

## INVITATION:

# WELCOME TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**2009-2010**



“Come and see...” John 1:39

If you are not a member of the Catholic Church you are welcome to worship with us and share the word of God.

If you feel drawn to come closer, if you are curious about the Catholic Church, if you have questions about the traditions or beliefs of Catholic people, or if you are looking for a church to call “home”, we invite you to join us

for our Adult  
INQUIRY SESSIONS

### PART 1: INQUIRY – PRE CATECHUMENATE

Our ON-GOING MONTHLY INQUIRY SESSIONS will be on Wednesday’s, on June 17<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>, and August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009. at 7:00 P.M. in the Church Office.

These Inquiry Sessions are informal and open to those who are interested in learning about our church, exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic, or just looking for answers to some questions. You are invited to attend and we welcome you with no strings attached.

Since these sessions are informal as well as optional, you are invited to bring family or friends if you’d like.

Adult Baptized Catholics preparing for the Sacraments are also invited.

Continuing, in September we will begin our six Weekly Inquiry Series, in the Conference Center as follows: Sept.8, 15, 22, 29, October 6 & 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 7 PM – 8PM.

These Weekly Sessions are strongly recommended for those wishing to become Catholic.

Beyond this series, some inquirers choose not to continue. Others decide to pursue the first formal step to enter into the Catholic Church, and move on to the next phase.

### PART 2: CATECHUMENATE PHASE

This is a time of *commitment to the Journey and a decision to become Catholic.*

At the beginning of this Phase, we celebrate the Rite of Welcoming to receive into the order of Catechumens, those who have never been baptized, and who will declare formally their desire to prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation and be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

We also celebrate the Rite of Acceptance with those who have been baptized in another Christian Faith and who also have expressed their desire to prepare for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church, and hereinafter referred to as Candidates.

The Catechumens and Candidates will meet weekly on Sundays, upon dismissal after the Homily at the 9 AM Mass, to Break Open the Words of the Gospel they have just heard. Their Sponsors and the RCIA Team join them after the mass, so together all can experience the church as it exists at St.Stephen: our spirit, our community heart, our prayer, our work, our creed, our mission, all the ways we live out our relationship with Jesus within the fabric of Catholic teachings and tradition and in the light of the Scriptures.



### **PART 3: LENT: TIME OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT**

This period begins on the First weekend of Lent, when Catechumens and Candidates write their names in the Book of Enrollment at the Parish, as a formal declaration of their intent to journey toward the Easter Sacraments. The parish then sends the Catechumens to the Bishop to be blessed and received at the Diocesan Rite of Election and to write their names in the Book of Elect, which is a very important ritual.

The journey continues with weekly sessions and intense preparation for the three Scrutinies which take place on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent.

### **PART 4: THE EASTER VIGIL AND MYSTAGOGY**

On the night before Easter, at the highest point in the year of the church, we celebrate the presence of the risen Lord and share in the Sacraments of Initiation with the Catechumens.

The newly initiated continue to gather periodically during the “great fifty days” of the Easter Season to explore the full meaning of all they have experienced together.

### **HOW LONG DOES THIS JOURNEY TAKE?**

The journey of Faith lasts a lifetime. Many people who have begun the Inquiry phase here at St. Stephen between Spring and September, have been received into the Church the following Easter. Others have decided they were not being called to join the church, or that they needed more time before making such a deep commitment.

RCIA is not a “program” or a “class” or a “set of hoops” to jump through. It is designed for Adults who consciously and freely seek to enter the way of Faith and Conversion.

It is an opportunity to encounter the Lord Jesus as He reveals Himself in this community of Faith.

You are welcome to “Come and See”, and make your own decision.



### **COME JOIN US !**

**If you are interested in accepting our invitation, please call Mabel Ring at 407-671-5309 or email [mabelring@gmail.com](mailto:mabelring@gmail.com)**

**OR**

**Just come to any of our Monthly Inquiry Sessions.**

**If you know someone else who might be interested, please share a copy of this flyer.**

**St. Stephen Catholic Community  
575 Tuskawilla Rd, Winter Springs,  
Fl. 32708**

**Monthly Inquiry Meetings are held in the Church Office at 7:00 PM**

**Weekly Inquiry Series are held in the Conference Center.**

**Please park in the rear paved parking lot at the end of the entrance driveway, and follow the sidewalk toward the church.**