

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

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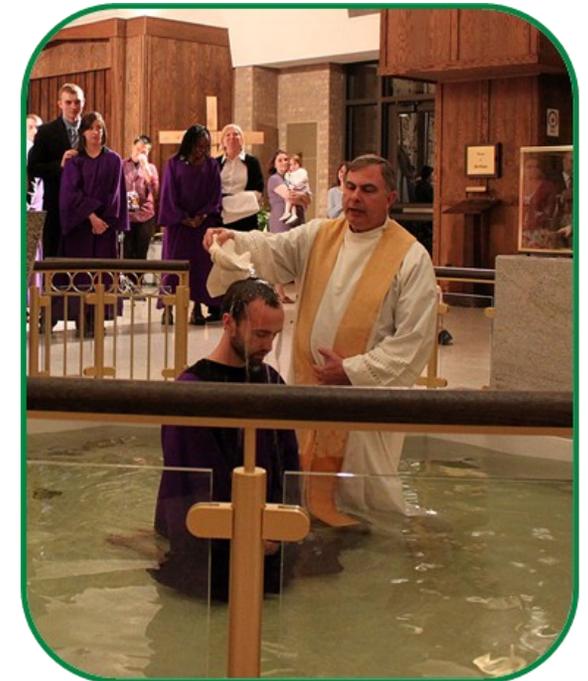
www.elcatholics.org



Interested in...



becoming Catholic?



St. John Church & Student Center

Catholic Student Organization
327 M.A.C. Avenue
East Lansing, MI 48823

Phone: (517) 337-9778

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Email: pries@elcatholics.org

www.stjohnmsu.org

How does someone become Catholic?

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is the process for learning about and becoming part of the Catholic Church.

The RCIA is a period of preparation extending over the course of a year or more. The RCIA process is appropriate for adults who have not yet been baptized, for those who were baptized in another faith tradition, and for those who were baptized Catholic but not raised within the Catholic faith.

At St. Thomas Aquinas and St. John Church & Student Center, RCIA meets weekly throughout the year and also comes together for Mass on Sundays.

For more information on the RCIA process, contact Pete Ries at pries@elcatholics.org or by phone at (517) 351-5460, ext. 1328

What happens in RCIA?

At its heart, the RCIA formation experience is about growing in faith, coming to an awareness that each of us makes up the Church, and committing one's life to Jesus Christ and the Church. In general, the RCIA experience includes the following steps. There are individual exceptions to this outline and timeline, and an alternative meeting time may be added to the schedule if the need arises.

Period of Pre-Catechumenate

This is a time of inquiry. There are weekly meetings to ask questions, get acquainted, hear the story of salvation and learn the most basic traditions of the Church.

Period of the Catechumenate

This period is an apprenticeship in the faith of the community. It is a time for deeper formation of our relationship with God, for participating in the Liturgy, and for getting involved in service to others. We continue to meet weekly, as well as attend Mass together on Sundays. During the liturgy, we leave the assembly to meet as a group to reflect on the scripture readings.

Period of Purification and Enlightenment

This is a time for healing and grace, a time for interior reflection on our relationship with God and others. This period coincides with the season of Lent and culminates with the decision to become Catholic. We continue to meet weekly as well as at Sunday Masses.

Easter Vigil

At the Easter Vigil Mass, we celebrate the Rite of Initiation, which includes Baptism (for those not yet baptized), the profession of faith, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Period of Mystagogy (Follow-up)

This is a time to explore and appreciate the mystery of Baptism and deepen one's grasp of the life, death and risen presence of Jesus Christ among us. Mystagogy is a period of discernment about how to live out the meaning of the rituals just celebrated at the Easter Vigil. We meet weekly for four weeks after Easter.