

**We invite you
to consider the
Catholic Church if—**

- 10** You have no faith tradition or church home of your own.
- 9** You are inactive, unattached, or alienated from your past church tradition.
- 8** You feel personally or spiritually lost; you sense that something important is missing in your life.
- 7** You are worried about how different church traditions may affect your marriage or your children.
- 6** You are attracted to some unique aspects of the Catholic tradition, such as its ritual, liturgy, or social teaching.
- 5** You feel like you do not have the emotional or spiritual resources to face difficult situations or problems.
- 4** You admire an individual or family who is Catholic.
- 3** Someone you love and trust has asked you to think about joining the Catholic Church.
- 2** You've been thinking about it for a long time, and your interest in the Catholic tradition persists.
- 1** You feel pretty sure that God is calling you to a deeper spiritual life through participation in the Catholic faith tradition.

**How Do People join the
Catholic Church?**

People prepare to join the Catholic Church through the RCIA process: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

While the process is designed for people who want to join the Catholic Church, attending R.C.I.A. puts you under no obligation to join. You are most welcome to complete the process simply for information or to help you discern where and to what God is calling you.



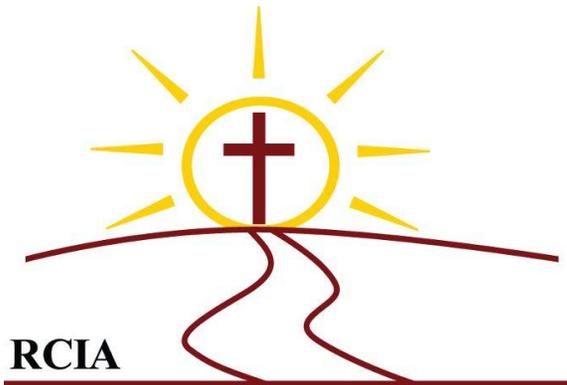
RCIA Candidate—Evelyn Knepper was baptized, confirmed and received Eucharist at the Easter Vigil this year. She is pictured with her sponsors Max Knepper and Jennifer Johnson, Fr. Michael Schueller and Deacon Dan O'Connell.

When does it start?

RCIA sessions are 'on-going' so whenever a person is ready they are welcome to contact the coordinator and begin the process.

For more information contact Joann Koopmann at the parish office 563-876-5540 or home 563-876-3667 or email j.koopmann1@dbqarch.org.

**The Rite of
Christian Initiation
of Adults**



A JOURNEY IN FAITH

St. Elizabeth Pastorate

**St. Clement—Bankston
St. Patrick—Epworth
St. Joseph—Farley
St. John the Baptist—Peosta
St. John the Evangelist—Placid**

**St. Elizabeth Pastorate
104 1ST SE
PO Box 286
Epworth IA 52045
563-876-5540**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process that provides a special time either to begin your faith journey or to look back over your continuing faith life. During R.C.I.A. you will develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through His Body, the Church.

The RCIA process does not ask those who have been baptized in another faith to give up their denominational experience. Indeed, if we compare your faith life to the fabric of a tapestry, it is already a rich and wonderful weaving. The process called RCIA will add new colors and designs to your existing faith-life tapestry. The result of these additional faith experiences is a new and vibrant relationship with God.

The RCIA process is for:

- ❖ People who have never been baptized.
- ❖ People who have been baptized but have had little or no faith formation.
- ❖ People who have been baptized and have had faith formation in another denomination.
- ❖ People who have been baptized in the Catholic Church but who have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation—Eucharist and Confirmation.
- ❖ People who have received Baptism and Eucharist, but not received any formation since that time.

Stages of RCIA

1. Pre-Catechumenate Period: inquiry for baptized and unbaptized inquirers. This is the time to get to know us at St. Elizabeth Pastorate: how we worship and celebrate as a faith community, and how God acts in our daily lives. The weekly sessions introduce you to the RCIA process, provide an opportunity to ask questions, and help you feel a part of our faith community.

For Un-baptized persons: Catechumens

2. Catechumenate Period

Catechumens are those who have not been baptized. This is a time of prayer, study, instruction, sponsor dialogue, discernment, service, Breaking Open the Word at Mass and conversion.

3. Purification/Enlightenment Period

This period of 40 days begins with the First Sunday of Lent and ends on Easter weekend. This period consists of more intense spiritual prayer, reflection and discernment.

4. Mystagogy Period

During this final stage of the process, newly initiated reflect on the newness and joy experienced in their initiation. It is a time to explore even more closely the power of the sacraments and to establish an even closer relationship with God and the faith community. The 50 days of Mystagogy culminate with the Feast of Pentecost.

For Baptized Persons (Candidates)

Stages 2,3, and 4 are tailored so you can progress through the process as the Spirit guides and be initiated any time during the year when you are discerned as ready.

Schedule of Sessions

The Inquiry Period can begin any time someone comes to us and is interested in exploring the Catholic Church.

For catechumens and candidates the formal RCIA begins after the Inquiry session. Dates and times are set according to the needs and schedules of the group. Each person's journey is dependent upon **conversion and discernment** of the movement of the Holy Spirit.

During the Inquiry Period you are welcome to go to any weekend Mass anywhere within the Pastorate. You are invited to make Scripture a part of your daily prayer and attend the Inquiry sessions.

During the Catechumenate you attend Mass with other catechumens and candidates, join in the dismissal after the homily to discuss the Sunday readings, participate in the weekly sessions and explore areas of service.