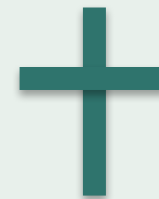


Welcome to RICA for Teens

You were created for a relationship with God.

**Made in God's image.
Called to know and love Him.**

Every person has dignity—and a calling to friendship with God. Prayer is one way that friendship begins.



Try a first prayer

"God, I am here.
Help me get to know You."

You do not need to know how to pray perfectly to begin.

What is RICA / OCIA?

A journey of discovering Jesus, learning prayer, and living our faith.

Discover

Learn who Jesus is, what Catholics believe, and why it matters.

Pray

Begin your own journey with honest prayer and reflection.

Belong & practice

Learn to participate in church life, worship, and acts of love.

OCIA = Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (RICA in Spanish). Inquiry is open, with no commitment to join.

Who can take part?

People enter the journey from different starting points.

PATH 01

Not baptized yet

Prepare for Baptism, Confirmation, and first Eucharist.

PATH 02

Baptized Christian

Explore full communion with the Catholic Church. A valid Baptism is not repeated.

PATH 03

Baptized Catholic

Complete initiation through needed sacraments, such as Confirmation and/or Eucharist.

For teens: your parish adapts preparation to your age and sacraments already received.

Four periods of the OCIA journey

For the unbaptized: steps of growth, guided by God and the parish.

01

Inquiry / Exploring

Meet Jesus. Ask questions. No commitment yet.

02

Catechumenate

Rite of Entrance begins it; Rite of Election follows when ready.

03

Purification & Enlightenment

Lent: deeper prayer; Easter Vigil brings initiation.

04

Mystagogy

After the sacraments, grow in faith and community.

These four periods apply to the unbaptized. Baptized candidates have distinct rites and timing.

A journey with ancient roots

The Church has been accompanying people toward Baptism for centuries.



The heart of the journey has stayed the same: encounter Christ, grow in faith, live it.

Faith is something we live

Through Baptism, we share in Jesus' priestly, prophetic, and royal mission.

PRAY

Prayer / Priest

Worship God. Learn to pray. Take part in the Church's liturgy.

LEARN

Faith / Prophet

Understand Scripture and Catholic teaching. Share the truth with love.

LIVE

Service / King

Make loving choices. Serve others. Live like Jesus every day.

These are not only topics to memorize; they become habits that shape our lives.

The three sacraments of initiation

Different students will prepare for different sacraments.

WATER

Baptism

New life in Christ and belonging to His Church.

CHRISM

Confirmation

Strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

BREAD & WINE

Eucharist

Communion with Jesus and His Church.

Your parish helps you prepare for the sacraments you have not yet received.

What should I expect?

You learn with others: prayer, Mass, community, and accompaniment.

01 Keep asking questions

You can explore the faith honestly.

02 Begin attending Sunday Mass

Learn the rhythm of Catholic worship with parish guidance.

03 Grow with your parish

Family, sponsors, catechists, and parish members can guide you.

04 Grow at your own pace

There is no single timetable; your parish helps you discern.

Your journey is personal. The parish helps you prepare for the sacraments appropriate for you.

Who walks with you?

You do not have to figure out the journey alone.

SPONSOR

A faith mentor

A Catholic mentor who prays with you and supports your Confirmation journey.

GODPARENT

At Baptism

A godparent helps a person prepare for Baptism and live the faith afterward.

SAINT

A holy example

A saint is with God in heaven. Their life inspires us; we ask for their prayers.

Sponsor or godparent = a person who accompanies you. Saint = an example and intercessor in heaven.

Choose a saint who inspires you

A saint is a real person whose life shows us how to follow Jesus.

Your Confirmation companion

For our class, you will explore saints and select one with your parish's guidance. Choose someone whose courage, kindness, or trust in God you want to imitate.

Saints Corner

Read a life story.
Notice a virtue.
Ask for prayers.
Start with St. Catherine
Labouré!

Parish requirements differ: choosing a new saint name is a custom, not a universal Church rule.

How does the Church recognize a saint?

The Church investigates a holy person's life before formally recognizing them.

1 • Servant of God

The local Church opens a careful investigation into the person's life, faith, and witness.

2 • Venerable

The Pope recognizes extraordinary Christian virtue, martyrdom, or the offering of a life.

3 • Blessed

The Church approves beatification; a miracle is ordinarily required, except for martyrs.

4 • Saint

The Pope canonizes the person for the whole Church; another miracle is usually required.

Important: God makes people holy. Canonization is the Church's formal recognition of that holiness.

Why ask saints to pray for us?

We are one family in Christ—the communion of saints.

Jesus is our Savior

We worship God alone. The saints do not replace Jesus, who is the one mediator between God and humanity.

Like asking a friend

We ask friends on Earth to pray for us. Catholics also ask the saints in heaven to intercede for us.

Saints point to Jesus

Their lives encourage us to grow in faith, and their prayers bring our needs before God.

Try saying: “St. Catherine Labouré, pray for me as I learn to follow Jesus.”

Start your own journey today

Small steps count. You do not need to feel ready to begin.

PRAYER

1 minute of prayer

“Jesus, teach me to know You.” Tell Him what is on your mind.

PRACTICE

Come & notice

Attend Mass; listen for a word, a reading, or a moment that stays with you.

SERVICE

Choose to love

Do one concrete act of kindness this week. Ask what it taught you.

Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist begin a lifelong journey—not graduation from faith.

Begin with prayer. Then ask.

Everyone is learning. Your questions are welcome, and sharing aloud is always optional.

1

Pray together

"Jesus, help me know You and follow You. Teach me how to pray."

2

Reflect privately

What do you hope to learn about God or the Catholic Church?

3

Ask a question

Speak to the leader, or write an anonymous question on a slip for the class question box.

Future idea: a private, catechist-reviewed question form on the website, with no names or email required.