# R.C.I.A Process

## INQUIRY PHASE

**RITE OF WELCOME**

- "Inquiry" is indefinite…only proceed to Rite of Welcome when ready
- Inquirers who wish to proceed, publicly express their desire to follow the way of Jesus
- The Church accepts their intention & welcomes them into the household of the Church
- Names entered into the *Register of the Catechumens*

**Purpose:**
- gain initial conversion & grasp of Christian message
- answer questions about Christianity & Scripture
- gain trust; share stories & experiences of faith
- decide if God is calling you to this way of life

Name: "INQUIRERS"

## CATECHUMENATE PHASE

**RITE OF SENDING**

**RITE OF ELECTION**

- The Parish celebrates this transition by <u>sending</u> Catechumens & Candidates with a blessing
- The Bishop formally acknowledges the readiness of the catechumens & candidates & calls them to the sacraments of initiation
- Catechumens & candidates respond by expressing their desire for sacraments
- Names entered in the *Book of the Elect*

**Purpose:**
- deepen faith & conversion within Catholic community
- deepen understanding & experience of 7 Sacraments
- deepen understanding of Catholic Church & its organization, morality & history

Name: "CATECHUMENS" (if unbaptized); "CANDIDATES" (if baptized)

## ENLIGHTENMENT (LENT) PHASE

*THIS is when one becomes CATHOLIC!*

**RITE OF FULL INITIATION**

- The Elect become full members of Body of Christ through celebration of the sacraments of <u>Baptism</u>, <u>Confirmation</u> & <u>Eucharist</u>
- Names entered in the *Baptismal Book*

*First Easter Mass*

**Purpose:**
- final preparation, conversion & <u>scrutiny</u> of lives in light of the gospel
- prayer, fasting, making use of the Lectionary readings
- celebrate presentation of the <u>Creed</u> & <u>Lord's Prayer</u>
- Candidates celebrate Sacrament of Reconciliation (those already baptized)

Name: "The ELECT" (if unbaptized); "CANDIDATES" (if baptized)

## MYSTAGOGIA PHASE
*"entering more deeply into the mystery"*
50 day season of EASTER

**PENTECOST**
*SENDING FORTH*

**Purpose:**
- grow in Faith & ponder experience & meaning of sacraments
- participate in the Eucharistic life & ministry

Name: "NEOPHYTES" *(new sprouts)*

Dec 2019 – Dec 2020 – Church Year A
Dec 2020 – Dec 2021 – Church Year B
Dec 2021 – Dec 2022 – Church Year C