

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate

Starting the Journey: The period of evangelization and pre-catechumenate is a time of inquiry when an individual begins to respond to some stirrings within to seek out life with Christ in the community of Catholic Christians. This is a period of searching, asking questions, and the initial stirrings of faith. During this period, inquirers form relationships with one another and with their catechists. Each inquirer will examine the Church and the ways in which its members worship together and live the Christian Faith. No commitments or promises are made. The period can last as long as you desire—a few months up to years.

Tuesday, August 18, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Inquiry Session 1 Welcome to the RCIA!
Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Inquiry Session 2 What is Faith
Tuesday, September 1, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Inquiry Session 3 The Holy Trinity
Tuesday, September 8, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Inquiry Session 4 Who is Jesus Christ?
Tuesday, September 15, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Inquiry Session 5 The Bible
Tuesday, September 22, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Inquiry Session 6 Divine Revelation
Tuesday, September 29, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Inquiry Session 7 Your Prayer Life
Tuesday, October 6, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Inquiry Session 8 Catholic Prayers and Practices
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Inquiry Session 9 The Mass and the Church Year
Tuesday, October 20, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Inquiry Session 10 Who Shepherds the Church?
Tuesday, October 27, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Inquiry Session 11 The Church as Community
Tuesday, November 3, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Inquiry Session 12 Mary and the Saints
Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Inquiry Session 13 Eschatology: the “Last Things”
November 15 through 20, 2020	Individual Interviews
Tuesday, November 17, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Inquiry Session 14 The RCIA Process and Rites
Tuesday, November 24, 2020 No Session / Thanksgiving Week	No Session: Thanksgiving Week

Period of Catechumenate

The word “Catechumenate” comes from the ancient Greek, the language of the early Church. Catechumen means “a person receiving instruction.” During this period, you will study and discuss most of the Church’s main beliefs. You will also have a godparent or sponsor join you on your journey. This person can be a Catholic family member, a wise and good friend, or someone from the parish suggested by the team. Your sponsor should attend the RCIA sessions with you regularly and continue conversations with you outside of RCIA. They also serve as your representative and advocate to the Church.

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Catechumenate Session 1 The People of God and The Early Church
Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:00 AM Mass – St. Mary’s Basilica	Rite of Acceptance and Welcome
Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Catechumenate Session 2 Baptism
Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Catechumenate Session 3 Confirmation
Tuesday, December 22, 2020 No Session / Christmas Weekend	No Session Christmas Weekend
Tuesday, December 29, 2020 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Catechumenate Session 4 Eucharist
Tuesday, January 5, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Catechumenate Session 5 Confession
Sunday, January 10, 2021 9:00 AM Mass / St. Mary’s Basilica	Rite of Sending for Candidates
Sunday, January 10, 2021 3:30 PM / Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral	Rite of Reception for Candidates: Call to Continuing Conversion
Tuesday, January 12, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Catechumenate Session 6 Anointing of the Sick
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Catechumenate Session 7 Matrimony and Holy Orders
Tuesday, January 26, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Catechumenate Session 8 Christian Moral Living
Tuesday, February 2, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Catechumenate Session 9 A Consistent Ethic of Life
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Catechumenate Session 10 Social Justice
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Catechumenate Session 9 Election: Saying “Yes” to Jesus
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7 AM, 12 PM, 3 PM, 5:30 PM / St. Mary’s	Ash Wednesday Services
February 14 to 19, 2021	Individual Interviews

Period of Purification and Enlightenment

During the period of purification and enlightenment, the focus becomes a stronger emphasis on the spiritual and mystical life in preparation for the sacraments. The guidelines for this period (which normally coincides with Lent) as well as the rites associated with them enable catechists to shift the focus of teaching to reflection and meditation.

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Purification & Enlightenment Session 1 Living Lent
Saturday, February 20, 2021 9 AM to 4 PM / St. Mary's Basilica	RCIA Retreat Day For Catechumen, Candidates and Sponsors
Sunday, February 21, 2021 9:00 AM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	Rite of Sending for Catechuminate
Sunday, February 21, 2021 3:30 PM / Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral	Rite of Election for Catechuminate: Enrollment of Names for Catechuminate
Tuesday, February 23, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Purification & Enlightenment Session 2 Scrutinies: Looking Within
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Purification & Enlightenment Session 3 The Creed
Sunday, March 7, 2021 9:00 AM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	Rite: First Scrutiny Samaritan Woman at the Well
Tuesday, March 9, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Purification & Enlightenment Session 4 The Way of the Cross
Sunday, March 14, 2021 9:00 AM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	Rite: Second Scrutiny Man Born Blind
Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Purification & Enlightenment Session 5 The Lord's Prayer
Sunday, March 21, 2021 9:00 AM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	Rite: Third Scrutiny Raising of Lazarus
Tuesday, March 30, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Purification & Enlightenment Session 6 The Meaning of Holy Week
Thursday, April 1, 2021 7:00 PM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday, April 2, 2021 3:00 PM / Good Friday Service	Good Friday Service: 12:00 PM Stations / 3:00 PM Service

Sacraments of Initiation

Saturday, April 3, 2021 10:00 AM to 12 Noon / St. Mary's Basilica	Sacraments of Initiation Rehearsal and Rite of Ephphetha
Saturday, April 3, 2021 7:00 PM Easter Vigil / St. Mary's Basilica	Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
Sunday, April 4, 2021 7 AM, 9 AM or 11 AM Mass / St. Mary's	Easter Sunday (Easter Egg Hunt after the 11 AM Mass)

Period of Mystagogy

Sacramental initiation does not end with the celebration of the sacraments of initiation. *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* provides for the final period, the period of postbaptismal catechesis or mystagogy (that is, reflection on the mysteries). During this time the neophyte is mentored into living as a Christian disciple in the World. This formal period of reflection and prayer continues until Pentecost Sunday.

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Mystagogy Session 1 Conversion: A Lifelong Process
Tuesday, April 13, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Mystagogy Session 2 The Role of the Laity
Tuesday, April 20, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Mystagogy Session 3 Your Spiritual Gifts
Tuesday, April 27, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Mystagogy Session 4 Discernment
Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Mystagogy Session 5 Family Life
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Mystagogy Session 6 Our Call to Holiness & Living the Virtues
Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Mystagogy Session 7 Evangelization
May 23 to 28, 2021	Individual Interviews

Information on Individual Interviews

Individual Interviews – Period of Inquiry (Any time before the Period of Inquiry)
Before starting, the period of evangelization and pre-catechumenate inquirers will meet with the Director of Faith Development and/or the “Ambassador of Welcome” to review your information form, listen to your faith story, discover what questions you may have, and review the RCIA process with you before you enter the period of inquiry.

Individual Interviews – Period of Catechumenate (November 15–20, 2020)
After an appropriate period of inquiry during the period of evangelization and pre-catechumenate, the inquirer may now publicly declare their intention to continue their journey of faith toward full initiation in the Catholic Church. The decision to enter the period of catechumenate is a mutual decision between the inquirer and the RCIA team.

Individual Interviews – Period of Purification and Enlightenment (February 14-19, 2021)
Your decision to continue forward and celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil (March 31, 2018) is a mutual decision between the catechumen/candidate and the RCIA team. The period of catechumenate can last a couple of months to several years depending on the needs and readiness of each catechumen/candidate.

Individual Interviews – Period of Mystagogy (May 23-28, 2021)
We’ll explore and discern how God is calling you to serve the local Church and community.