

Called to a Becoming Catholic Ministry?

*Becoming Catholic and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) works best when the entire parish is involved. We are **all** the witnesses, the evangelizers, the hospitality, and the support for all those inquiring about and journeying toward the Catholic faith. We are **all** called by virtue of our baptism and our anointing in confirmation to discipleship! (Mt 28:19-20). Available ministries include:*

Prayer Partners (done from home)

As a prayer partner, you travel the journey with an inquirer either silently or aloud. You are welcome to send letters or cards of encouragement, if you like, either anonymously or knowingly. All we ask is that you keep your special person in your prayers as he/she inquires about the Catholic faith and prepares for initiation into the Church.

Hospitality (one-time or multiple-time commitment)

Hosts welcome and show hospitality. You choose one or more session dates which are convenient for you; usually Thursday evenings 7-8:30 pm. You will have the opportunity to introduce yourself, meet the participants, and bring a snack to share. We encourage you to stay for the session if you can. You can also choose to coordinate or help with set up and clean up for special rites and celebrations.

Faith Journey Companions (commitment from initial inquiry, length of time varies)

A faith journey companion provides a "bridge" or "connection" for an inquirer. Down the road a faith companion and inquirer may discuss the possibility of a sponsor relationship, but it is not required. You pray for your inquirer, encourage your inquirer to attend Mass weekly (and meet them there or sit with them when you can), invite your inquirer to parish events (coffee and donuts, fish fry dinners, faith formation offerings, and so on), and introduce them to others.

Based on your mutual availability, you are also encouraged to spend some one-on-one time with your inquirer, such as a coffee date or a meal out together, listening along their journey.

Sponsors (commitment through reception of the Sacraments)

The sponsor is a co-traveler on this journey of faith who commits himself or herself to accompany a catechumen (unbaptized) or candidate (baptized Christian) along the way to reception of the sacraments. Sponsors are similar to faith journey companions, but will likely attend formation sessions and special Rites and Masses. They will also provide support for a time after the reception of sacraments to help the new Catholic integrate into our parish community and life. The sponsor is a friend, witness, and guide. Sponsors need to love the Catholic faith, but do not need to be experts.

Based on your mutual availability, you are also encouraged to spend regular one-on-one time with the person you sponsor, such as coffee date or a meal out together, listening along their journey.

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Faith Story Tellers (one-time commitment)

Share your story with those who are inquiring about the Catholic Faith. Why are you Catholic? What or who brought you this far? Why is Christ an intricate part of your life? How are you like the people of the Old Testament in their search for the Savior? Have you had any faith struggles? You will have 15-20 minutes for your faith story including time to answer questions (if you choose) about your story.

Dismissal Facilitators (weekly commitment for about one month)

At a certain point on their faith journey, Becoming Catholic (RCIA) participants are dismissed from Mass after the homily (before the Creed and prayer of the faithful) to further reflect on and discuss the readings. We call this time “Breaking Open the Word.”

Scripture facilitators (or dismissal ministers) help participants learn to recognize how the Holy Spirit speaks to us in the Scriptures. Breaking Open the Word is more like prayer than Bible study. Previous experience facilitating small group discussions is helpful.

You choose from a series of dates that work for you (most sessions are during 8am Sunday Mass).

Catechists (one-time or multiple time commitment as agreed upon)

Catechists prepare and present (as well as facilitate small group discussions) on core topics of the Catholic faith at evening Becoming Catholic formation sessions. Session participants include adults inquiring about the faith (both the unbaptized and baptized Christians of other denominations). Other participants may be spouses/significant others and sponsors.

Sessions typically meet on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 pm. The typical session format is:

7 pm welcome/announcements
7:15-7:30 prayer
7:30-8:20 presentation, small group discussion, Q&A
8:20 evaluation/prayer
8:30pm end

Presenters arrive between 6:30-6:45pm the evening of their presentation, which may include time for a technology check. Presenters work with the Director of Adult Faith Formation to craft presentations to audience needs and are asked to provide a digital copy of any slides or materials one week prior to presenting

Many, but not all, catechists are a part of the Becoming Catholic core team and participate in regular weekly meetings, as well as team formation sessions.