

*"Faith is confident  
assurance  
concerning what we  
hope for, and  
conviction about  
things we do not see"*  
Hebrews 11:1

**Remember, whether or  
not you decide to  
become Catholic, we will  
welcome your presence  
among us on the  
journey!**

*To become a part of the RCIA  
journey, contact:*

**Lucena Sakumoto**  
(562)547-9549

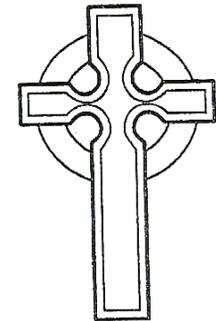
or

**Betty Mackner**  
(562) 423-5600

**SAINT ATHANASIUS CHURCH**  
5390 LINDEN AVE.  
LONG BEACH CA. 90805

# Share the Promise

# RCIA



*"And Jesus said to them,  
I am the bread of life;  
whoever comes to me  
will never hunger;  
and whoever believes in  
me will never thirst"*  
John 6:35

**St. Athanasius**

562-423-7986

***A Journey  
in Faith***

# Accepting, Belonging and Healing

RCIA means Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, and has its roots in the early centuries of the Church.

Like most people, we long to be part of a community where we can enjoy acceptance, belonging, and healing.

We want answers to the questions:

- Is there any point to my life?
- How do I get closer to God?

The RCIA process can help satisfy these needs and questions in us. At the same time, it can bring us closer to our God and friend, Jesus Christ.

## Is RCIA for me?

If you are a:

- Baptized Catholic with little or no formal religious instruction.
- Baptized in another faith and wanting to learn about Catholicism.
- Not baptized and wanting to find out about the Roman Catholic Church.

## RCIA is for you!

**The RCIA Journey:**

**Informal, Friendly, & Low Key**

Because each person comes to RCIA from different backgrounds, this process must be flexible. The RCIA coordinator will work with you individually to see what works best for you.

*However, there are steps along the way to mark the journey:*

### Step 1: **Inquiry**

This is the period of time when the "Inquirer" discerns whether he or she really wants to become Catholic. Sessions are the same as for the catechumens or candidates.

### RITE OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS/RITE OF WELCOMING BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS

This is a celebration of mass when we welcome our baptized Christian inquirers and our non-baptized inquirers as candidates into the second step of Catechesis or Catechumenate.

### Step 2:

#### **Catechesis/ Catechumenate**

This is the longest step, when we learn prayer, scriptures, and the Catholic way of life. We go to church most Sundays for catechetical sessions and Breaking Open the Word. When we don't meet, you are still expected to attend church.

### RITE OF SENDING FORTH

This is a celebration of mass of the parish approval of candidates or catechumens who are on their way to begin their final preparation before receiving the Sacraments of Initiation.

### RITE OF ELECTION

It's celebrated with candidates and catechumens throughout the Archdiocese. Names have been inscribed in the Parish Book of the Elect and presented to the Bishop for his signature. This Rite is celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent.

### Step 3: **Period of Purification and Enlightenment**

During the season of Lent, baptized candidates will celebrate the Penitential Rite and non-baptized elect will celebrate the Scrutinizes prior to the Easter Vigil, when all will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

### EASTER VIGIL

This is most solemn of all Church feasts; it's our celebration of Christ's resurrection. During Holy Week we see Christ institute Eucharist (Holy Thursday), we join Christ for his crucifixion (Good Friday) and we await his resurrection. This is the perfect time for new life and for our new Catholics to receive the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

### Step 3: **Mystagogia**

Newly initiated parishioners are encouraged to become fully integrated into the life of the parish.