

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Introduction and Meeting Structure

Praise be to Jesus Christ that you are taking this step to be fully initiated into the Church and receive the Sacraments. With these Sacraments you will be united to Jesus Christ and fully initiated into the People of God. Through grace you will grow in your faith, become a witness to Jesus Christ, and be a co-builder of the Kingdom of Heaven here on Earth. Whether you are unbaptized, an unconfirmed Catholic, or simply want to learn more about the faith, you are welcome to come to our meetings. Christ himself is working to bring you closer to Him through this program.

Schedule

Meetings are held Sundays at 11:30am after the 10:30am Mass. Simply come to the rectory entrance between the church and the rectory. Signs are posted to direct you. Participants are **strongly encouraged to attend Mass each weekend whether at OLM or at another Catholic Church**. Prayer and Mass attendance are essential for RCIA.

Each **meeting lasts for roughly one hour** and is led by a facilitator. Questions are encouraged throughout the presentation. We encourage participants to try to make it to each meeting. If you miss a lesson, please watch the video and answer the questions on your own. You are welcome to come and meet privately with a facilitator to go over missed material.

The **syllabus** lists the dates and the topics. We meet approximately twenty times.

Program

To introduce a person to Christ and his Church or to increase a believer's knowledge we use **Bishop Robert Barron's Catholicism Series**. You can find more information on the program here: <https://www.wordonfire.org/study-programs/catholicism/>. There are a total of **ten episodes split into two parts with a lesson for each part**. Each meeting follows the same **format**:

- Introductions and Prayer (Come, Holy Spirit)
- **Watch Assigned Video from Catholicism** (~ 10- 25 minutes)
- **Group Discussion** (~30 minutes): These questions help us to understand the video presentation and pertinent topics. Members will need access to the Catechism of the Catholic Church to help answer these questions. See below for how to access the Catechism.
 - Questions for Understanding
 - Questions for Application
 - Important Terms and Names
- Assign Next Meeting's Topic and Questions.
- Closing Prayer

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact me, Fr. Daniel Mahoney, if you have any questions or concerns.

- **Head of Program:** Fr. Daniel Mahoney, Associate Pastor Our Lady of Mercy
- **Email:** associatepastor@olmparish.org
- **Parish Telephone:** (401) 884-4968

Suggested Books

This list of books are the essential possessions of any Catholic.

New American Bible, Catholic Edition (Revised, Sep 1, 2015)

- There are many different Bibles in circulation throughout the world. It is important to find the right one. This is the standard translation of the Bible which is used by Catholics and at all Masses and liturgies in the English Catholic World. You may also find this translation of the Bible online. See the link below.

Catechism of the Catholic Church: Revised in Accordance with the Official Latin Text Promulgated by Pope John Paul II.
Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2000.

- If you ever wanted to find out what the Church teaches, this is your text. In fact, many citations throughout our meetings will be taken from this text (as indicated by "CCC"). You may purchase a hard copy, or go online: http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM
- There is also a smaller version in summary form called, *Compendium, Catechism of the Catholic Church*, as well as a version particularly for adults called: *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*.

Websites

In our digital age one can find many wonderful Catholic resources. Here are just a few:

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/>

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website. This link specifically directs to the books of the Bible.

<https://relevantradio.com/>

- In the car and need something to listen? 550 AM radio in Rhode Island. There is also an app which is also very good. Entertaining and engaging shows about topics of the faith.

<https://www.catholic.com/>

- Have a question about the faith? “Catholic Answers” is your website. Search any topic whatsoever you might have about the faith.

<https://www.wordonfire.org/>

- This is an excellent resource particularly for homilies on each Sunday Gospel. Bishop Robert Barron also has topical videos on Youtube.

<https://thomisticinstitute.org/>

- This website has several podcasts on topics of the faith given by Dominicans. The Dominicans are an order within the Catholic Church which focusses on preaching and teaching.

<https://www.ncregister.com/>

- Want to keep up to date with news about the Church and the world? This website is a service of EWTN.

<https://aleteia.org/>

- If you want daily, short articles about the faith, this is your website.

Possible Outside Reading

There are many books about the faith, whether by Church councils, Church Fathers, theologians, saints, and so on. This list is by no means exhaustive, but it may prove helpful if you want to go more in-depth with the faith.

- **Jesus Christ**
 - Benedict. *Jesus of Nazareth, Vol. I-III*. 2007-2013.
 - F. Ocariz, L.F. Mateo Seco, *The Mystery of Jesus Christ: A Christology and Soteriology Textbook*. Dublin, Ireland; Portland, OR: Four Courts Press, 2004.
- **Bible**
 - *The Navarre Bible: New Testament Expanded Edition*, 2008. You can find this online as well.
- **The Theological Virtues**
 - Pieper, Josef. *Faith, Hope, Love*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1997.
- **The Moral Life**
 - Ashley, Benedict M. *Living the Truth in Love: A Biblical Introduction to Moral Theology*. New York: Alba House, 1996.
 - Pieper, Josef. *The Four Cardinal Virtues: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1965.
 - Pieper, Josef. *Leisure, the Basis of Culture*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1964.
 - Pinckaers, Servais. *The Sources of Christian Ethics*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1995.
- **The Church and the Magisterium**
 - Vatican II Document, *Lumen Gentium*
- **The Relationship between Judaism and Christianity**
 - Levering, Matthew. *Christ's Fulfillment of Torah and Temple: Salvation according to Thomas Aquinas*.
- **Sacraments**
 - Kereszty, Roch A. *Wedding Feast of the Lamb: Eucharistic Theology from a Historical, Biblical, and Systematic Perspective*. Chicago: Hillenbrand Books, 2004.
 - Schillebeeckx, Edward. *Christ, the Sacrament of the Encounter with God*. New York: Sheed and Ward, 1963.
 - Walsh, Liam G. *Sacraments of Initiation: A Theology of Rite, Word, and Life*. Chicago; Mundelein, Ill.: Hillenbrand Books, 2011.
- **Revelation and the Development of Doctrine**
 - Levering, Matthew. *Engaging the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit: Love and Gift in the Trinity and the Church*, 2016.
- **The World**

- Ashley, Benedict M. *The Way toward Wisdom: An Interdisciplinary and Intercultural Introduction to Metaphysics*. Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, 2006.
- **Spirituality**
 - Francis de Sales. *Introduction to the Devout Life*.
 - Jean-Pierre de Causade. *Abandonment to Divine Providence*.
 - St. Catherine of Siena, *The Dialogues*.
 - St. Ignatius of Loyola, *The Spiritual Exercises*.
 - St. Teresa of Avila, *The Way of Perfection*.
 - Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V., *The Discernment of Spirits*.
- **Literature**
 - Bernanos, Georges, *Diary of a Country Priest*.
 - Dostoevsky, Fyodor, *The Brothers Karamazov*.
 - John Paul II, *The Jeweler's Shop*.
 - Lewis, C. S. *The Screwtape Letters: With, Screwtape Proposes a Toast*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 2001.
 - Lewis, C. S. *The Great Divorce*,. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1946.