## RCIA Periods and Steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Inquirers or candidates</th>
<th>Catechumens</th>
<th>Elect</th>
<th>Neophytes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aim</strong></td>
<td>Awaken faith, foster initial conversion, introduce to Christian community, answer questions</td>
<td>Acceptance into formal relationship with Church</td>
<td>To discern evidence of election by God for the sacraments of initiation</td>
<td>To unite with Christ and his church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content</strong></td>
<td>Proclamation of Gospel, build relationship with Christ and community, share faith stories, examination of life</td>
<td>First formal introduction, statement of intent, welcome</td>
<td>Questioning of godparents, Bishop's declaration of election</td>
<td>Recollection, Lenten retreat, preparation for Easter sacraments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td>No fixed time</td>
<td>One or more years</td>
<td>Lent</td>
<td>Easter Vigil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rites</strong></td>
<td>No specific rites</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### First Period
**Evangelization and Precatechumenate**

### First Step
**Rite of Acceptance**

### Second Period
**Catechumenate**

### Second Step
**Rite of Election**

### Third Period
**Purification and Enlightenment**

### Third Step
**Sacraments of Initiation**

### Fourth Period
**Mystagogy or Postbaptismal Catechesis**

### Key Notes:
- **Name**: Inquirers or candidates
- **Aim**: Awaken faith, foster initial conversion, introduce to Christian community, answer questions
- **Content**: Proclamation of Gospel, build relationship with Christ and community, share faith stories, examination of life
- **Time**: No fixed time
- **Rites**: No specific rites

Revised: 9 Aug 2017