 ***St. Francis of Assisi Parish***

 ***Faith Formation Office***

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June 1, 2023

Dear Inquirers of RCIA Candidacy,

Congratulations on taking the first step toward receiving the Sacraments of Initiation! We are looking forward to walking with you on your journey toward becoming part of the Catholic Faith Community. Our RCIA registration and schedule for the 2023-2024 year is enclosed.

RCIA stands for Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. This program is designed to educate participants about the Catholic faith and prepare them to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. The three Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

* **BAPTISM:**  Baptism welcomes you as a child of God and gives you the grace that comes with being a member of God’s family. You may have already been baptized, either in a Catholic Church or within a Protestant community. If you have been baptized previously, it is unlikely that you will need to be baptized again, but this will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If you have been baptized already, you will need to provide a copy of your baptismal certificate (unless baptized at St. Francis of Assisi). If you do not have a copy, we can assist you in obtaining one.
* **CONFIRMATION:**Confirmation is the Sacrament by which you will receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit bestows gifts of character that help strengthen one’s resolve, morals, and faith. Confirmation does not make us perfect; rather, it gives us the determination to strive toward holiness and to rely on God. Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation typically received by youth growing up in the Catholic Church, usually at the high school age.
* **EUCHARIST:**The Catholic Church believes that Christ is truly present within the bread and wine offered as gifts during the Mass. This process is called transubstantiation, or a “changing of substance.” This transformation takes place during the “consecration,” a part of the Mass during which the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We refer to the Body and Blood of Christ as the Eucharist. Receiving and consuming the Eucharist is a direct encounter with Christ our Lord, who stays with us throughout the week, providing us strength and comfort as we go about our daily lives. If you have already received the Eucharist, we will need documentation of the date and Church in which you received the Eucharist for the first time (unless received at St. Francis of Assisi). If you do not have this documentation handy, we can assist you in obtaining it.
* **MASS:** Weekend Mass attendance is mandatory for all Catholics. Therefore, we require all RCIA participants to attend Mass regularly, at least three weekends per month. We offer a variety of Mass times here at St. Francis. There are many other parishes in the area with additional Mass times that you can also attend, if necessary.
* **CLASSES:** Classes will be held twice per month from September until March, time and day of the week to be determined. There will also be a rehearsal at the end of March prior to the Easter Vigil (March 30th, 2024), at which you will receive the Sacraments.

We are aware our program is not “one size fits all”. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Faith Formation office, as we realize every person’s situation is different. We are here to serve you. Together we will figure out a way to make it work. Thank you for making the pursuit of the Roman Catholic faith an integral part of your life. We look forward to working together with you, continuing to grow together as true intentional disciples of Jesus. We, together with Jesus and each other, can and will make a positive difference in our world. May God bless you, your families, and all that you do.

Sincerely in Christ and St. Francis,

 Fr. Ross M. Syracuse, OFM Conv. Elizabeth Woods

 Senior Parochial Vicar Faith Formation Director

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| Date | Time | Topic |
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| Sept. | TBD | The Hunger for God, His Plan, and Divine Revelation |
| Sept. | TBD | Scripture as God’s Word, the Faith Response, and the One True, Triune God |
| Oct. | TBD | God as Creator and the Reality of Sin and Grace |
| Oct. | TBD | Jesus, Mary, and the Reign of God |
| Nov. | TBD | Christ’s Passion, Resurrection, Ascension, and the Holy Spirit |
| Nov. | TBD | The Mystery of the One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church, and the People of God |
| Dec. | TBD | Heaven, Purgatory, Hell, and the Liturgy |
| Dec. | TBD | The Sacraments of Initiation |
| Jan. | TBD | The Sacraments of Healing and Vocations |
| Jan. | TBD | Our Destiny from God, Morality, Conscience, Faith, Hope, and Charity |
| Feb. | TBD | Sin, Society and Human Dignity, Grace, and Merit |
| Feb. | TBD | The Ten Commandments: 1-3 |
| Mar. | TBD | The Ten Commandments: 4-10 |
| Mar. | TBD | Personal and Corporate Prayer |
| TBD | TBD | Reconciliation |
| TBD | TBD | Rehearsal |
| 3/30/24 | 8PM | Sacraments at Easter Vigil |

\*\*\*All classes will be held in the Conference Room of the Parish Office.\*\*\*

\*\*\*Rehearsal will be held in the church.\*\*\*

**The Catholic Church believes that all people who desire to become Confirmed members of the Church have the right and responsibility to be fully educated on all aspects of the faith. This is to ensure that each Candidate is able to make an informed decision about receiving the Sacraments. The RCIA program is designed to foster a close relationship with God and the Church so that each person can continue to grow in faith and be an active participant in the life of his or her Faith Community. For this reason, attendance at Mass and all classes is mandatory (except for extenuating circumstances) in order to receive the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Candidates must make up all missed classes. Make-ups may be scheduled at a time convenient for the Candidate and the Catechist. Failure to do so may result in a delayed reception of the Sacraments.**

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION REGISTRATION 2023 – 2024

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How would you prefer to be contacted (check all that apply): Text \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_USPS Mail\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Registered Member of a Church/Parish: No \_\_\_\_\_Yes (Name of Church/Parish)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently going to Mass on a weekly basis: Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_ If no, how often\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sacraments you are Requesting: Baptism\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Eucharist\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Confirmation\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Or: I am curious about the Catholic faith and not seeking any Sacraments/am undecided at this time\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**For our Sacramental records, please provide the following:**

Date of Birth:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Father’s Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mother’s Name (including maiden name):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**If you were previously baptized, please provide the following (if known):**

Date of Baptism:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Location of Baptism:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Your Baptismal Certificate is required\*\*\*

**If you previously received the Eucharist, please provide the following (if known):**

Date of First Eucharist:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Location of First Eucharist:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Documentation is required\*\*\*

**Please Note:**

If you are requesting Baptism, you will need at least one Godparent. (Two are optional). Your Godparent must be a Confirmed Catholic in good standing (i.e. regularly attending Mass) and must produce a letter of recommendation from his or her registered parish (unless registered here at St. Francis of Assisi). Your Godparent may not be your parent, your spouse, or your spouse’s parent.

If you are requesting Confirmation, you will need one Sponsor. Your Sponsor must be a Confirmed Catholic in good standing (i.e. regularly attending Mass) and must produce a letter of recommendation from his or her registered parish (unless registered here at St. Francis of Assisi). Your Sponsor may not be your parent. If married, your Sponsor must have been married in a Catholic Church.

**Office Use Only:**

BC\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ EC\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PDS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_