Overview of the OCIA Program

The OCIA or the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a process by which an adult (16 years of age and older) becomes a full member of the Catholic Church. The sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) are received at the Easter Vigil, the Saturday evening Mass held before Easter Sunday.

OCIA is for the following individuals:

•an unbaptized person who wants to be baptized into the Catholic Church
•a member of another Christian denomination who wants to become Catholic
•a baptized Catholic who wants to be fully initiated through Eucharist, Confirmation, and Marriage.

Expectations

•Attend Sunday Mass faithfully, every week and on Holy Days of Obligation
•Register with Parish
•Attend evening sessions
•Attend rites
•Attend Sunday dismissals
•Attend retreat prior to full initiation at the Easter Vigil
•Choose a sponsor, a fully initiated, practicing Catholic

Sessions

•Currently classes are held weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.
•Each session will be approximately one to one and a half hours
•Classes begin in the fall and end during the spring, depending on the date of Easter

Topics

The topics covered include:
•Knowing and Believing in God• Prayer• Sacred Scripture and Tradition• Jesus and the Church• The Mass• The Liturgical Cycle/Church Year, a Church tour• Blessed Virgin Mary and Saints• Heaven, Hell and Purgatory• The Creed• Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation)•Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick)•Sacraments of Mission (Marriage and Holy Orders)•Catholic Morality• Ten Commandments• Preparing for Lent and an Explanation of Holy Week Liturgies
The Elect and Candidates will also reflect on the meaning of baptism and prepare spiritually during our dismissal sessions which focus on Spiritual Dryness and Christ's Living Water, Spiritual Blindness and the Light of Christ and New Life and Freedom in Christ

Always remember: this is a walk in faith