

## **An Overview of the R.C.I.A.**

There are four stages in the process, through which you can move at your own pace.

### **Inquiry**

This first period invites questions and encourages those participating to follow the leading of the Spirit of God, as they investigate the Catholic way of life.

### **Catechumenate**

This second period presents the teachings of the Catholic Church. During this time, those participating will attend Sunday liturgies, and meet to discuss the meaning of the readings from the Bible, and participate in the life of the Parish. A parish sponsor accompanies the Catechumenate at this time.

### **Purification & Enlightenment**

This third period, which begins the first Sunday in Lent, offers a time of prayer for those who decide to become Catholic. The Church joins in prayer with them as they prepare to celebrate the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil.

### **Mystagogia**

This fourth period allows the new Catholic (Neophyte) time to reflect on the gift they have received. The group continues to meet regularly for a time, to become firmly planted in the Church.