

## **Frequently Asked Questions - RCIA**

### **1. Who should attend RCIA?**

The short answer is: anyone.

While historically the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults has been the class offered only to non-Catholic adults who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith, in modern times (since we haven't met in hiding since the early fourth century) anyone can come. Those who desire to be received into the Catholic Church and who start the class will receive the sacraments either at the Easter Vigil or when the Bishop designates a date in the spring of 2012, provided all requirements have been fulfilled.

Some people come who just want to learn more about Catholicism. Sponsors who have been approved by the RCIA team are also welcome to attend. Also, many who are already members of the parish and simply want to learn more about their faith will also attend from time to time.

### **2. Who is able to be a sponsor?**

All individuals who choose to be received into the Church must have either two God-parents (in the case of those seeking Baptism) or one sponsor (for those only seeking Confirmation). The RCIA team will assist you in this process. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church who have been approved by the RCIA team and are able to attend on all of the necessary dates. It is preferable but not required that the sponsors and God-parents be members of the Saint Francis Xavier parish.

### **3. How often do I need to attend the class?**

It is generally expected that inquirers will attend the weekly classes held every week. There will not be class on the weeks of major holidays and many weeks during the summer. We know that occasionally people will need to miss a class; however, we do expect for class members to miss no more than twelve (12) classes over the course of the year-and-a-half. Additionally, there will be many Masses that are required.

### **4. How should I dress when I come to class or for Mass?**

When you attend Mass, wear what feels appropriate for church. Please do dress modestly at Mass and at class. If you are unsure of what would be appropriate, ask one of the RCIA team teachers. When we will be in front of the congregation for Rites or Sacraments, the clothing requirements will be discussed in more detail. Men are not to wear hats during Mass. Women may wear hats during Mass, however no head covering is required.

### **5. How often do I need to attend Mass?**

Practicing Catholics are obligated to attend Sunday Mass weekly. Sunday Mass is held at Saint Francis Xavier four times on Sundays (English @ 9:30am & 11:30am; Spanish @ 7:30am & 1:30pm), and twice on Saturday, at 5pm in English and & 6:30pm in Spanish. All catechumens and candidates will attend Mass regularly beginning with the Rite of Acceptance in September.

### **6. What happens if I have been divorced?**

Marriage is a Sacrament in the eyes of the Catholic Church. If someone wishing to join the Church has been divorced and wishes to remarry or has remarried, the previous marriage must be resolved prior to your reception into the Church. The same requirement applies to a spouse or intended spouse. This may be resolved by a Church annulment or through some other Church procedures which vary depending on the circumstances of the previous marriage(s). Anyone in this situation needs to begin working on this immediately with Fr. Moriarty (see Dr. Don Shafer) in order for all requirements to be completed by Easter.