



# Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults for Children

## Easter 2021

When a child reaches the age of reason, about 6-8 years old, and this child wants to receive the sacrament of baptism, the Catholic church suggests that these children go through suitable catechesis. At Easter time, the children will be brought into the church receiving all of the initiation sacraments: baptism, confirmation, and first Eucharist.

Holy Family has a family process to help these children become Roman Catholics. These are the steps:

1. An interview with the director
2. Involvement in the Religious Education of the child. The child needs to be in Religious Education with other children of their age. Religious education may be accomplished through a Catholic School or a Parish Religious Education Program. Here at Holy Family, our Religious Education program is
  - a. Grades 1-5 Religious Education on Sunday mornings or Wednesday afternoons. Contact Colette Villegas at the Religious Education Office at 626-403-6118. Or email: [cvillegas@holyfamily.org](mailto:cvillegas@holyfamily.org)
  - b. Middle School ages, grades 6-8 CrossWalk Middle School Ministry, this family-centered ministry looks at the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. We gather once a month on Sunday afternoons and have various other activities

throughout the month. Contact Dawn Ponnet at 626 403-6128 or email: [Dponnet@holyfamily.org](mailto:Dponnet@holyfamily.org)

- c. High School ages, grades 9-12, Confirmation Preparation. Teens spend their high school years gathering their religious education within the Confirmation Preparation Process. This family-centered education process meets once a month on either Sunday afternoons or Tuesday evenings. Contact Dawn Ponnet at 626 403-6128 or email: [Dponnet@holyfamily.org](mailto:Dponnet@holyfamily.org)
3. Regularly attend the 9:30 Mass and be a part of the children and teen dismissal process. This means that after the homily the children will leave church with their catechists. The children will, during their dismissal time, do two things, 1. Learn more about the Gospel being proclaimed. 2. Learn more about the Catholic Faith
4. Attend our Family Christian Initiation Process. As families, we will gather for one hour on Friday nights to look more deeply at the Catholic Faith. We will meet from 6:30-7:30pm on
  - October 4, Introduction to RCIA
  - November 1, Communion of Saints
  - November 22, Advent Retreat
  - January 3, Epiphany celebration
  - February 7, Lenten preparation
  - March 6, A look at forgiveness
  - March 20, A look at Eucharist
  - April 3, The Paschal Mystery
  - April 17, a celebration of unfolding the mysteries.
5. Special Rite and Rituals: *The children and their parents participate in the various Rite of Christian Initiation.*
  - a. **Rite of Acceptance**, Sunday, October 20 at 9:30. *This marks the beginning of the process of RCIA. The child's parents introduce the child and then the priest asks the child/teen the question: What do you ask of God and God's Church. The child/teen answers that question.*

- b. **The Rite of Sending:** For our Catechumens, a special Rite of Sending will take place at Holy Family on Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>. In preparation for the Rite of Election, later the same day, parents will be asked to testify to the community of Holy Family about those seeking to become members of the Catholic Church. The community affirms that these catechumens have been chosen for full membership in the Church. This begins the final stage of the journey to the Easter sacraments.
- c. **The Rite of Election:** *Catechumens, accompanied by their parent and godparents, will meet at Holy Family and travel together to the Cathedral of Our Lady Queen of the Angels. During the 6:00pm rite, the Catechumen will be presented to the Archbishop along with others from the Los Angeles area. They will be asked (collectively) to publicly acknowledge their intention to receive Easter sacraments. This ancient and solemn rite of the Church always takes place on the first Sunday of Lent. It officially closes the Period of the Catechumenate. Those who have been known as catechumens (those preparing for baptism) are now called "The Elect."*
- d. **The Scrutinies:** *These three Scrutiny rites are about penance and reconciliation for the Elect and the entire community, March 15, March 22, and March 29 at the 9:30 Mass.*
- e. **Rehearsal for Easter Vigil:** Monday April 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm in the church. Everyone who has anything to do with Vigil will be present for rehearsal, parents, godparents, godparents need to attend.
- f. **Easter Vigil:** Holy Saturday Evening, April 11, Easter Vigil - 7:00 pm. *The Elect, candidates, and sponsors will meet at 6:00 pm in the grotto.*