

HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH

BECOMING CATHOLIC

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WELCOME TO OCIA

Every year the Catholic Church welcomes thousands of new members through a process known as OCIA. The letters stand for Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, and through the OCIA, interested men and women come to know the presence of God in their lives. The OCIA process allows us as a parish community to welcome new “family members” into our community. During the weeks of instruction and preparation that are part of the OCIA process, the parish family supports their entry into the Church, prays for them, and helps them understand Catholic prayer, worship, beliefs and activities.



Emily Arthur

O C I A TEAM



Fr. Georges s.a.c.



Josette Urgino



Andrew Arthur



Ken Preiss



Karen Preiss



John Mira



Paula Paul



Jason Muxlow



Molly Muxlow

OCIA TEAM



Lisa Hayward



Lisa Ardanowski



Theresa Vandercar



Maryann Palid



Andrew Arthur



O C I A HISTORY

In the early Church, small Christian communities took individuals into their company and introduced them to the Christian way of life. Religious persecution prevailed and so a strong faith was demanded in the face of possible martyrdom.

100 – 200 AD

Christian initiation began to take on a formal shape with serious requirements. The beginnings of a “Catechumenate” as we know it, was developing. The conversion of Gentiles called for a more comprehensive formation in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Third – Fourth Centuries

This was the time of a more developed structure (at least 3-year process) for Christian initiation. The peace of Constantine in 315 AD made Christianity legal; now there were large numbers of candidates, but poor quality control. Although this was the time of the most developed structure, during this period there were a variety of models of Christian initiation developed in the various local communities.



O C I A

HISTORY

Fifth Century

Disintegration of the Catechumenate occurred because large numbers of people were being baptized and the practice of infant baptism became normative. In the West, confirmation and Eucharist were separated from Baptism.

Twelfth Century

The Catechumenate no longer existed. Elements of its transition into religious community formation and seminary training existed during the intervening centuries.

Sixteenth Century

Dominicans and Augustinians tried to counteract the “mass baptisms”. In 1538 an Episcopal conference urged pastors to return to the missionary principles of Alcuin and establish a catechumenate.

Twentieth Century

We see the revival of catechumenal structures in Africa and France. In France, great problems arose because of



OCIA HISTORY

the large numbers of non-practicing Catholics. In Africa, the “White Fathers” recognized the need to build the Church from the grass roots.

VATICAN COUNCIL 2

This Ecumenical Council called for reinstating the Catechumenate for the whole Church. Bishops’ voted on and approved the restoration of the Catechumenate for the universal Church.

POST VATICAN COUNCIL 2

1972 – PROMULGATION of the order of Christian Initiation of Adults

1988 – U.S. Bishops MANDATE IMPLEMENTATION of final translation of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

2021- U.S. Bishops change name from RCIA to OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)



O C I A

JOURNEY

- **EXPLORE**

What we believe as Christians and Catholics

Inquiry and Pre-Catechumenate: The Creed

- Rite of Acceptance

- **LEARN**

How we celebrate and live out our faith

Catechumenate: The Sacraments and 10 Commandments

- Rite of Sending
- Rite of Election

- **FOCUS**

On our personal relationship with God

Purification and Enlightenment: Prayer

- Penitential Rite (Only for the Baptized)
- 3 Scrutinies (Only for those not Baptized)

OCIA

JOURNEY

- **CELEBRATE**

Easter Vigil - The night before Easter

This is the night where the whole church celebrates with you as you receive the 3 Sacraments of Initiation



- **GROW**

How we join in the community - the body of Christ
We do not get our “Catholic diplomas”, but we dive deeper into what it means to “be the Church”

O C I A

■ EXPECTATIONS

1

Student and Sponsor must attend all sessions

2

Meet with your Sponsor weekly

- Before you meet together
 - Watch introduction “Echo” video
 - Read the assigned chapters from the USCCA
 - Pray, Reflect, Journal
- Meet with your Sponsor
 - Discuss the assignment
 - Share your faith - how does this apply to my life?
 - Pray together
- After you Meet
 - Pray daily
 - Send any questions to Emily Arthur

3

Come prepared to discuss and share

4

Be responsible for your own faith journey

WHAT IS A SPONSOR?



**Confirmed
Catholic**



**Over 16 Years
Old**



Available to Meet



**A Good Model of
Faith**



**Can Attend all
Sessions**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



If I join the class, do I have to become Catholic?

No. Everyone's faith journey looks different. You may not be ready to join the church when all of our sessions are completed, and that's okay. You are more than welcome to continue with us for as long as you would like.



What if I have a really tough or personal question?

If you have a hard question, or if you are nervous about asking in front of everyone, simply write it down and we'll answer it at the end of class. or feel free to email or call the director, or make an appointment.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



When do I go to confession?

If you are validly baptized, you will be required to go to confession before your initiation at the Easter Vigil. If you are not baptized, you are not required to go to confession until after the Easter Vigil. In both cases, you must go to confession after the Easter Vigil as needed before receiving communion.



Can I get baptized again?

No. The Catholic Church recognizes baptisms from other Christian communities as valid, as long as they are as Christ instructed: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”, with flowing water.

If you are unsure if your baptism is valid, contact the church where you were baptized for clarification.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Why can't I receive communion yet?

The Church teaches that you have to be in communion in order to receive communion. Being in communion means that you are in friendship with God and His church. In other words, you need to be without grave sin, and you must have professed your adherence to the Catholic Church, its teachings, and authority.



What about my previous marriage(s)?

If you or your spouse have ever been married before, you must make an appointment with the director to talk about the annulment process. Please do this as soon as possible, as it may delay your initiation into the Catholic Church.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What if I have to miss a class?

Family comes first. If you need to miss a class for a family emergency, make sure you contact the director for instruction on missed material, and to possibly arrange for a make-up session.



How do I know when I am ready to be Catholic?

This is a great and tough question, because the personal answer varies. In general, you know you are ready to be Catholic when you are ready to Be the Church. Becoming Catholic is not about joining a club, but about serving, tithing, engaging, praying, participating in sacraments, and sharing our faith with others. When you desire to do these things, then you are ready to ask the Holy Spirit for the gifts to do God's work in your world.

BECOMING CATHOLIC

