



St. Cyril of Alexandria

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Welcome

Thank you for choosing St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic Church as your home for your adult faith development. As you discern your call from God, it is our hope that you will come to this process with the thought that being a Catholic Christian is a call to holiness and to let yourself be transformed to Christ and His Church. Through her graces, her teachings, her people, and through Christ Himself, perfected in love.

Required Documentation

Below is a list of documents that you will need to provide either prior to the start of class or until the **deadline of six (6) weeks into the class schedule**. (If obtaining a certificate is a problem, please let us know as early as possible.)

OCIA Catechumenate (not-baptized)

1. Completed application form (including accurate marriage history)
2. Birth Certificate - Dated no more than 3 months ago.
3. Godparent Form
4. NO FEE (donation of any amount is appreciated, not expected or required)

OCIA Candidate (baptized in another Trinitarian Christian faith)

1. Completed application form (including accurate marriage history)
2. Birth Certificate - Dated no more than 3 months ago.
3. Sponsor Form
4. Information or certificate on your baptism (Church, church address, date & pastor)
5. NO FEE (donation of any amount is appreciated, not expected or required)

Confirmation

1. Completed application form (including accurate marriage history)
2. Birth Certificate - Dated no more than 3 months ago.
3. Baptism Certificate issued within 3 months of starting class
4. Sponsor Form

Class time / location

We meet on Tuesdays in Room 219 from 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm

For more information, please contact: **John Wincelowicz**, Coordinator, Adult Formation

Phone: 713-554-1559 — Email: jwincelowicz@stcyrilhouston.org

OR: Rev. Christopher Shackelford - Pastor

Phone: 713-789-1250

Requirements for OCIA Preparation

During your interview process, it will be necessary to discuss your marital status (former, current, and future). Complete honesty is absolutely integral to ensuring one's future or present sacramental life will begin on the right track, or will be redirected, if necessary.

1. **Marital Status:** For inquirers that are currently married, we will inquire as to the nature of your current marriage at the time the vows were made, **as well as** any prior marriages of either yourself or your spouse. This includes marriages that were witnessed by non-Catholic ministers, Justice of the Peace, common-law or other religious minister.
2. **Divorce:** Individuals or couples who have one or more prior unsuccessful marriages between them and are **currently re-married** will have any past/current marriages reviewed to determine if an annulment or validation is required. If any annulments or validations are required, these must begin immediately, and must be completed satisfactorily **prior to the Rite of Election**.
3. **Engaged:** An engaged person seeking to become Catholic or complete their initiation must have both theirs, and their future partner's complete marital history reviewed. If there are any prior marriages between the currently engaged couple, each prior marriage must be resolved through the annulment process prior to the inquirer advancing to the Rite of Election. This is done so that you can ensure that your life and that of your marriage is in communion with God and in accordance with a Catholic Faith life.

It is not the intention of the Church to place a burden on you, but to ensure the road to full initiation is clear of any impediments. If impediments are present, we are here to assist you as an individual or a couple and to pray with you through whatever process is required.

Note: If a **formal petition** is required, this process could take at least a year or more to complete. Other forms of annulment usually take less time, depending on individual circumstances, and the timeliness of submitting all documents.

Requirements for Adult Confirmation Preparation

Who may prepare? Baptized Catholic adults who have celebrated First Holy Communion but lack the Sacrament of Confirmation, and who do not have any other impediments to receiving the Sacraments.

Please note: *Individuals must be in a proper state of grace before they can receive the sacrament of Confirmation, which means if married, must be in a marriage formally recognized by the Catholic Church.*

For example: *A Catholic married by a Justice of the Peace or other non-Catholic officiator without a formal dispensation from the Church is outside the state of grace, according to the Church's theology on the sacraments.*

1. **Married:** Catholics seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation must be married by the Church, either by a deacon or priest **BEFORE** receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation (or Holy Communion, and Reconciliation). If a Catholic is currently married civilly, common-law, or by another Christian minister, they must marry in the Catholic Church prior to being confirmed.
2. **Re-married:** Catholics who divorce and re-marry without obtaining a formal decree of nullity on the prior marriage(s) (either their own, or their spouses) may not receive any of the Church's sacraments unless they complete the required petition **and** the Church grants the annulment.
3. **Divorced:** Catholics who are divorced, but **NOT** remarried, may prepare for Confirmation provided they acknowledge if this status changes. If you decide while preparing for Confirmation, you **MUST** complete a petition for nullity on the prior marriage(s) **BEFORE** you marry in the Church. Failure to do so, places you outside the state of grace, and unable to receive the sacraments.

If you have any questions about annulments, please contact the parish office and schedule an interview with:

Deacon Dolpher, 713-554-1557 or email edolpher@stcyrilhouston.org.

Not all annulments require the same process; we will help you determine what process is necessary and help you through it. The above information is to provide basic information on common scenarios/questions. The Church is here to help.