

**SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH**  
***The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) 2025-2026***

The Christian Initiation of Adults is a process developed for non-Catholic adults who desire to join the Catholic Church, and Catholic adults who desire to complete the reception of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist. It is a journey of faith marked by study, prayers, and Liturgical Rites leading to the encounter with Jesus Christ and full communion with the Catholic Church. The length of this journey is different for each person. However, there are standard periods of preparation marked by celebrations of Rites:

- I. ***Period of Precatechumenate*** - weekly sessions of evangelization, a period of initial conversion, a time to develop a genuine will to follow Christ and to seek the Sacraments of Initiation.
- II. ***The Rite of Entrance into Catechumenate*** manifests the will of the Inquirers to enter the Church and the Church receives them. The handing on of the Cross of Christ marks this entrance.
- III. ***The Period of the Catechumenate*** is a time of catechetical instructions, leading to the intimate knowledge of Christ and the Mystery of Salvation, a time of prayer and participation in the Liturgical celebrations.
- IV. ***The Rite of Election or Enrolment of Names*** is celebrated within the Mass of the first Sunday of Lent. The Catechumens are “elected” to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. They write their names in the *Book of the Elect*.
- V. ***The Period of Purification and Enlightenment of the Elect*** – a time of Lent, a period of self-examination, interior reflection, catechetical instructions, prayers, and celebration of Scrutinies.

***The Rites of Scrutinies*** are celebrated during the third, the fourth and the fifth Sunday of Lent. The Scrutinies are set forth to purify hearts and minds of the Elect and awaken in them the will to cling more closely to Christ.

***The handing on of the Creed*** takes place following the First Scrutiny.

***The handing on of the Lord's Prayer*** takes place following the Third Scrutiny.

- VI. ***Celebration of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist*** - the final step by which the Elect are made members of the Church. This celebration takes place on the Holy Night of the Easter Vigil.
  - ***Baptism*** - this Sacrament gives the Baptized persons a new life of Sanctifying Grace by which they are made members of the People of God.
  - ***Confirmation*** - follows Baptism, indicating the unity of the Paschal Mystery, the connection between the Mission of the Son and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
  - ***Eucharist*** – the newly Baptized, now raised to the ranks of the Royal Priesthood, receive the Eucharist for the first time.

**VII. *The Period of Mystagogy*** is the final period of Christian Initiation of the newly Baptized. It is a time of reflection and understanding of the Sacraments received.

**VIII. *The Pentecost Sunday*** closes the Period of Mystagogy.

***September 22<sup>nd</sup>***

***Welcome to OCIA***

Introduction to the Catholic Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- *Introduction to CCC by Pope John Paul II*
- *Catechesis on Creation (ccc# 279-421)*

***September 29<sup>th</sup>***

***The Mysteries of Christ's Life***

- The Mysteries of Christmas and Jesus' Public Ministry
- The Gospel of John Chapter 14
  - *The Life of Jesus Christ (ccc# 464-682)*

***October 6<sup>th</sup>***

***The Mysteries of Faith***

- The Prophets of the Old Testament
- The Apostles of the New Testament
- The Saints and Mystics of the Catholic Church
- The Faithful of Today
  - *Faith is Our Response to God (ccc# 142-184)*

***October 13<sup>th</sup>***

***The Catholic Bible***

The Old Testament:

- The Pentateuch (Five Books of the Old Testament)
- Historical Books
- Wisdom, Poetry Books, and Prophets

The New Testament:

- The Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles
- The Letters
- The Book of Revelation
  - *Sacred Scripture (ccc# 101-141)*

## ***October 20<sup>th</sup>***

### ***Prayer in the Old and the New Testaments***

- Prayer of Mary – Luke 1:46-55
- Prayer of Jesus – John 17
  - *Prayer in the Scripture*

## ***October 27<sup>th</sup>***

### ***The Divine Revelation***

After the fall of Adam and Eve: God saved the world through Noah; initiated Redemption through Abraham; established the nation of Israel through Moses; and promised an eternal Shepherd-King through David. God fulfilled His Covenant through Christ's Atoning Sacrifice on the Cross and Resurrection.

- Adam and Eve (Gen:1-3)
- Noah (Gen: 9)
- Abraham (Gen: 15-17)
- Moses (Ex: 24)
- David (2Sam:2)
- Jesus Christ
  - *The Revelation of God (ccc# 50-100)*

## ***November 3<sup>rd</sup>***

### ***The Revelation of God as the Holy Trinity***

- Gen 1:26 "Let us make man in our image"
- Mt 3:13-17 The Baptism of Jesus
- Mt 28:19 "Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..."
  - *The Holy Trinity (ccc#198-278)*

## ***November 10<sup>th</sup>***

### ***The Catholic Mass***

- Introductory Rite
- Liturgy of the Word, Readings
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Presentation and preparation of the Gifts
- Eucharistic Prayer and Communion Rite
- Concluding Rite
  - *Celebration of the Christian Mystery (ccc# 1066-1112)*
  - *Understanding of the Liturgy by Cardinal Cantalamessa*

**November 17<sup>th</sup>**

***The Liturgical Year***

- Advent
- Christmas
- Ordinary Time
- Lent
- Easter Time
- Ordinary Time
  - *The Seasons and Colors of the Liturgical Year (ccc#1163-1173)*

**November 24<sup>th</sup>**

***The Catholic Church***

- Places and things in the Catholic Church: Sanctuary; Sanctuary Lamp; Tabernacle; Altar, Ambo; Crucifix; Baptismal Font; Holy Water; Confessional; Sacristy; Roman Missal; Lectern; Easter Candle; Stations of the Cross; Clerical Vestments; Liturgical Vessels: Chalice, Paten, Ciborium; Pyx; Monstrance.
- Visit to the church and prayer time before the Blessed Sacrament
  - *I Believe in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church (ccc# 748-870)*

**December 1<sup>st</sup>**

***The Hierarchical Structure of the Church***

- Pope; the Holy See; the Roman Curia
- Bishops, Conferences of Bishops, Priests (religious and secular), Deacons
- Religious Orders
- The Laity and Parish Ministries
  - *Christ's Faithful (ccc# 871-945)*
  - *Apostolic Constitution of the Roman Curia*

**December 8<sup>th</sup>**

***The Communion of the Church of Heaven and Earth***

The Communion of Saints (ccc# 946-948)

- The pilgrims on earth
- Those who died and are being purified in the purgatory
- Those in the glory of heaven and their intercession

The Communion of Spiritual Goods (ccc#949-953)

- Communion in the faith
- Communion of the sacraments
- Communion of charisms and charity

The three stages of the Church (ccc #954-962)

- *The Communion of Saints by Pope Francis*
- *The Church is a Communion (ccc#946-975)*

***December 15<sup>th</sup>***

***Mary - Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church***

- Announcement of the Birth of Jesus (Lk 1:26-38)
- Mary visits Elizabeth (Lk 1:39-45)
- The Canticle of Mary (Lk 1:46-56)
- The Wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-12)
  - *Mary and the Holy Spirit* by Pope Francis
  - *Mary Mother of Christ and the Church* (ccc# 963-975)
  - *Santa Maria de Guadalupe*

***January 5<sup>th</sup>***

***The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, the foundation of Christian life***

- *The Sacraments of Christian Initiation* (ccc# 1213-1419)

***January 12<sup>th</sup>***

***The Sacraments of Healing*** (ccc# 1420-1421)

Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation (ccc# 1422-1498)

- The Anointing of the Sick (ccc# 1499-1532)

***The Sacraments at the Service of Communion*** (ccc#1533-1535)

- The Sacrament of the Holy Orders (ccc# 1536-1600)
- *The Sacrament of Matrimony* (ccc# 1601-1666)

***Sacramentals*** (ccc# 1667-1679)

- Sacred signs, prayer, laying on of hands, sprinkling of holy water, blessings

***Christian Funerals*** (ccc# 1680-1690)

- *The Sacraments* (ccc# 1420-1690)

***January 19<sup>th</sup>***

***The Dignity of the Human Person***

- Charisms
- Vocations
- Conversions
- Prayer, fasting
- Works of charity

- *Life in Christ* (ccc# 1691-1829)
- *The Gifts of the Holy Spirit* (ccc# 1830-1845)

### ***January 26<sup>th</sup>***

#### ***The Universal Call to Prayer, Christian Practices, and Holiness***

- Prayer in the Old Testament - Abraham's faith; Jacob's perseverance; Moses's intercession; Elijah's attentiveness to the Word of God, and Psalms - personal and communal character of prayer.
- Christian Prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Meditation, Contemplation, Rosary, Novenas, Litanies.
  - *Perseverance in Prayer* by Pope Francis
  - *Prayers* (ccc# 2558-2648)

### ***February 2<sup>nd</sup>***

#### ***The History of the Church***

- Domestic Churches
- Persecutions of Christians, Conversion of Emperor Constantine
- Christianity after the Fall of the Roman Empire
- The Desert Monks
- The Fathers of the Church
- The Reformation
- The Second Vatican Council
  - *The Story of Christianity*

### ***February 9<sup>th</sup>***

#### ***The Profession of the Christian Faith***

- The Apostles' Creed
- The Nicene Creed
  - *The Creeds* (ccc#185-231)
  - *The Lord's Prayer* (ccc# 2759-2865)

### ***February 16<sup>th</sup>***

***Reflection of the Rite of Election*** or Enrolment of Names – celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent

- ***Explanation of Scrutinies*** – celebrated on the third, fourth, and fifth Sunday of Lent
  - *Scrutinies*

***Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday***

***Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Rite of Election/Enrolment of Names; Presentation of Creed***

***February 23<sup>rd</sup>***

***The Season of Lent*** - Ashes, prayers, fasting, and almsgiving

- *The Book of Jonah*

***March 2<sup>nd</sup>***

***The Gospel of John***

- The Book of Signs (1:19-12:50)
- The Book of Glory (13:1-20:31)
- The Prayer of Jesus (John 17:1-26)
  - *The Gospel According to John*

***Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>*** – *The First Scrutiny, Presentation of the Creed*

***March 9<sup>th</sup>***

***The Divine Mercy of God***

- *Saint Faustina*
- *The Message of Divine Mercy*
- *The Divine Mercy Novena of Chaplets*

***Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>*** – *The Second Scrutiny, Presentation of Lord's Prayer*

***March 16<sup>th</sup>***

***The Meaning of the Holy Week, the Paschal Triduum***

- Visit to the church to pray the Stations of the Cross
  - *The Triduum*

***Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>*** - *The Third Scrutiny*

***March 23<sup>rd</sup>***

***Reflection on the Celebrated Scrutinies:***

- Christ, the Living Water (Jn 4:4-42)
- Christ, the Light of the World (Jn 9:1-41)
- Christ, the Resurrection, and the Life (Jn 11:1-44)

***Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>*** – *Palm Sunday*

***March 30<sup>th</sup>***

***Reflection on the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist.***

- Visit to the church and rehearsal

***Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday***

***Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – Divine Mercy Sunday***

***April 13<sup>th</sup>***

***Personal Reflections on Sacraments received***

***April 20<sup>th</sup>***

***Come, Follow Me – today too, Jesus is inviting each one of us to follow Him and to carry on His Mission.***

- I Will ... But First (Luke 9:57-62)
- The Galilean Fisherman (Luke 5:1-11)
- The Tax Collector (Luke 5:27-32)
- The Samaritan Woman at the Well (John 4:4-42)

***April 27<sup>th</sup>***

***The Book of Revelation to John***

- *The Book of Revelation*

***May 4<sup>th</sup>***

***The Paschal Mystery of the Church's Sacraments***

- The Sacraments of Christ (ccc# 1113-1116)
- The Sacraments of the Church (ccc# 1117-1121)
- The Sacraments of Faith (ccc# 1122-1126)
- The Sacraments of Salvation (ccc# 1127-1134)
  - *The Paschal Mystery of Church Sacraments (ccc# 1113-1419)*

***May 11<sup>th</sup>***

***The Role of Laity in the Life of the Church***

- Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) Vat II, 1964
- Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes) Vat II, 1965
- Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People, Vat II, 1965
  - *Apostolic Constitution on the Roman Curia*

***Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> - Mass for the intentions of the Neophytes and their families***

***May 18<sup>th</sup>***



### ***The Coming of the Holy Spirit***

- The Acts of the Apostles (Chapter 1 and 2)
  - *The Holy Spirit* (ccc# 683-747)
  - *The Gifts of the Holy Spirit* (ccc# 1830-1845)

***Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> - The Pentecost Sunday***

***May 25<sup>th</sup>***

### ***Overview and Evaluation of the Program***

***Meetings – Mondays 7:00-8:30pm at Saint Albert the Great Church, 1095 Channing Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301***

***Team Members: Fr. Rolando Santoianni; Deacon Daniel Hernandez; Teresa Budzich, M.Div.; and Ruth Hoover.***