

ADULT EDUCATION

The following Adult Education opportunities are available at Our Lady of Lourdes:

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

The RCIA is a process for educating those who are contemplating entry into the Catholic Church. It involves a number of stages punctuated by liturgical rites to assist the potential convert in their journey to entry into the church during the Easter Vigil. Although primarily for the non-Catholic, provisions for those Adult Catholics who have not received all their sacraments are also included. The stages of RCIA are: Inquirer, Pre-Catechumen, Catechumen, and Initiate.

Inquirer: This is the stage for inquiring into the church, asking questions, learning about the process, and beginning the initial stages of faith instruction. There is no commitment requirement at this stage in the process.

Pre-Catechumen: "Catechumen," in the early church, was the name applied to one who had not yet been initiated into the sacred mysteries, but was undergoing a course of preparation for that purpose. The word occurs in Galatians 6:6, "Let him that is instructed in the word, [*ho katechoumenos, is qui catechizatur*] communicate to him that instructs him [*to katechounti, ei qui catechizat*] in all good things." During this stage one should be growing in understanding in faith and a desire to join the Catholic faith should be growing.

Catechumen: At this stage a person should be committed to joining the Catholic faith this is marked by the Rite of Election when the individual is introduced to the community in a formal way. At this stage a more intense study program is introduced to prepare them for full acceptance into the faith at the Easter Vigil.

Initiate: After receiving the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil this stage is a continuation of study for preparing the individual to participate in the communities spiritual activities on their own. In addition, they are introduced to the various ministries in the parish, to discern a ministry that fits their talents, and encouraged to continue their faith education both on their own and in group study programs.

RECONNECT

This is a new program being offered by the parish to call alienated and non-practicing Catholics home. This is a short 6 week program designed to work with those who desire to return to the Catholic faith in a non-judgmental session. It provides a framework to help resolve issues, provide a means of reconciliation, and welcome back into the Catholic faith. For those needing to resolve marriage issues a special session can be arranged to provide information on the annulment process.

BIBLE STUDY

Several times during the year a Bible Study will be offered. Scripture studies have included: John, Revelations, Acts, Isaiah, as well as a 3 part series on Galatians, Philippians, and Philemon. If sufficient interest is shown (minimum class size: 5) arrangements can be made to hold special sessions.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS (The Prayer of the Church)

It is a one evening class. This class is normally offered prior to the Lent to help prepare for the Lenten period. The class includes a brief history of and development of the *Liturgy of the Hours*. The class covers how the *Liturgy of the Hours* is arranged, how to use it, and how to pray the Hours. At the conclusion of the class we will put into practice all that we have learned. It will increase your comfort zone in how to use this wonderful means of reflecting on the Word of God and increase your prayer life on a daily basis.

Other classes offered upon request.

Requests for other study sessions, special projects, and areas of interest will be considered for presentation to groups of at least 5 people who will commit themselves to complete the program.

FOR INFORMATION ON THESE PROGRAMS:

Contact the parish office (520) 586-3394 or Deacon Ron Desmarais (520) 586-3695