

St. John's Newsletter



Christian Initiation for Adults

The Church has a long tradition of welcoming adults into the faith beginning with the apostles spreading the Good News of Christ throughout the world. The Ancient catechumenate was practiced in the catacombs and was well developed by the end of the 4th Century, known especially through writings of St. Augustine. It declined and fell into disuse by the 14th century when most baptisms were for infants rather than adults. Eventually, an informal instruction/preparation for baptism of adults was practiced in mission territories and as needed.

The **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)** was instituted 1988 to organize and return more formal instruction to reflect the practices of the early Church.

Following the trend of updating all liturgical texts to reflect greater fidelity to the original Latin, the U.S. bishops (USCCB) agreed to the revised English edition of the **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)**. The action has been approved by the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. The new translation will take place beginning December 1, 2024. The name change applies both to the process by which one enters the Church and the book that contains the ritual text and prayers for those steps.

Whether it is called RCIA or OCIA, the opportunity to learn about the Catholic faith and to grow in a personal faith journey are still the same. There is still the opportunity to inquire, become Catechumen and then full members of the Catholic church. There is no specific timeline and some people may take longer than others. The stages include the Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate, Acceptance into the Order of Catechumen, Period of Catechumenate, Election or Enrollment of Names, Period of Purification and Enlightenment, celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, and Mystagogy.

Several key rites occur in the parish including the Rites of Acceptance and Welcoming, the Scrutinies, and Easter Vigil. These are wonderful opportunities for the parish to pray with and for those who are discerning. When they are ready, they receive the sacraments of Initiation and continue their faith journeys as Catholics.

This newsletter has been a little more personal than most. Three years ago, I had a call from Father Babychan soon after my retirement from the school district. Because of his persuasive way, I started working with the RCIA program for St. John's. If you are interested in helping spread the Good News to adults on a continuing faith journey, please reach out. – Mary Jo Peters

Sources: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/249642/forget-rcia-meet-ocia-us-bishops-approve-big-name-change>
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Study Edition

Volume 15 - November 2024- St. John's Newsletter is a once-a-month publication aimed at providing you with items of interest about our Catholic faith. If there is a topic you are interested in, please contact the parish office and we will try to address it in future issues. – Submitted by Mary Jo Peters



“Go therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

–Matt 28:19-20