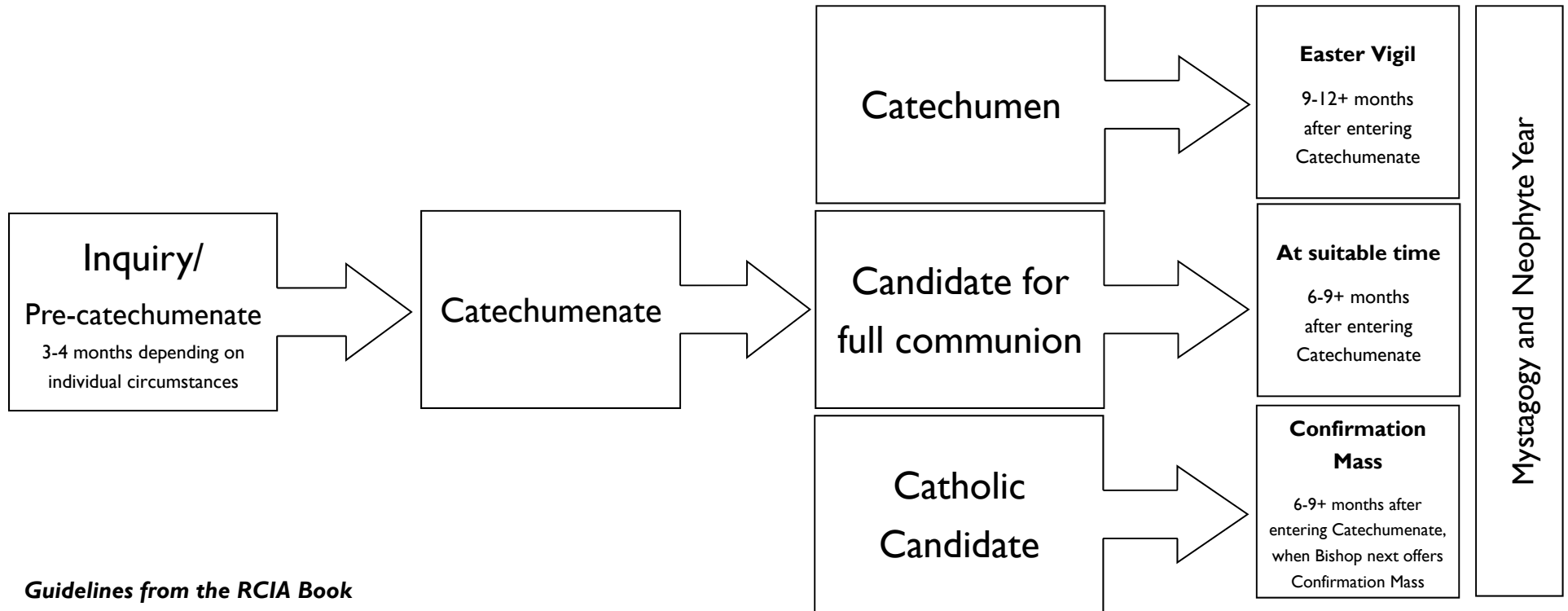


# How Long?

General guidelines of time required for adequate formation and delivery of the Deposit of Faith.



**Guidelines from the RCIA Book**

**Signs of conversion—readiness for the Rite of Acceptance (or Rite of Welcoming)**

**Unbaptized**—(n.42) “The prerequisite for making this first step is that the beginnings of the spiritual life and the fundamentals of Christian teaching have taken root in the candidates.”

**Baptized, uncatechized**—(n.401) “A program of training, catechesis suited to their needs, contact with the community of the faithful, and participation in certain liturgical rites are needed in order to strengthen them in the Christian life.”

**Baptized, Catechized, not Catholic**—(n. 477) “The baptized Christian is to receive both doctrinal and spiritual preparation, adapted to the individual pastoral requirements, for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. The candidate should learn to deepen an inner adherence to the Church, where he or she will find the fullness of his or her baptism.”

**Length of Catechumenate Period**

**Unbaptized**—(Ap. III, n.6) “The period of the catechumenate... should extend for at least one year of formation... from at least the Easter season of one year until the next; preferably it should begin before Lent in one year and extend until Easter of the following year...” (n.76) “It may even last several years if necessary.”