

WITH HUMBLE SPIRIT

OCTOBER 2024

CALENDAR NOTES

OCT 4

Memorial of St Francis of Assisi

- **BLESSING OF ANIMALS**
On this day or another appropriate day, the Blessing of animals can be celebrated. Blessing may be found in *Book of Blessings* #942ff.

OCT 15

Anniversary of the Dedication of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

- In the Cathedral, it is celebrated as a solemnity.
- In other parishes around the diocese, it is celebrated as feast. The Mass formulary, "Common of the Dedication of a Church, On the Anniversary of the Dedication, II. Outside the Church that was dedicated" is used. The Gloria is said.

OCT 18

St. Luke, Evangelist

- The Gloria is said.

OCT 20

Twenty-ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time

- **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**
The Mass for the Evangelization of Peoples (VN #18) may be celebrated. See the Ordo for suggestions for readings.

OCT 28

Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles

- The Gloria is said.

Looking Ahead

- **November – Month for the Dead.** Consider preparing the book of the dead, planning an event to remember the dead on All Souls, visiting a cemetery, etc.
- **NOV 1 – All Saints Day:** All Saints Day is a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Consider preparing relics to be venerated in the church.

ARS CELEBRANDI

OCIA, STRUCTURE OF PERIODS AND STEPS

We have been considering the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* in anticipation of the release of the new translation in November of this year. We now turn to an examination of the structure of the official Order, namely, as arranged as a series of periods punctuated by "steps."

Christian initiation, by its very nature, requires time. And by its nature, Christian initiation is a communal enterprise. The unbaptized adult encounters the Gospel, and the gradual process of conversion begins. While we do not doubt that God can bring people rapidly to a point of deep faith and trust, the Church prudently structures this gradual process over an extended period of time in order to successfully and organically incorporate catechumens into the community of the faithful. Each catechumen's "spiritual journey" is unique and must be treated as such, but it is not an individual journey. It is a journey in the context of a community, and the Christian community reflects with the catechumens as they pass from period to period, celebrating with them each step along the way. The parish community has a responsibility to celebrate these rites with the catechumens as they progress through their spiritual journey.

Specifically, Christian Initiation is divided into 4 periods, separated by 3 steps. The first period "consists of inquiry on the part of the candidates and of evangelization and the precatechumenate on the part of the Church" (RCIA, 7.1). This period ends with the rite of acceptance into the order of the catechumenate. This first step is celebrated in the parish community itself.

The second period is the catechumenate itself. This period can last for an extended time, even for several years, and includes catechesis and the rites connected with catechesis. During this period, the catechumen grows in their relationship with the Christian community. This period ends with the rite of election. This step is normally celebrated in the context of the local Church community, celebrated with the local Bishop and other catechumens from the diocese.

The third period marks a more immediate preparation for the celebration of the sacraments, and it is referred to as the period of purification and enlightenment. The catechumens, now numbered among the elect, join the Christian community in a period of intense preparation for the celebration of Easter. For the elect, this includes the celebration of the rites belonging to this period, especially the scrutinies. This period ends with the celebration of the sacraments of initiation, namely baptism and confirmation, which normally happens in the parish itself during the Easter Vigil. The neophytes also receive first communion. This celebration of the sacraments of initiation comprises the third and final step of Christian Initiation.

CALENDAR NOTES, CONT'D.

- NOV 24 – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
- NOV 28 – Thanksgiving Day
- Dec 8 – Second Sunday of Advent.
- Dec 9 – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (Transferred to Monday since it is impeded by the Second Sunday of Advent.) Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Nonetheless, priests should still offer a Mass of this Solemnity for the faithful who wish to honor Mary in her Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States.

Third-Annual Archdiocesan Eucharistic Procession

November 3, 2024

Join Archbishop Coakley in the Third Annual Archdiocesan Eucharistic Procession from Christ the King Catholic Church to St. Eugene Catholic Church. The Procession begins at 2pm.

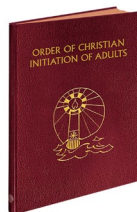
RESOURCES FROM OUR OFFICE

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Multiple Publishers

Available November 1, 2024

The new translation of OCIA is available in several formats from five different publishers. See below.



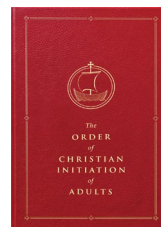
Catholic Book Publishing

Avail. Ritual Editions:
English, Bilingual (EN/ES)



Liturgy Training Publications

Avail. Ritual Editions:
English, Spanish,
Bilingual (EN/ES)
Avail. Study Editions:
English, Spanish



Midwest Theological Forum

Avail. Ritual Editions:
English, Bilingual (EN/ES)



Liturgical Press

Avail. Ritual Editions:
English
Avail. Study Editions:
English, Spanish



Magnificat

Avail. Ritual Editions:
English

The fourth and final period extends throughout the Easter season after the neophytes' initiation, and it is usually referred to as the period of postbaptismal catechesis and mystagogy. "It is a time for deepening the Christian experience, for spiritual growth, and for entering more fully into the life and unity of the community" (RCIA, 7.4).

As the order itself notes, "the whole initiation must bear a markedly paschal character" (RCIA, 8). This is clearest when the order is aligned to the liturgical year, and the sacraments are celebrated at the Easter Vigil, on Easter Sunday, or during the Easter Season. The paschal character of baptism is particularly emphasized within the celebration of the Easter Vigil, and so reserving the Easter Vigil for the celebration of adult baptism (and the neophytes' subsequent confirmation and reception of communion) is most appropriate.

These periods and steps only apply to the unbaptized. Those who are already baptized do not pass through these steps and periods, strictly speaking. The only step for them is the reception into full communion and their confirmation (and subsequent reception of the Eucharist). Nonetheless, their process of conversion is analogous, and the Order gives rites which the church can celebrate as these candidates prepare for reception into full communion, such as the calling of candidates to continuing conversion. Each of these is optional.

In the months ahead, we will examine each period and step individually as accompanied by the newly translated *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

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Go Make Disciples

DIVINE WORSHIP

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY