

## RCIC Fast Facts:

**Who is RCIC for?** Older children (8-15 yrs) who have never been baptized or who have been baptized in another Christian faith.

**What sacraments will my child receive?** The Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist, or, after making a Profession of Faith, Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist. Children will also receive 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation (Confession).

**How long is the RCIC process at St. Anthony Claret?** Three years, receiving all sacraments in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

**When do classes meet?** Classes follow the Religious Education calendar and meet Sundays at 1:30-2:30pm the first two years; Saturdays starting at 5pm Mass-7pm the third (final) year.

**When can my child start and how much does it cost?** Classes form every fall and follow the same annual fee schedule as Religious Education: \$35/1 child, \$65/2 children, \$75 max per family.

**How do I enroll my child?** Registration for returning RCIC students occurs simultaneously with enrollment for Religious Education. Parents may **register new students by appointment only**. Contact the parish office to receive an RCIC Inquiry Form and to make an appointment.

**What is required of a child in RCIC?** Regular attendance at Sunday (Sat. vigil) Mass, active participation in weekly classes, and attendance at all retreats and rites. There may also be some activities, such as community service, that will need to be completed outside of class.

**What is required of a parent in RCIC?** Regular attendance at Sunday (Sat. vigil) Mass and all retreats and rites, as well as active participation in conferences during the first year, and catechetical classes during the second year. Additionally, parents and godparents must take baptismal classes, either at St. Anthony Claret or their own parish.

**Can more than one child from the same family be enrolled in RCIC?** Yes! In many cases when a family is joining the church together, there is more than one child involved!! It's highly encouraged for all children to be enrolled at the same time.

## What is RCIC?

At St. Anthony Mary Claret Roman Catholic Parish, **RCIC** stands for the process involving "**Christian Initiation of Children Who Have Reached Catechetical Age**." RCIC utilizes the same process as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), but with adaptations for children.

Through the RCIC process, un-baptized children (or children who have been baptized into a non-Catholic Christian faith)—who are old enough to have attained the use of reason—prepare to receive the sacraments of initiation (**Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist**) and enter the Catholic Church. They seek Christian initiation either at the direction of their parents or guardians or, with parental permission, on their own initiative.

**RCIC involves both children and their parents.** It is a **three-year process**, marked by several stages and liturgical rites, including a **period of evangelization**, the liturgical rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (or Welcoming for Candidates), a **period of comprehensive catechesis**, the Rite of Election, a **period of purification and enlightenment** including the Penitential Rites or Scrutinies, the celebration of **the sacraments of initiation** at the Easter Vigil, and finally a **period of post-baptismal catechesis** or Mystagogy.

RCIC is open to both parishioners and non-parishioners (with letter from home parish) who are in need of sacramental preparation and for reception into the Roman Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

Whether your family is just entering the Church, is returning after time away, have decided as a family to delay the children's sacramental preparation, or any other circumstance, all are welcome.

*"Let the children come to me ... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

(Mt 19:13-14)



St. Anthony Mary Claret  
Roman Catholic Parish

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## ▶ **RCIC:** **Christian Initiation of Children Who Have Reached Catechetical Age**



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# RCIC: Christian Initiation of Children Who Have Reached Catechetical Age

**RCIC at St. Anthony Claret Parish is a three-year journey for the whole family.**



Our portable classrooms

## Class Information

### When & where do classes meet?

Throughout the traditional school year, following the NISD calendar:

- First and second year classes meet Sunday afternoons, 1:30-2:30pm in Buildings C & D.
- Third year classes are on Saturdays. They begin in our church at the 5pm Mass and continue in Buildings C & D until 7pm.
- Parent classes (second year only) meet Sunday afternoons, 1:30-2:30pm in Building E.

### What is covered in the classes?

#### ... and what materials are used?

- The first year is devoted to evangelization and covers Bible stories from Genesis to Acts. Our main resource will be the Bible (NAB).
- The second year covers the Catechism of the Catholic Church and draws heavily on age-appropriate selections from the *Faith and Life* series (for children) and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* (for parents).
- Third year students receive age-appropriate lectionary-based catechesis.

## Sacramental Information

### Which sacraments do the children receive?

—Children who have not yet been baptized (**the Elect**) enter the Catholic Church by receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist.

—Children who have already been baptized in another religion (**Candidates**) enter the Catholic Church by making a Profession of Faith and receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist.

### When do the children receive the sacraments?

In their third year of preparation, all students who are ready will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil – the Saturday night before Easter. The Elect celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation after Easter while the Candidates celebrate Reconciliation before Easter, during Lent.



Saint Anthony Claret

## Other requirements

### What else must my child do or have?

- All children must attend Sunday (Sat. vigil) Mass regularly with their families.
- Children must attend all retreats and rites, either with a parent or godparent.
- Middle School children must perform 10 hours of community service.
- All children will need a godparent (or sponsor) who is an active member in good standing with the Catholic Church (either in St. Anthony Claret parish or another parish) who will be able to be present at the Easter Vigil.

**The role of Godparents** is to help their godchild lead a good Catholic/Christian life.

## Parents' Information

### As a parent, what must I do?

- 1) Attend Sunday (Sat. vigil) Mass regularly with your child.
- 2) Attend baptismal classes.
- 3) In the first year, attend three (3) conferences.
- 4) In the second year, attend 18 catechetical classes.
- 5) In the third year, have a final family interview with the pastor and attend all retreats and rites with your child.
- 6) Support your child physically and *spiritually*.

## Baptismal Information

At St. Anthony Claret, parents and godparents must attend two sessions of baptismal classes. Classes are held on the first Tuesday and following Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m., in Msgr. Hubertus Hall. Parents and godparents are required to attend both sessions.

Although the classes are free, space is limited and no babysitting is available, therefore registration (either by calling or coming by the office) for the classes is necessary.

**Godparents from other parishes must obtain a letter from their parish stating they meet the requirements of godparents.**

**The following are godparents' requirements from The Code of Canon Law:**

### **Canon 873**

—Only one male or one female godparent or one of each sex is permitted.

### **Canon 874**

- Must be 16 years of age
- Be a Catholic who has received all three sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken
- Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared (**i.e. married by a Justice of the Peace or Common Law marriage**)
- Not be the father or the mother of the child

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