
April 1st, 2018, all Masses
- * **Confirmation Day**
Sunday, April 22nd, 2018 at 11:00am Mass (reception after Mass)
- * **First Communion Day/May Crowning**
Sunday, May 6th, 2018 at 11:00am. Mass (reception after Mass)
- * **The Ascension of the Lord/Mother's Day Masses**
May 12th & May 13th, 2018, all Masses
- * **Pentecost**
May 19th & May 20th, 2018, all Masses

ST. PAUL R.C. CHURCH
2017- 2018 IMPORTANT DATES

- * **First Day of Class**
Tuesday, September 19th, 2017
- * **Feast of St. Francis and Outdoor Blessing of the Animals**
Sunday, October 8th, 2017 at 3:30pm
- * **Parish Beefsteak Dinner**
Friday, October 20th, 2017
- * **All Souls Day Masses**
Thursday, November 2nd, 2017 at 8:00am & 7:30pm
- * **All Saints Day Mass**
Sunday, November 5th, 2017; Children's Saint Parade @ 11:00am Mass
- * **Thanksgiving Day Mass**
Thursday, November 23rd, 2017 at 9:00am in the Church
- * **Mass of Nations**
Sunday, November 26th, 2017 at 11:00am; No 1:00pm Spanish Mass
- * **Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass**
Friday, December 8th, 2017 at 8:00am and 7:30pm
- * **Christmas Concert**
Sunday, December 10th, 2017 at 5:30pm in the Church
- * **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass**
Tuesday, December 12th, 2017 at 8:00 am
- * **Advent Penance Service**
Monday, December 11th, 2017 at 7:30pm
- * **Nine Day Christmas Novena/Simbang Gabi**
December 15th, 2017 to December 23, 2017 at 7:30pm in Church
- * **Christmas Eve Masses**
Sunday December 24th, 2017 at 5:30pm (English), 7:30pm (Spanish) and 10:30pm (English)
- * **Christmas Day Masses**
Monday, December 25th, 2017 at 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am (English) and 1:00pm (Spanish)
- * **Feast of the Holy Family Masses**
December 30th & December 31st, 2017 at all Masses
- * **Parish New Year's Eve Events**
Sunday, December 31st, 2017, 5:30pm Mass in the Church; New Year's Eve party at 7:30pm

If your child is Baptized in Another Faith...

Those third through fifth grade students who are already baptized but need to receive First Penance and First Eucharist will attend their age-appropriate class on Sundays as well as the monthly classes for Sacramental Preparation. If they have no exposure to Catholic beliefs and practices, however, they should be enrolled in the RCIA Program for Children/Teens.

What the Process is...

The process involves prayer, study, activities, and listening to the Word of God through Bible Stories.

- * The process is Jesus-centered. It focuses on Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher, and His teachings.
- * It provides opportunities for children to hear the Word of God and to begin to apply the Word to their daily relationships.
- * The program allows children to discover the love of Jesus and to respond to His love by their actions and deeds.



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.



"Our profession of faith begins with God, for God is the First and the Last, the beginning and the end of everything. The Credo begins with God the Father, for the Father is the first divine person of the Most Holy Trinity; our Creed begins with the creation of heaven and earth, for creation is the beginning and the foundation of all God's works."-Catechism of the Catholic Church # 198-

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.

SCHEDULE OF RITES AND SCRUTINIES

9:00am Mass in St. Paul R.C. Church

1. Sunday, October 15, 2017
Rite of Entry
2. Sunday, February 18, 2018
Rite of Sending
Rite of Election@ St. Phillip the Apostle Church, Clifton, NJ
3. Sunday, February 25, 2018
Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion
4. Sunday, March 1, 2018
First Scrutiny
5. Sunday, March 11, 2018
Second Scrutiny
6. Sunday, March 18, 2018
Third Scrutiny

Saturday, March 31, 2018

Easter Vigil and Reception of the Sacraments

1. Rehearsal at 9:00am



When and Where are the Classes Held?

The RCIA for children/teen classes are held every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Mother Cabrini Center (MCC). Students must attend Mass every Sunday at St. Paul R.C. Church (RCIA Class Mass is at 9:00 a.m.)

What are the Requirements?

Children are to:

1. Attend weekly Sunday Mass at St. Paul R.C. Church.
2. Attend their scheduled Tuesday evening classes. Due to the nature of our curriculum and the time of preparation, no more than 3 absences will be allowed.
3. Provide copies of Birth Certificate, *Baptismal Certificate, *First Communion Certificate (if this applies to you).
4. Attend all the Rites and Scrutinies.
5. If your child is going to receive the Sacrament of Baptism he/she will need two (2) Godparents. If your child is going to receive Baptism & Confirmation he/she will need: Two (2) Godparents for Baptism and 1 Sponsor for Confirmation. **Baptismal Godparents & Confirmation Sponsor Certificates are due Tuesday, February 20, 2018.**

Parents are required to attend Orientation Night Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

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.

