

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

“Come and See....” John 1:39

2011-2012



St. Stephens Church welcomes all to worship with us and share in the Word of God, even if you are not a member of the Catholic Church.

If you feel drawn to the Faith, or you are curious about the Catholic Church, or if you have questions about the Traditions or Beliefs of the Faith, and if you are looking for a Church to call “home”, we invite you to inquire about the Catechumenate process (RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults).

This takes place in various phases outlined as follows:

PHASE 1: PRE-CATECHUMENATE (INQUIRY)

First, we will have a monthly INQUIRY SESSION on July 19th, and on August 23rd, 2011, at 7:00 P.M. in the Church Office. These Inquiry Sessions are informal as well as optional, for those who have never been Baptized or have been Baptized in another Faith. You are invited to bring family or friends if you'd like. There are no strings attached.

Also, Adult Baptized Catholics who may have been away from the Church for some time and want to complete the Sacraments of Initiation: Eucharist and Confirmation, are invited to attend.

Second, we will have our SIX WEEK INQUIRY SESSIONS, which will be held in the Conference Center as follows: Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, October 4 & 11, 2011 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM.

These Weekly Sessions are very informative and strongly recommended for those wishing to become Catholic, even if you have not yet finalized your decision to do so.

During this Inquiry Phase you are highly encouraged to ask questions

Beyond this Series, some Inquirers may choose not to continue, and we respect your decision. Others who have decided to pursue the first formal step to enter into the Catholic Church, will progress to the next phase.

PHASE 2: CATECHUMENATE

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 to become members of the Catholic Church.

We also celebrate the Rite of Acceptance for those who have been baptized in another Christian Faith and who also have expressed their desire to prepare for Reception into Full Communion with the Catholic Church, through the Profession of Faith, and the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. These individuals will be 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.

Sponsors and the RCIA Team members join them after the Mass concludes, for a continuation of the Session focused on Liturgical Catechesis



PHASE 3: PURIFICATION & ENLIGHTENMENT

This Phase begins on the First weekend of Lent, when Catechumens and Candidates write their names in the Parish Book of Enrollment, 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 Scrutiny Rites which take place on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent.

PHASE 4: MYSTAGOGIA

At the Easter Vigil; the Holiest time in the Church Year, we celebrate the presence of the Risen Lord and share in the Sacraments of Initiation with the Catechumens.

The Neophytes continue to gather periodically during the “great Fifty days” of the Easter Season to explore the full meaning of all that they have experienced at the Easter Vigil and in joining the Faith Community at the Table of the Lord and in the presence of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation.

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 the Process designed for Adults 18+ 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.



If you are interested in accepting our Invitation, please call Mabel Ring at 407-699-5683 or email 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
Phone: 407-699-5683

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

Weekly Inquiry Series are held in the Conference Center from 7 – 8:30 PM

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