I am interested in being part of the R.C.I.A. process.

Please Check One:

- ☐ Possible catechumen or candidate
- ☐ Parish Sponsor
- ☐ I would like more information

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

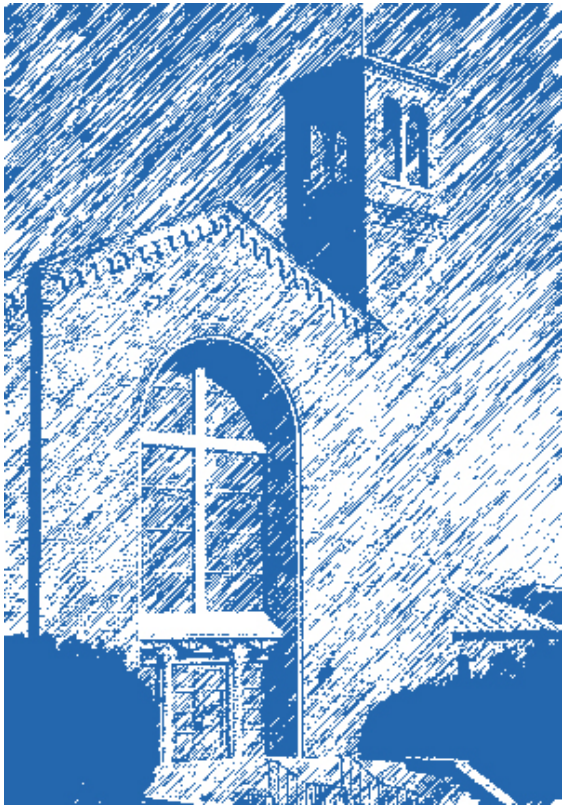
Phone:_____

email:_____

_____

Please return to:

St. Jerome's Parish - R.C.I.A.
5205 43rd Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20781



R.C.I.A.

Religious Education Office
301-927-6684

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

R.C.I.A.

A Journey in Faith

Toward Christian

Initiation in the

Catholic Church

The Parish of

St. Jerome Church

5205 43rd Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20781

WHAT IS R.C.I.A.?

R.C.I.A is a process of prayer, study, discussion and celebration for:

- ✶ Unbaptized adults who wish to learn about the faith and possibility of becoming a Catholic;
- ✶ Baptized Christians from other faiths who want to learn more about the Catholic religion and possibly becoming a Catholic;
- ✶ Baptized Catholics who have not received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation and who desire to enter fully into the community of the Catholic Church.

HOW TO BECOME A CATHOLIC

The Church welcomes all adults interested in the Roman Catholic faith. For those who think they might wish to become Catholic, the Church has renewed an ancient practice called the CATECHUMENATE. This process prepares adults for initiation into the Church through the reception of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.

WHAT THE PROCESS ENTAILS

The Catechumenate is divided into four stages or periods. Various ***rites*** or ceremonies are celebrated within a Sunday Mass or at a formal diocesan celebration. ***Catechumens*** (unbaptized persons) and ***Candidates*** (baptized persons) prepare for full membership in the Church. These rites mark the spiritual growth of the catechumens and the candidates.

The Four Stages of the R.C.I.A.

1. The **INQUIRY (PRE-CATECHUMENATE)**. This is the stage of informal meetings, which explain the process and answer basic questions. Inquirers decide if they want to become a part of the R.C.I.A. process

2. **CATECHUMENATE**. Those who choose to continue are formally enrolled in the ***Rites of Welcome and Acceptance*** and begin the period of preparation.

3. **PURIFICATION & ENLIGHTENMENT**. Through the ***Rites of Election and Sending***, the Catechumens and Candidates enter a time of spiritual preparation for the Easter sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.

4. **MYSTAGOGY**. This is a period of time following Easter when we "unfold the Mystery" of what has taken place. Together we reflect on what this new life in Christ means and how those who are newly initiated can become more involved in parish life.

What can parishioners do?

- ✶ If you know someone who is thinking about joining the Church encourage them to take part in the R.C.I.A.-sometimes all one needs is to be asked.
- ✶ Offer to become a sponsor for a Candidate.
- ✶ Pray for the success of the R.C.I.A process here at St. Jerome's Parish and for the intentions of the participants.

Who are the Sponsors?

Sponors are fully initiated members of the Catholic community who make the journey with individuals in the R.C.I.A. process. They are a source of valuable information, examples of Christian people, and friends introducing the Catechumens and Candidates to the ways of the Church and our parish family. They share their faith, answer questions and attend sessions with the R.C.I.A. participants.

All inquiry sessions are held on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 P.M. in the Rectory Meeting Room beginning in September.

If you, or someone you know is interested in knowing more about a Catholic Christian way of life with the possibility of becoming a member of the Church, please call **Mrs. Eileen Stevans** at the Religious Education Office at **301-927-6684**.