



# OCIA

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A Journey that takes as long  
as it takes...

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# OPENING PRAYER

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- Lord, we pray for us who journey to you.
- Strengthen our faith.
- Open our hearts to the fullness of Your Love.
- Deepen our understanding.
- Set our hearts on fire for the Kingdom.
- We ask this through Jesus,
- who is **The Way, The Truth and The Life** for all.
- Amen.

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# What does OCIA stand for?

(Formerly known as RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

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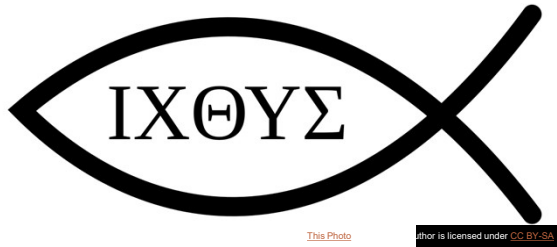
- **O**rder of
- **C**hristian
- **I**nitiation of
- **A**dults & Children

# What does OCIA mean for me?

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- You are beginning a **Journey of Faith** that engages the whole person: heart, mind, body, spirit.
- It is a **process of conversion**.
- Jesus invites you to **“Come & see.”**
- We are here to accompany you on your journey, hand on the Faith, and answer questions.
- We are not here to *make you Catholic*.
- The Holy Spirit guides your response to Jesus’ invitation.



## Where did OCIA come from?

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- Ancient way of preparing people to be received into the Catholic Church.
- Revived to accommodate today's circumstances after the Vatican II Council: "The Second Vatican Council prescribed the revision of the rite of baptism of adults and decreed that the catechumenate for adults . . . should be restored. The Congregation for Divine

## Who is OCIA for?

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- **Unbaptized adults** and children over 7 years of age.
- **Baptized Christians seeking to enter The Church. Baptized Catholics** who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- **Adult Confirmation** Candidates who attend with us to review and renew their faith and be ready to pass it on to others.

# Stages of OCIA

- **Inquiry:** Precatechumenate and Evangelization. Freedom to explore the faith without any commitment. Concludes with **Rite of Acceptance/Welcoming**.
- **Catechumenate:** Instruction (catechesis) in the faith, especially the **Sacraments**. Concludes at **Rite of Election/Continuing Conversion**.
- **Purification & Enlightenment:** Prayerful preparation (Lent) for Easter Sacraments. Culminates joyfully with **Easter Vigil**.
- **Mystagogy:** Reflecting upon the mystery of the Sacraments and **living the faith**. Ends at **Pentecost**.

# Path of OCIA



OCIA - CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN

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## Expectations & Timeline

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- **Make a Commitment** to Meet Every Tuesday night from 7-8:45pm.
- **Prepare for** and participate in Rites.
- **Sacraments** (baptism, confirmation, first Holy Communion) are received at Easter Vigil (the night before Easter).
- **Confirmation only** will be received near Pentecost as scheduled by the Bishop.
- **Mystagogy**, learning to live the faith and the Sacraments, runs from after Easter until Pentecost.

## What do I need to do?

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- **Attend** with an open mind. **Listen & participate.**
- **Begin to attend Sunday Mass** every week and to **pray every day.**
- **Complete registration forms** and submit with birth or baptism certificates.
- **Pray for/Find a Sponsor:** Must be a faithful Catholic who has completed all the Sacraments and regularly attends Mass. If you don't know of anyone: Pray for a sponsor.
- **Select a Patron Saint:** Everyone needs a Patron Saint for Confirmation.
- **Children:** Attend with parents, never alone.
- **Parents:** You are the primary instructors of your children in the Faith. We support you as you teach your child.

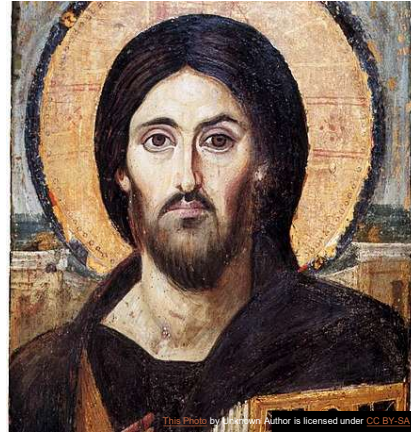
# What is the Catholic Faith?

**At the heart of catechesis (Catholic teaching) we find a Person: Jesus of Nazareth. (CCC 426)**

In catechesis (teaching), Christ the Incarnate Word and Son of God is taught. -everything else is taught with reference to Him - and it is Christ alone who teaches. (CCC 427)

Transmission of the Christian Faith consists primarily in proclaiming Jesus Christ in order to lead others to faith in Him. (CCC 425)

Only Jesus can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity. (CCC 426)



## Our Catholic Faith is all about Jesus!

- **Our faith begins with Jesus and ends with Jesus.**
- **To teach (the faith) is to reveal in the Person of Christ the whole of God's eternal design reaching fulfillment in that Person. (CCC 426)**



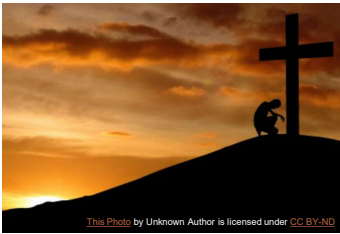
# Closing Prayer

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- Lord God,
- You know all about me. Help me learn about You, so that I can walk with You day by day. Amen.

And let us pray as Our Lord taught us:

- Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.\
- Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
- Amen.



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