

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.
CLIFTON, NJ 07011***

PHONE: 973-340-1300, EXT. 125 OR 126



***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 7-10 year olds from September to Easter.
- * **Baptism and First Eucharist** for 11-17 year olds from September to Easter.

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 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-

When and Where are the Classes Held?

The RCIA for children/teen classes are held every Sunday from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at the Parish Hall Conference Room. 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. Pews in the front right of the Church should be used by the RCIA students
2. Attend their scheduled Sunday 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, * current 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. **Baptismal Godparents Certificates are due Sunday, April 13, 2025.**

Parents are required to attend Orientation Night Tuesday, September 12, 2024 from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

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

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

1. Sunday, October 13, 2024
Rite of Entry
2. Sunday, March 9, 2025
Rite of Sending
Rite of Election@ Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
Usually 3:00 pm but time to be determined later in the program
3. Sunday, March 16, 2025
Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion
4. Sunday, March 23, 2025
First Scrutiny
5. Sunday, March 30, 2025
Second Scrutiny
6. Sunday, April 6, 2025
Third Scrutiny

Saturday, April 19, 2025

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 7:30pm)



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
2024-2025
IMPORTANT DATES

First Day of Class

Sunday, September 15, 2024

Feast of St. Francis and Outdoor Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 6, 2024, 4pm at church

All Saints Day

Friday, November 1, 2024, Mass Service at 8am, 5pm, and 7pm

All Saints Day Mass (celebrated by lower-level kids)

Sunday, October 27, 2024, Children's Saint Parade 11:00am Mass

All Souls Day

Saturday, November 2, 2024, Mass Service at 8am, 5pm and 6:30pm

Mass of Nations

Sunday, November 24

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thursday, November 28, 2024, Mass Service at 9:00 am

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 9, Service at 8am, 5pm, 7pm

Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 16, 7pm at church

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

Thursday, December 12. at 5:00am, 7pm (mañanitas at 5am)

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 5:30 pm at church

Nine Day Christmas Novena/Simbang Gabi

Beginning Monday December 16, 2024

Christmas Eve Masses

Tuesday, December 24, 2024, Mass Service at 5:30 pm, 7:30pm, 10:30 pm

Christmas Day Masses

Wednesday, December 25, 2024,

Mass Service at 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00am, 1:00 pm

Feast of the Holy Family Masses

Sunday, December 29, 2024

New Year's Eve Party, Parish Hall

(to be determined)

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord/Three Kings

Sunday, January 5, 2025

The Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Conversion of St. Paul Feast Day Masses

Saturday, January 25, 2025

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IMPORTANT DATES

The Presentation of the Lord

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Feast of St. Blaise/Blessing of the Throats

Monday February 3, 2025

Ash Wednesday Services and Masses

March 5, 2025

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Lenten Penance Service

Monday, April 14, 2025

Holy Thursday Mass

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Good Friday Services

Friday, April 18, 2025

11:00 am Outdoor Stations of the Cross 3:00pm (English), 5:30pm (Spanish) and
7:30pm Tenebrae (Trilingual)

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 19, 2025; 1:00 pm

Blessing of the Food and 8:00pm Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 20, 2025

First Communion Day/May Crowning

Saturday, May 3, 2025, 10:00am, Reception may follow Mass

Mother's Day Masses

Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and May 11, 2025

High School Confirmation

Sunday, May 18, 2025 during the 9:00 AM Mass

The Ascension of the Lord

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Pentecost / Confirmation Day

Sunday, June 8, 2025,

Father's Day Masses

Saturday, June 14 and June 15

Celebrated during all weekend Masses

Feast of Corpus Christi

Sunday, June 22, 2025, during all weekend Masses

ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



CONTACT US:

Pastor: Rev. Leonardo Jaramillo, PhD.

Phone: (973)-340-1300 ext. 102

Email: pastor.stpaul@verizon.net

Coordinator of Religious Education:

Deacon Hector Castellanos

Alvaro Leal

Phone: (973) 340-1300 ext. 106

Email: dre.stpaulchurch@verizon.net

(862)823-6164 Mobile

Parish Secretary: Sonia Almonte

Phone: (973) 340-1300 ext. 101

Email: stpaulchurchcnj@verizon.net

Parish Office:

231 Second Street

Clifton, NJ 07011

Fax: 973-340-2083