

## Journey of Faith – 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.

<b>Sunday, August 27, 2023</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Inquiry Session 1</b> Welcome to the RCIA!
<b>Sunday, September 3, 2023</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Inquiry Session 2</b> What is Faith?
<b>Sunday, September 10, 2023</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Inquiry Session 3</b> The Holy Trinity
<b>Sunday, September 17, 2023</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Inquiry Session 4</b> Who is Jesus Christ?
<b>Sunday, September 24, 2023</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Inquiry Session 5</b> The Bible
<b>Sunday, October 1, 2023</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Inquiry Session 6</b> Divine Revelation
<b>Sunday, October 8, 2023</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Inquiry Session 7</b> Your Prayer Life
<b>Sunday, October 15, 2023</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Inquiry Session 8</b> Catholic Prayers and Practices
<b>Sunday, October 22, 2023</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Inquiry Session 9</b> The Mass and The Eucharist
<b>Sunday, October 29, 2023</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Inquiry Session 10</b> The Church Year and Places in the Church
<b>Sunday, November 5, 2023</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Inquiry Session 11</b> Who Shepherds the Church? The Church as Community
<b>Sunday, November 12, 2023</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Inquiry Session 12</b> Mary and the Saints
<b>Sunday, November 19, 2023</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Inquiry Session 13</b> Eschatology: the “Last Things”
<b>Sunday, November 26, 2023</b> No Session / Thanksgiving Weekend	<b>No Session:</b> Thanksgiving Weekend
<b>Sunday, December 3, 2023</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Inquiry Session 14</b> The RCIA Process and Rites
<b>December 3 through 8, 2023</b>	<b>Individual Interviews</b>

## 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.

<b>Sunday, December 10, 2023</b> 9:00 AM Mass – St. Mary’s Basilica	<b>Rite of Acceptance and Welcome with your sponsor.</b>
<b>Sunday, December 10, 2023</b> 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	<b>Catechumenate Session 1</b> The People of God
<b>Sunday, December 17, 2023</b> 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	<b>Catechumenate Session 2</b> The Early Church and Church History
<b>Sunday, December 24, 2023</b> No Session / Christmas Eve	<b>No Session</b> Christmas Eve
<b>Sunday, December 31, 2023</b> 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	<b>Catechumenate Session 3</b> Sacrament of Matrimony Sacrament of Holy Orders
<b>Sunday, January 7, 2024</b> 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	<b>Catechumenate Session 4</b> Sacrament of Baptism Sacrament of Confirmation
<b>Sunday, January 14, 2024</b> 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	<b>Catechumenate Session 5</b> Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
<b>Sunday, January 21, 2024</b> 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	<b>Catechumenate Session 6</b> Christian Moral Living The Dignity of Life
<b>Sunday, January 28, 2024</b> 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	<b>Catechumenate Session 7</b> A Consistent Ethic of Life Social Justice
<b>Sunday, February 4, 2024</b> <b>NO</b> Session	<b>No Session:</b> RCIA Retreat on Saturday, Feb. 10th
<b>Saturday, February 10, 2024</b> 9 AM to 4 PM / St. Mary’s Basilica	<b>RCIA Retreat Day – Preparing for Lent.</b> For Catechumen, Candidates and Sponsors
<b>Sunday, February 11, 2024</b> 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	<b>Catechumenate Session 9</b> Election: Saying “Yes” to Jesus
<b>Wednesday, February 14, 2024</b> 7 AM, 12 PM, 3 PM, 5:30 PM / St. Mary’s	<b>Ash Wednesday Services</b>
<b>February 11 to 16, 2024</b>	<b>Individual Interviews</b>

## 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.

<b>Sunday, February 18, 2024</b> 9:00 AM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	<b>Rite of Sending for Catechumenate</b>
<b>Sunday, February 18, 2024</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Purification &amp; Enlightenment Session 1</b> Living Lent
<b>Sunday, February 18, 2024</b> 3:30 PM / Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral	<b>Rite of Election for Catechumenate:</b> Enrollment of Names for Catechumenate
<b>Sunday, February 25, 2024</b> 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	<b>Purification &amp; Enlightenment Session 2</b> Scrutinies: Looking Within
<b>Sunday, March 3, 2024</b> 9:00 AM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	<b>Rite: First Scrutiny</b> Samaritan Woman at the Well
<b>Sunday, March 3, 2024</b> 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	<b>Purification &amp; Enlightenment Session 3</b> The Creed
<b>Sunday, March 10, 2024</b> 9:00 AM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	<b>Rite: Second Scrutiny</b> Man Born Blind
<b>Sunday, March 10, 2024</b> 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	<b>Purification &amp; Enlightenment Session 4</b> The Way of the Cross
<b>Sunday, March 17, 2024</b> 9:00 AM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	<b>Rite: Third Scrutiny</b> Raising of Lazarus
<b>Sunday, March 17, 2024</b> 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	<b>Purification &amp; Enlightenment Session 5</b> The Lord's Prayer
<b>Saturday, March 23, 2024</b> 3:00 PM Confessions / St. Mary's Basilica	<b>Candidates celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation</b>
<b>Sunday, March 24, 2024</b> 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	<b>Purification &amp; Enlightenment Session 6</b> The Meaning of Holy Week
<b>Thursday, March 28, 2024</b> 7:00 PM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	<b>Holy Thursday:</b> Mass of the Lord's Supper
<b>Friday, March 29, 2024</b> 12:00 PM / Outdoor Stations of the Cross 3:00 PM / Good Friday Service	<b>Good Friday:</b> Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

## Sacraments of Initiation

<b>Saturday, March 30, 2024</b> 10:00 AM to 12 Noon / St. Mary's Basilica	<b>Sacraments of Initiation</b> <b>Rehearsal and Rite of Ephphetha</b>
<b>Saturday, March 30, 2024</b> 7:00 PM Easter Vigil / St. Mary's Basilica	<b>Sacraments of Initiation:</b> Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
<b>Sunday, March 31, 2024</b> 9 AM or 11:30 AM Mass / St. Mary's	<b>Easter Sunday</b> (Easter Egg Hunt after the 11:30 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.

<b>Sunday, April 7, 2024</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Mystagogy Session 1</b> Conversion: A Lifelong Process
<b>Friday, April 14, 2024</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Mystagogy Session 2</b> The Role of the Laity and Family Life
<b>Sunday, April 21, 2024</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Mystagogy Session 3</b> Your Spiritual Gifts
<b>Sunday, April 28, 2024</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Mystagogy Session 4</b> Discernment
<b>Sunday, May 5, 2024</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Mystagogy Session 5</b> Our Call to Holiness & Living the Virtues
<b>Sunday, May 12, 2024</b> No Session / Mother's Day	<b>No Session:</b> Mother's Day
<b>Sunday, May 19, 2024</b> 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	<b>Mystagogy Session 6</b> Evangelization
<b>May 19 to 25, 2024</b>	<b>Individual Interviews</b>

## Information on Individual Interviews

**Individual Interviews – Period of Inquiry** (Any time before the Period of Inquiry)  
Before starting, the period of evangelization and precatechumenate 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** (December 3–8, 2024)  
After an appropriate period of inquiry during the period of evangelization and precatechumenate, the inquirer may now publicly declares 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 11-16, 2024)  
Your decision to continue forward and celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil (March 30, 2024) 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 19-25, 2024)  
We'll explore and discern how God is calling you to serve the local Church and community.