RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Frequently Asked Questions – St. Patrick's Basilica, Montreal

1. What is RCIA?

RCIA stands for the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. Quite simply, it is the journey by which adults come to know the Catholic faith and, when ready, receive the Sacrament(s).

RCIA is for:

* Adults who have never been baptized

* Baptized Christians from other denominations who feel drawn to the Catholic Church

* Baptized Catholics who, for various reasons, did not receive First Communion and/or Confirmation

It is not just a class. RCIA is a time of learning, prayer, reflection, and discernment, walked together with others who are also exploring the faith.

2. When does RCIA take place?

At St. Patrick's Basilica, RCIA runs from **October until the Easter Vigil** (usually in March or April). The Easter Vigil is when those who are ready receive the sacraments.

3. When can I register for RCIA?

Registration for RCIA opens **in the spring**.

The **next RCIA session will begin in October 2026**. We ask interested individuals to **contact the parish office in May** regarding registration.

Because the program builds week by week and space is limited, we are generally unable to accept late registrations once sessions have begun.

4. Is RCIA currently open for registration?

No. The current RCIA program has already started and is full.

Registrations for the next session (beginning **Fall 2026**) will open in **spring 2026**.

5. I am already a baptized Christian. Do I still need RCIA?

Yes.

Many people who join RCIA are already baptized Christians. RCIA helps them come to understand Catholic teaching and practice, and prepares them to be received into the Church – reception into the Roman Catholic Church is an important first step.

That said, RCIA is adapted to each person's background. No two journeys are exactly the same.

6. I was baptized Eastern Orthodox. Do I need to complete the full RCIA process?

Yes. Situations could be discussed individually with a priest or the RCIA coordinator to determine the most appropriate steps.

7. I was baptized Catholic but never received First Communion or Confirmation. What is the process?

Adults who were baptized Catholic but did not complete their sacraments have to take part in **RCIA or a similar adult formation process**.

This provides time to deepen one's faith and to prepare properly for the Eucharist and Sacrament of Confirmation.

8. Can I speak with a priest or the RCIA coordinator before registering?

Yes. If you have questions about your personal situation, sacramental history, or next steps, you may request to speak with a priest or the RCIA coordinator.

Meetings are arranged according to parish availability, through the parish secretary.

9. Do I need to live within the parish boundaries to participate in RCIA at St. Patrick's?

While Catholics are generally encouraged to attend their local parish, we also recognize that language, culture, and pastoral connection matter.

If St. Patrick's Basilica is a good fit for you—particularly for English-language formation—you are welcome to inquire about RCIA here.

10. Do I need to formally join the parish to take part in RCIA?

RCIA participants are encouraged to become part of parish life, but formal parish registration can be discussed during the process.

11. I'm interested in becoming Catholic and also in volunteering. Is that possible?

Volunteer opportunities at the Basilica do exist, depending on parish needs.

For those in RCIA, we usually encourage focusing first on faith formation. Opportunities to volunteer can be explored as the journey continues.

12. If I complete RCIA, will I be able to have a Catholic wedding in the future?

Being fully initiated into the Catholic Church is an important step toward celebrating a Catholic marriage.

Marriage preparation is a separate process and has its own requirements, which would be discussed at the appropriate time.

13. What if I'm not ready to commit yet?

That is completely fine.

You are always welcome to attend Mass, continue learning, and take time to pray and discern. RCIA respects the pace of each person's faith journey.

14. Who should I contact with RCIA questions?

For RCIA-related enquiries, please contact the **Parish Office**.

We kindly ask that interested individuals review this information first, and then reach out during the spring registration period.

St. Patrick's Basilica warmly welcomes all who feel called to explore the Catholic faith.