**2025-2026 Program Information Sheet**

**Introduction**

OCIA presents the fundamental teachings of the Catholic faith and assists individuals to prepare to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. OCIA is intended both for inquirers and for those who already have decided to prepare for one or more of the sacraments of initiation — Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.

**The Program**

OCIA meets weekly on Sunday mornings from 11.15am to 12.45pm, starting September 14, 2025. Classes are held in the Seton Center library (located in the building on the far side of the church’s lower parking lot). Each session will feature a presentation and discussion.

The program uses *Credo* — a video and print resource developed by the Dominican Friars and Thomistic Institute for use in OCIA programs. Participants will receive a *Credo* guidebook and access to *Credo’s* online resources.

During the Fall, OCIA will provide an overview of the Catholic faith and doctrine. This is a time of inquiry and exploration. It culminates in the Rite of Acceptance, a special ceremony at Mass before Christmas. This Rite marks the point when OCIA participants indicate their desire to move from inquiry into preparation for reception into the Catholic Church. (Note: Inquirers who are not yet ready to make this commitment are welcome to continue with OCIA.)

Following the Rite of Acceptance, OCIA will focus on the sacraments and the Christian moral life. In addition to the regular Sunday sessions, there will be an all-day retreat on a Saturday in February or March (date TBD), as well as the Rites of Sending and Election (March 1). During Lent, there are also additional Rites at Mass for those planning on Baptism at Easter.

OCIA culminates on Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil at 8pm on April 4, 2026, when OCIA candidates will receive the sacraments of initiation. (Note: Rehearsal for these Masses takes place on Holy Saturday morning.)

OCIA continues for several more Sunday morning sessions after Easter. This is a period of time called Mystagogy when the group focuses on living out the Catholic faith.

**Calendar**

Participants will receive a calendar of sessions, events, readings, holidays, etc. which may be updated from time to time.

**Next Steps**

* Submit an information request form: [Click here to fill out form](https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Form/6cba70ec-8d11-4a99-b62f-28ad53dde1fa)
* An OCIA team member will reach out to you to discuss the program and answer any preliminary questions you may have.
* If you decide to sign up for OCIA, complete the [registration form](https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Form/6cba70ec-8d11-4a99-b62f-28ad53dde1fa) found on our website:
* Meet (in person or by phone) with Fr. James Morgan, Parochial Vicar, to discuss your sacramental preparation.

**Expectations**

* Regularly attend OCIA sessions. (We recognize that occasional absences are inevitable due to illness, travel, etc.). If you plan on an extended absence, please discuss with the OCIA Coordinator well in advance. Such absences may delay your reception into the Church.
* Complete assigned readings/videos, even when you miss a session.
* Attend the Spring retreat.
* Choose a sponsor who will support you through the OCIA process (we will be happy to assist if you need help finding a sponsor). If you plan to be baptized, you will also need to choose a godparent.
* Be present with your sponsor and/or godparent at the rites mentioned above. (Note: Sponsors are welcome to come to any OCIA session or retreat.)
* If already baptized, provide the baptismal certificate.
* Choose a Confirmation name (usually one of the saints you relate to by profession, birthday, or who appeals to you).

Note: There are no costs or fees for the OCIA program or the *Credo* resources described above.

**Contact Information**

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