

Becoming Catholic (RCIA) 2023 – 2024 Calendar

Saint Pius X Catholic Church | StPius.net/BecomingCatholic

We meet on **Tuesdays from 7:00 - 9:00 pm** in Parish Life Center (PLC) 104 and 105. Please note:

- Sponsors attend all sessions, rehearsals, and rites with their Candidate or Catechumen.
- **Highlighting** indicates a required meeting, liturgy, or rehearsal at an unusual time.
- Especially significant (mandatory) sessions, rites, and rehearsals are in **bold**.
- Please plan ahead! *Holy Saturday 2024 is during Spring Break for many local schools.*
- Beginning October 29, we attend the Sunday 10:00 am Mass together weekly.

PERIOD OF INQUIRY (PRE-CATECHUMENATE)

This is a period of exploration, in which seekers - especially the unbaptized - encounter the message of the Gospel and are invited into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, through the Catholic Church.

August 22	Orientation
August 29	Beginning the Journey (homework: Section B of binder)
September 5	Encountering God the Father (Section C)
September 12	A Walk Through Salvation History (Section D)
September 19	Encountering Jesus Christ, Part 1: The Incarnation (Section E)
September 26	Encountering Jesus Christ, Part 2: The Paschal Mystery (Section F)
October 1 (Sun.)	Fall Retreat from 1:00 - 4:30 pm (PLC)

October 1 – Deadline for Candidates for Full Communion to submit their baptismal records

October 3	Encountering the Holy Spirit (Section G)
October 10	Mission of the Church (Section H)
October 17	The Church as Teacher (Section I)
October 24	The Mass (Section J): regular session from 7:00 - 8:15 pm , followed by Rite of Welcoming/Acceptance Rehearsal from 8:15 - 9:00 pm for Sponsors

Seekers are asked to sign up for a short (15 minutes) meeting with Father Bill on the evening of October 26 or the afternoon of October 27.

October 29 (Sun.) Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance at the 10:00 am Mass (arrive by 9:40 am)

Starting on October 29, all members of our Becoming Catholic community attend the Sunday 10:00 am Mass weekly. Catechumens will be dismissed to "Breaking Open the Word" sessions in the church basement meeting room (CH-004) during Mass. A full schedule of dismissal sessions is on page 5.

PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE

This is a time of apprenticeship as unbaptized seekers (Catechumens) and non-Catholic Christians (Candidates for Full Communion) learn the teachings of the Catholic Church, begin to live the fundamentals of Christian life, and continue on a path of conversion accompanied by their Sponsors.

October 31	The Last Things (Section L) – <i>note that the homework readings do not follow the same sequence as they are printed in the binder for the next few weeks</i>
November 7	Liturgical Year (Section M)
November 14	Mary and the Saints (Sections K and N)
November 21	Prayer (Section O)
November 28	Called to Holiness (Section P)
December 5	Advent Lessons and Carols Service from 6:30 – 8:00 pm
December 12	Advent Taizé Prayer Service from 6:30 – 8:00 pm
December 19	Catholic Moral Life (Section Q) <i>Note: Meet in the Multipurpose Room! Enter through Door 6 (south parking lot).</i>
December 26 & January 2	Christmas break!
January 9	Topics in Morality (“Because It Doesn’t Go with the Times” from Section T)
January 16	Baptism and Confirmation (Section R)
January 23	The Eucharist (Section S)
January 30	Marriage and Family Life (Section T)

February 6 Sacraments of Healing (Section U)

Catechumens and Candidates - along with their Sponsors - are asked to sign up for a short (15 minutes) meeting with Father Bill on February 7, 8, or 9.

February 10 (Sat.) Spring Retreat from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

February 13 No session

February 14 (Wed.) Ash Wednesday Mass at 6:30 pm in the church
Soup Supper (families invited!) afterward in the PLC until 8:30 pm

PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

This is a time of intense spiritual preparation. Catechumens (now called "the Elect") and Candidates for Full Communion journey through the season of Lent with our parish community; they focus on cultivating a spirit of repentance and a desire to encounter Jesus Christ through the grace of the Easter Sacraments.

On Tuesdays during Lent, we participate in the parish-wide Lenten Series, with this schedule:

Mass at 5:00 pm in the church (optional)

Soup Supper at 5:30 pm in the auxiliary gym (optional)

Liturgy and Talk at 6:15 pm in the church (required)

Becoming Catholic Small Group Discussion from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the PLC (required)

February 18 (Sun.) Penitential Rite at Sunday 10:00 am Mass (Candidates and their Sponsors)

February 20 Liturgy, Talk, and Becoming Catholic session **6:15 – 8:00 pm**

February 25 (Sun.) Rite of Sending at 12:00 pm Mass at Saint Pius
Rite of Election at 2:00 pm at St. Matthew's Cathedral, South Bend

February 27 Liturgy, Talk, and Becoming Catholic session **6:15 – 8:00 pm**

March 1 – Deadline for Elect and Candidates to email Ashley with their choice of a Confirmation saint

March 3 (Sun.) First Scrutiny at the Sunday 10:00 am Mass (Elect and their Sponsors)

March 5 Liturgy, Talk, and Becoming Catholic session **6:15 – 8:00 pm**

March 10 (Sun.) Second Scrutiny at the Sunday 10:00 am Mass (Elect and their Sponsors)

March 12 Liturgy, Talk, and Becoming Catholic session **6:15 – 8:00 pm**
We will meet in the Multipurpose Room after the talk due to the Penance Service.

March 17 (Sun.) Third Scrutiny at the Sunday 10:00 am Mass (Elect and their Sponsors)

March 19 Solemnity of Saint Joseph: Mass at 6:00 pm (no dismissal), spaghetti dinner after

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is full of many beautiful liturgy and prayer opportunities. We ask all of our Elect and Candidates to prioritize attending the major liturgies listed below. It is extremely important for all Elect, Candidates, Sponsors, and Team members to be present for the rehearsal and the events of Holy Saturday. Please plan ahead! Holy Saturday is during Spring Break for many local schools.

March 24 (Sun.) Palm Sunday: Mass at 10:00 am

March 26 (Tues.) Easter Vigil Rehearsal from 6:45 - 7:45 pm

March 28 (Thurs.) Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 pm

March 29 (Fri.) Good Friday: Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at 1:00 pm

March 30 (Sat.) Holy Saturday: Morning Prayer at 8:45 am
Easter Vigil at 8:45 pm – Elect, Candidates, and Sponsors arrive by 8:00 pm

PERIOD OF MYSTAGOGY

During the Easter season, our new Catholics reflect upon the mysteries they experienced at the Easter Vigil, deepen their faith, and prepare to enter more fully into the life of the Catholic community.

April 2 Reflections on the Easter Vigil (Section V)

April 9 Dinner and movie (Section W: Nourished by the Eucharist) from **6:00 - 9:00 pm**

April 16 Many Parts, One Body (Sections X and Y)

April 23 Living the Mysteries at Saint Pius (Section Z)

April 30 Closing Mass at **6:00 pm**, potluck celebration (families invited!) until 8:30 pm

Breaking Open the Word Sessions Schedule

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Throughout the Catechumenate and Lent, our Catechumens participate in weekly "Breaking Open the Word" sessions (aka "dismissals") during the Sunday 10:00 am Mass. Not yet ready to participate in the Eucharistic sacrifice, the Catechumens gather with members of our Becoming Catholic Team to discuss the Scripture readings for that Sunday and to reflect upon the impact of Scripture in their lives.

Sunday dismissal sessions will take place during the 10:00 am Mass in the church basement meeting room (CH-004) for adults and in Holy Cross chapel for children and teenagers.

October 29

November 5

November 12

November 19

December 3

December 10

December 17

January 21

January 28

February 4

February 11

March 3

March 10

March 17

March 24

March 28 (Holy Thursday)

No dismissal sessions on November 26, December 24 & 31, January 7 & 14, and February 18 & 25