

RCIA  
Adapted for  
Children and  
Teens



**Church of the Holy Spirit**

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**Sonya Eddy, Catechist**



# Session II

## The Role of the Parents

# Parent Participation - Is Vital Because

Families are supporting a child who is converting

Entire Families are converting (up to three years)

Families have experienced difficulties (out of sync)

Families are being blended or created (foster/adoption)

Families are returning to the Church after absence

Children have already experienced conversion

Parents want children to have sacraments they lack

Cultural/Family pressures

# Families are Units

Children need the guidance of parents

The entire family may experience conversion

Children/teens will begin to question the family members

There are so many changes that will occur that families need to come together in order to support one another

Parents are the first catechists and will need support in that role

Parents must believe they are the catechists of their families



# Session III

## Preparations and Planning for success

# Agenda

RCIA Program Overview

RCIA Year One

RCIA Year Two

Pandemic Adaptations

RCIA Year One

RCIA Year Two

The Role of Parents

# Program Overview

# RCIA Adapted for Children and Teens

For youth in 2nd grade and above who have never been baptized OR were baptized in another Christian denomination

For teens in 6th grade and above who were baptized Catholic but are uncatechized

*Two year process*

*We require a minimum of two years of formation for celebration of the sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist*



# Three Teams of Catechists

## RCIA 1

Lead catechist  
Sometimes 1-2  
helpers

Organizes the  
meetings, guides  
the sessions

Reports to the  
RCIA Adapted for  
Children and  
Teens  
Coordinator

## RCIA 2 - English

Family of 4  
2 parents, 2 teens (18 & 17)  
8+ years experience

Parents act as catechists and  
the teens as journey partners.

This year teens transitioning  
into catechist roles.

Reports to the RCIA  
Adapted for Children and  
Teens Coordinator

## RCIA 2 - Spanish

Lead catechist  
2-3 helpers

Organizes the  
meetings

Team takes turns  
leading the sessions.

Reports to the RCIA  
Adapted for  
Children and Teens  
Coordinator

# Team Collaboration

Team leaders are in constant contact with our Coordinator

The RCIA English and Spanish teams meet one a week

Teams must go over the PowerPoints and coordinate the lessons

In the Pandemic - Collaboration is important for bilingual families (we have some families where parents speak Spanish and Children speak English, so they attend different sessions)

# Year 1 (pre-pandemic)

Children and youth participate in regular Faith Formation sessions from September through May, either at 10:00 am (attend 12 noon mass) or 2:00 pm (attend 4:00 p.m. Mass)

Parents and children gather **ONCE A MONTH** for a family gathering. They are introduced to Jesus Christ and fundamental teachings of the Catholic Church and are encouraged to learn through Scripture, prayer, and small group activities.

## Year 2 (pre-pandemic)

Weekly catechumenate sessions Sunday mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in conjunction with 10:00 Mass.

After the homily, children are sent forth with their catechists to study and pray the Gospel and continue to learn about the Catholic Church and its teachings.

Full initiation into the Church (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) celebrated at the Easter Vigil.

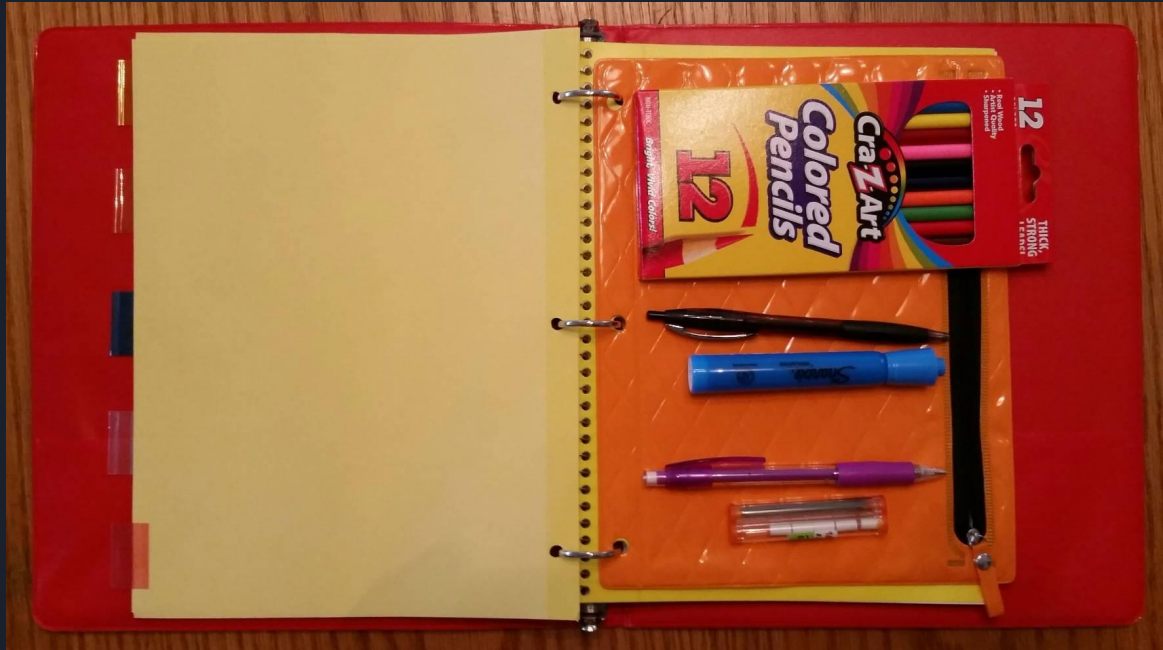
# Binders are Provided to Families

- 1 1/2 inch binder
- A pouch for writing implements
- Colored pencils
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Highlighter
- Journal
- Dividers



# Binders contain important information

- Calendar
- Prayer sheet
- RCIA process handout
- Journey of Faith handouts (by age group)
- Loose leaf paper for journaling
- Some families have both Spanish and English handouts



# Pandemic Adaptations

# Maintaining Community

To maintain a sense of community is difficult in these times

- Each catechist is assigned a few families

- The catechists calls the families every week

- Checks on their homework status

- Reminds them of anything that is due or paperwork we need

- Answers any questions about the faith or about the session

- Acts as the first point of contact for the family



# Year 1 (pandemic adaptations)

Middle and High School students attend September through May

Online sessions 2:00 p.m - 3:00 p.m.

No family gatherings

Families are given work to do at home during the week and share their work with the group in the next session.

Families attend mass either in person or online.



# Year 1 (pandemic adaptation)

Use of Google Classroom is required

Teens over 13 must have a Google account

Journey of Faith Inquiry packets for each teen

Each teen completes assignments on Google Classroom.

Assignments are short-answer up to three questions after reading the Journey of Faith handouts assigned.



# RCIA 1 Example of Home Learning

Read the first three chapters of Genesis aloud as a family. Answer the following questions:

What did God create?

What did God create first?

What was the last thing God created?

What did God name the man he created?

Where did God place the man he created? What was it called?

What was the rule God gave the man about what he was supposed to eat and what he wasn't allowed to eat?

Did the man follow the rule?

# Google Classroom

☰ Google Classroom

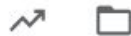
☑ To-do   📁 To review   📅 Calendar

RICA Año 2

Iglesia del Espíritu Santo

Due today

Tarea después del 4 octubre



RCIA Year 1

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Due today

4 OCT 2020 Homework Due 11 OCT 2020



RCIA Year 2

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Due today

Homework after 4 October 2020 Due 1



# Year 1 (pandemic adaptation)

2 teaching classes

1 video discussion class

All school holidays are observed

Classes cover the entire Journey of Faith Inquiry section

## Church of the Holy Spirit - RCIA 1 Calendar 2020-2021

Faith Formation Office: 210-341-1397 x 8377 Fax: 210-341-2287

Coordinator: Colleen Tschoepe 210-846-1973 (cell) Email: colleent@holyspiritsa.org

Month	Day	Topic	Month	Day	Topic
September	27 29	Parent Session - Sunday @2pm or Tuesday @6:30 pm	February	7	A Protestant Talks with a Catholic Priest <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_bAQGvu0Xwk&amp;t=464s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_bAQGvu0Xwk&amp;t=464s</a>
October	4	Q2 What is Faith		14	Holiday NO CLASS
	11	A Priest Debunks Common Catholic Myths <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4B0Bu28EeJY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4B0Bu28EeJY</a>		21	A Protestant Tours a Catholic Church <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOJU_4pzt44&amp;l=3s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOJU_4pzt44&amp;l=3s</a>
	18	Q3 The Trinity		28	Q11 Places in a Catholic Church
	25	Q4 Who is Jesus	March	5	Q12 Who Shepherds the Church
November	1	A Protestant Talks with a Catholic Theologian <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hf1kOQE457A">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hf1kOQE457A</a>		7	Spring Break NO CLASS
	8	Q5 The Bible		14	Spring Break NO CLASS
	15	Q6 Divine Revelation		21	Q10 Church Year What is Lent? Way of the Cross.
	22	Q15 The Saints Do Catholics Worship Saints? <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3K9yGNPaIcA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3K9yGNPaIcA</a>		28	What is Easter/Holy Week?
	29	Thanksgiving Holiday NO CLASS	April	4	No Class - Easter Sunday
December	6	Q7 Your Prayer Life/ Advent		11	Q13 The Church as a Community
	13	Q14 Mary Mary is Freakin Awesome and I see why Catholics love her. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-NFHXQMj4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-NFHXQMj4</a>		18	What Constitutes a practicing Catholic? <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejrGW5G8QgQ4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejrGW5G8QgQ4</a>
	20	Christmas Holiday NO CLASS		25	Q16 Eschatology
	27	Christmas Holiday NO CLASS	May	2	Meet the RCIA Catechists and Overview of RCIA Year 2
January	3	Christmas Holiday NO CLASS			
	10	Three Kings			
	17	MLK Holiday - NO CLASS			
	24	Q8 Catholic Prayers and Practices			
	31	Q9 The Mass			

# Year 2 (pandemic adaptation)

**September 13 through November 15**

Weekly virtual sessions take place on Sunday.

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. in English

12:00 noon – 1:15 p.m. in Spanish.

Families attend all sessions together online.

Families given group work to do at home during the week.

Families share their work at the next session.

Families attend mass either in person or online.



# Year 2 (pandemic adaptation)

Use of Google Classroom is required

Teens over 13 must have a Google account

Journey of Faith Inquiry packets for each teen

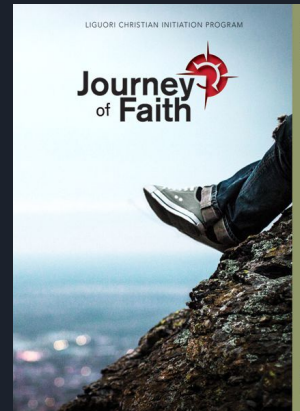
Each teen completes assignments on Google Classroom.



## Home Learning

Read the Journey of Faith handout before sessions

Answer homework questions and click "turn in" when done



# RCIA 2 Example of Home Learning

We discussed many different forms of prayer during our session today. Try out one of the forms of prayer we talked about. Singing, dancing, journaling, drawing, running, walking in nature.

What form did you try?

How did you feel?

Describe your experience?

Was it beneficial?

Why or why not?



# Home Learning Example 2

Today we learned about the Bible, how to tell if you have a Catholic Bible, and also how to find chapters in the Bible. Answer the following questions as a family:

Is your Bible a Catholic Bible?

How can you tell?

How many books of Genesis are there?

On what page does your New Testament start?

What book are you choosing to read/discover as a family?

Title:

Is your book in the Old or New Testament?

What does it contain?

## Year 2 (pandemic adaptation)

All sessions are recorded and posted on an unpublished YouTube channel. If a student is unable to attend a meeting they are able to watch the recorded session.

Students are not counted present until the work that they did at home is complete.

Bilingual families often choose both sessions, with the children attending in English and the parents attending in Spanish.

# Year 2 (pandemic adaptation)

## November 21 and 22

Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming (ROA) in-person in Church  
November 22 10:00 am, 12 noon, or 2 pm (Spanish)

- We had to split up into 3 masses

The masses had to be livestreamed because we had people at home in quarantine

Some families participated at home

# ROA in person

Limited to 10 participants per mass

(remember children have families, so there may be up to 4 other people who attend with a child)

Practiced via zoom

Social distanced with masks

We had to prepare worship aids and account for the number of people in the church

Right now we are limited to 200 people (10 children - 50 attendees)

# ROA at home

For those in quarantine or who could not attend due to medical reasons

Worship aids were provided at home

A catechist called the family prior to the mass

The mass was live streamed

There was a catechist in the livestream chat to answer questions and help the families

A catechist called the family after the mass to answer any questions

# After ROA

Classes will remain online due to increasing COVID cases

Classes will become 1 hour and 30 minutes long

45 minutes of catechesis

Click on to live-stream of the mass

After dismissal me click back into zoom room

Breaking Open of the Word

Class ends with home assignment and a prayer

# Parent Participation

The most important part of the process

# Key Role of the Parents

This is the beginning of a lifelong faith journey. Children and teens are being formed as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Parents are the first and most important teachers of the faith.

Parent Responsibilities:

- Participate in weekly RCIA sessions and the Rites

- Attend Mass with their children

- Present their children to the community and act as witnesses about their intention

- Strengthen family patterns of regular prayer and formation in the home



# Reasons for Parent Involvement

Families are learning a new way of life.

How can children/teens possibly experience such a great change without their parents?

Parents need conversion as much as the children.

We are making disciples of parents, who in turn, will make disciples of their children.

We attempt to form and support parents, hoping that they begin to see their household as a “small church,” a domestic church, and announce the Good News to their children through a daily lifestyle of faith.

# Parent Responsibilities

Help/remind children/teens to read handout and complete weekly assignments

Attend Mass weekly

Complete additional family activities as directed

Read assigned scriptures and have a family discussion

Make sure children/teens memorize prayers by saying them daily

Attend parent meetings when applicable

# Thank you!



## Questions?