

Notes from the Liturgist...

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

On the 4th of September, we will start the journey of faith (the RCIA program for this school year 2018-2019) here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. Our RCIA team here in our parish is very excited and happy that there are numbers of Inquiries who will be continuing their journey in learning the Catholic faith. Let us walk with them on their journey so that they may reach the end of what God wants them to be.

Becoming a Christian is a process of faith and has been accomplished by a journey of Initiation in several stages. The following are certain elements that the candidates may walk to this journey: the proclamation of the Word; the acceptance of the Gospel through conversion; the profession of faith; Baptism itself; the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; and admission to Eucharistic Communion.

“The image of the journey of faith is clearly evident in the Church’s ritual for the Christian Initiation of adults and older children. Both for those just coming to faith in Christ and those already baptized in Christ who seek to enter the Catholic Church, there is a journey to make, and it is made in the midst of the Catholic community of faith. It is a holy journey made in response to the grace of God and is centered in the Church’s life of liturgical celebration, being sometimes marked with special rites.” (*Archdiocese of Portland Divine Worship Newsletter Issue 11, August 2018*)

The complete Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults must be used in the following circumstances:

1. The Baptism of adults.
2. The Baptism of children who have reached the catechetical age (about the age of seven).
3. The preparation of baptized but uncatechized adult Catholics for confirmation and/or First Holy Communion.
4. The Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church of non-Catholic adults and children of catechetical age, and
5. The preparation of candidates for Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church who has never been catechized. (*Archdiocese of Portland Divine Worship Newsletter Issue 11, August 2018*)