

Who Belongs in the Catechumenate (RCIA):

1. CATECHUMENS:

Unbaptized children*: ages 7 – 13 and ...

Unbaptized teenagers: ages 14 – 17 and ...

Unbaptized adults: ages 18 + ... who want to become Catholic.

These Unbaptized children, teenagers and adults are to be fully initiated at the **Easter Vigil Mass** receiving all 3 sacraments from a priest.

2. CANDIDATES FOR FULL COMMUNION:

Baptized Protestant teenagers: ages 14- 17 and ...

Baptized adults: ages 18+... who want to become Catholic.

These Protestant teenagers and adults make their profession of faith, receive Confirmation and First Holy Communion, at the same Mass, **anytime of the year** from a priest.

3. CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST:

Baptized Catholic teenagers: ages 14 – 17 and....

Baptized Catholic adults: ages 18+... who want to make their first Holy Communion and Confirmation. These Catholic teenagers and adults receive their Confirmation and First Holy Communion, at the same Mass, **anytime during the Easter Season** from a priest.

Who does not belong in the Catechumenate (RCIA):

1. **Unbaptized Infants / Children: ages 0 – 6.** These infants / children are to be baptized in the faith of their parents **at anytime of the year**.
These infants / children do not require any preparation.

2. **Catholic baptized children: ages 7 – 13.** These children are to be prepared for their first Holy Communion and Confirmation through a parish sacramental program offered either through a **Religious Education Program or Catholic School**.
They first receive first Holy Communion from a **Priest** and then...later on... they receive Confirmation from a **Bishop**.

3. **Catholic baptized teenagers: ages 14 – 17 and...**
Catholic baptized adults ages 18+... who have already received their First Holy Communion and want to receive Confirmation.
These teenagers and adults are to be prepared for Confirmation through a **Parish or Inter-Parish or Archdiocesan Confirmation Program**.
They receive Confirmation from a **Bishop**.

***Note:**

Children participating in the Catechumenate (RCIA), for pastoral reasons, may be enrolled in a parish Religious Education Program or Catholic School at the same time they are preparing to be fully initiated through the Catechumenate (RCIA).