

WELCOME



What is OCIA

*The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the Process established for individuals to become Catholic and receive the sacraments of initiation

* *Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.*



The Journey



*This Journey takes place through distinct stages over a period of time suitable to:

- *bring about a thorough catechesis,
- *significant experience of the parish community,
- *and commitment to the liturgical and moral life of the Catholic faithful.

Jesus said to His Disciples “***Come Follow Me***”

History of OCIA



- *The OCIA process is a restoration of the ancient catechumenate, arising within the first three centuries following the *era of the apostles*.
- *It was the early Church's way of Christianizing the pagan Roman Empire.
- *The Second Vatican Council called for the restoration and use of this venerable and powerful method of initiation for the worldwide Church.

*Who is OCIA for?



- *Adults in need of Baptism.
- *Adults baptized in another Christian tradition who desire to become Catholic.
- *Adults baptized Catholic in need of First Communion and/or Confirmation.

*How Long is the OCIA Process?

- *The timeline for the reception of the sacraments is flexible and based upon individual needs and the circumstances of one's life.



*What is the Process?



- *The Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA) is a gradual process by which an interested person becomes a member of the Catholic Church.
- *OCIA, marks the various steps on the way to full commitment within the Catholic Church in five specific periods.
- *It is important to keep in mind that OCIA is a process, not a program.

*Step 1 - Inquiry Stage

- *The first step of OCIA, during which the inquirer can explore Catholicism without fully committing to entering the church.
- *The goal is for the inquirer to have full knowledge of the faith so they can make a fully conscious and free choice to enter the church.



*Step 2 - Catechumenate Stage

- *Catechumen means “ a person receiving instruction.”
- *During this period, you will study and discuss most of the Church’s main teachings.
- *Your sponsor (a Catholic who will support you and present you to the Church) will join you on your journey from this point on.



* Step 3 - Purification & Enlightenment

- * This period occurs during the weeks before Easter and will include several rites.
- * This time is more prayerful than instructional.
- * It is a time of deeper spiritual preparation for the sacraments.
- * On the night of the Easter Vigil (2nd Year), those who have completed their preparation enter the Catholic Church through the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation:
 - * *Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.*



* Step 4 - Mystagogy (MISS-tuh-gah-jee)



- * This is the final step of OCIA.
- * It usually lasts for the remainder of the Neophyte's (New Catholic) life.
- * They will continue to grow in prayer and desire of the Lord!
- * Mystagogy means “*Learning about the Mysteries.*”
- * Meaning the Mysteries of God, this will continue for all of us until we meet our Creator face to face.

* What is a Sponsor

- * A sponsor is a confirmed Catholic who is in Good Standing in the Catholic Church. The sponsor must be over the age of 16.
- * The sponsor will attend classes and certain rites with you throughout the year. They will support you through the journey of joining the Catholic Faith.



* When Do We Meet

- * We will meet weekly on Wednesday evenings from 4:00 PM-5:30 PM.
- * There are events on the weekends and on other nights, mostly in the 2nd year
- * If you register you will be provided a schedule.



