



## Becoming Catholic for Candidates

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Christ the King 2024  
The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

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OCIA is a period of formation and conversion for one to fully enter into the faith and life of the Catholic church. This journey is intentionally designed with multiple stages and liturgical rites, with no set time to complete any of them - each faith journey is unique! With that said however, we do offer a "typical" schedule which is detailed below for fall 2024.

### 1st Stage: Inquiry

Inquiry is the first stage in the journey which begins when, prompted by the Holy Spirit, an individual reaches out to learn more about Jesus Christ and His church. This will look different for everyone, and various opportunities are offered to meet everyone right where they are.

- **Introductory Meeting**

Contact me anytime to arrange a time to talk.

Anne Guminik 810 - 229-9863 x 324 [aguminik@stpatchurch.org](mailto:aguminik@stpatchurch.org)

- **Website**

The OCIA page on our website will offer additional details about the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. There is also a link to an "initial information form" that you can submit. Its completion does not suggest any commitment but will help in directing our conversation. <https://www.stpatrickcatholicparish.org/rcia>

- **Small groups**

If you inquire about becoming Catholic during the spring or summer, when "formal OCIA" sessions are not being held, various small group opportunities are offered throughout the year. I am happy to direct you to one of the groups or studies being offered.

- **Parish Involvement**

In order to build relationships within our St Patrick community, you are invited to attend all of our parish liturgies and events. Please go to our parish website to learn more about our schedule and upcoming events: <https://www.stpatrickcatholicparish.org/>

## 2nd Stage: Pre-Catechumenate

Following Inquiry, and having discerned the call to continue the journey, the pre-catechumenate is a period of 4 weeks which prepares you to celebrate the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome. A Catholic sponsor is chosen to journey with you. We meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 in the lower level of the Church.

Date	Topic
August 15	Welcome!
August 22	The Good News
August 29	Divine Revelation; Scripture and Tradition
September 5	The Catholic Church
Sunday September 7	The Rite of Welcome is celebrated during the Saturday 5:00 Mass.

## The Rite of Welcome

The Rite of Welcome is the threshold Rite of the OCIA. In this Rite a change of identity takes place and those previously identified as "inquirers" become "candidates." They are officially welcomed by the church as members (albeit not yet full members) of the household of faith. While no final commitment is yet made, the clear intention is to continue the journey.

## 3rd Stage: The Catechumenate

The catechumenate is the second and often the longest stage, in the journey into the Catholic church. We meet Thursday evenings to reflect on Scripture, share in fellowship and learn about the beliefs, practices, doctrines and devotions of Catholicism.

## 2024 Catechumenate Schedule

Date	Thursday evenings 7:00 - 8:30 pm
September 12	Topic 1: The Mass
September 19	Topic 2: The Sacraments and Baptism
September 26	Topic 3: Confirmation and the work of the Holy Spirit
October 3	Topic 4: The Eucharist
October 10	Topic 5: Penance, Forgiveness and Healing
October 17	Topic 6: Matrimony and Holy Orders
October 24	Topic 7: The Creed
October 31	Topic 8: Prayer and Devotion
November 7	Topic 9: Mary and the Saints
November 14	Topic 10: Catholic Social Teaching
November 21	Topic 11: The Last Things
November 23	Vigil of Christ the King Reception Following

### 4th Stage: Mystagogy

Mystagogy is the "official" final stage of the OCIA journey - which is also just the beginning of a lifelong journey as a spirit filled missionary disciple!

December 5	Grace
December 12	Discerning the Will of God
December 19	Missionary Discipleship