



## Becoming Catholic for Candidates Pentecost 2024

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### 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 Spring 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 your initial 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 from 7:00 - 8:30 in room B1, which is in the lower level of the Church.

Date	Topic
January 25	Welcome!
February 1	The Good News
February 8	Divine Revelation
February 15	The Catholic Church
Saturday February 17	The Rite of Welcome

## The Rite of Welcome

The Rite of Acceptance 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.

The Rite of Welcome is celebrated on Saturday  
February 17th during the 5:00 pm Mass.

## 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 Schedule

Date	Thursday evenings 7:00 - 8:30 pm
February 22	The Paschal Mystery
February 29	The Mass
March 7	The Sacraments Baptism and Confirmation
March 14	The Eucharist
March 21	Penance and Anointing of the Sick
March 28	No Session - Holy Thursday
April 4	Matrimony and Holy Orders
April 11	Prayer and Devotions
April 18	Mary and the Saints
April 25	The Creed
May 2	Catholic Social Teaching
May 9	The Last Things
May 16	Vigil Practice Open Q and A
Saturday May 18	Pentecost Vigil 5:00 pm Mass 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!

May 23	Grace of the sacraments
May 30	Discerning the Will of God
June 6	Missionary Discipleship