

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.

Sunday, September 1 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 1 Welcome to the RCIA!
Sunday, September 8, 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 2 What is Faith?
Sunday, September 15, 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 3 The Holy Trinity
Sunday, September 22, 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 4 Who is Jesus Christ?
Sunday, September 29 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 5 The Bible
Sunday, October 6, 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 6 Divine Revelation
Sunday, October 13, 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 7 Your Prayer Life
Sunday, October 20, 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 8 Catholic Prayers and Practices
Sunday, October 27, 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 9 The Mass and The Eucharist
Sunday, November 3 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 10 The Church Year and Places in the Church
Sunday, November 10, 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 11 Who Shepherds the Church? The Church as Community
Sunday, November 17, 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 12 Mary and the Saints
Sunday, November 24, 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 13 Eschatology: the “Last Things”
Sunday, December 1 2024 No Session / Thanksgiving Weekend	No Session: Thanksgiving Weekend
Sunday, December 8, 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 14 The RCIA Process and Rites
December 9 through 13, 2024	Individual Interviews

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.

Sunday, December 15, 2024 9:00 AM Mass – St. Mary’s Basilica	Rite of Acceptance and Welcome with your sponsor.
Sunday, December 15, 2024 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	Catechumenate Session 1 The People of God
Sunday, December 22 2024 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	Catechumenate Session 2 The Early Church and Church History
Sunday, December 29, 2024 No Session	No Session
Sunday, January 5, 2025 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	Catechumenate Session 3 Sacrament of Matrimony Sacrament of Holy Orders
Sunday, January 12, 2025 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	Catechumenate Session 4 Sacrament of Baptism Sacrament of Confirmation
Sunday, January 19, 2025 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	Catechumenate Session 5 Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
Sunday, January 26 2025 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	Catechumenate Session 6 Christian Moral Living The Dignity of Life
Sunday, February 2, 2025 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	Catechumenate Session 7 A Consistent Ethic of Life Social Justice
February 3 to 7, 2025	Individual Interviews
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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.

Sunday, February 9 2025 9:00 AM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	Purification & Enlightenment
Sunday, February 16, 2025 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Purification & Enlightenment Session The Creed
Sunday, February 16, 2025 3:30 PM / Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral	Rite of Election for Catechuminate: Enrollment of Names for Catechuminate
Sunday, February 23, 2025 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	Purification & Enlightenment Session The Lord's Prayer
Sunday, March 2, 2025 9:00 AM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	Purification & Enlightenment Living Lent
Sunday, March 9, 2025 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	Purification & Enlightenment The Way of the Cross
Sunday, March 16, 2025 9:00 AM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	Rite of Sending Scrutinies Living Within
Sunday, March 23, 2025 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	Rite: First Scrutiny The Samaritan Women
Sunday, March 30 2025 9:00 AM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	Rite: Second Scrutiny Man Born Blind
Sunday, April 6 2025 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	Purification & Enlightenment Raising of Lazarus
Saturday, April 12 2025 3:00 PM Confessions / St. Mary's Basilica	Candidates celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
Sunday, April 13 2025 9:00 AM Mass to 12:00 PM	Purification & Enlightenment The Meaning of Holy Week
Thursday, April 17 2025 7:00 PM Mass / St. Mary's Basilica	Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday, April 18, 2025 12:00 PM / Outdoor Stations of the Cross 3:00 PM / Good Friday Service	Good Friday: Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

Sacraments of Initiation

Saturday, April 19 2025 10:00 AM to 12 Noon / St. Mary's Basilica	Sacraments of Initiation Rehearsal and Rite of Ephphetha
Saturday, April 19 2025 7:00 PM Easter Vigil / St. Mary's Basilica	Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
Sunday, April 20 2025 9 AM or 11:30 AM Mass / St. Mary's	Easter Sunday (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.

Sunday, April 27, 2025 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Mystagogy Session 1 Conversion: A Lifelong Process
Sunday May 4, 2025 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Mystagogy Session 2 The Role of the Laity and Family Life
Sunday, May 11, 2025 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	No Class Mothers Day
Sunday, May 18 2025 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Mystagogy Session3 Your Spiritual Gifts
Sunday, May 25, 2025 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Mystagogy Session 4 Discernment
Sunday, June 1st 2025 10.30am to 2.00pm	Mystagogy Session 5
Sunday, June 8 2025 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Mystagogy Session 6 Evangelization

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
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 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
We’ll explore and discern how God is calling you to serve the local Church and community.