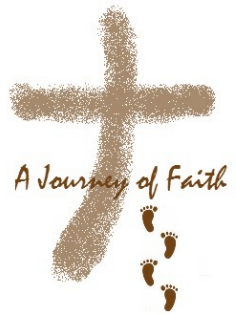


What is the Order of Christian Initiation?

The Order of Christian Initiation prepares people for the lifetime commitment that comes with reception into the Catholic Church. The Order



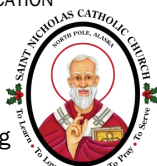
of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is a **process**, not a program. The process is one of faith development where people

grow in their relationship with God, as expressed through Roman Catholic beliefs. Because each person's journey of faith is different; some may need more time than others to prepare for full initiation into the Church. The usual length of time is between one and two years.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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What's Inside...

This is a process of answering God's call for a deeper relationship. Inside this brochure you will learn about the following:

- ☐ For Whom OCIA Is Intended
- ☐ What to Do If You Are Baptized in Another Faith
- ☐ What the Process Is
- ☐ What You Need to Do
- ☐ What a Sponsor Is
- ☐ When and Where the Classes Are
- ☐ And Some Additional Information...

Extreme Weather Policy

Extremely cold weather or dangerously icy roads may result in a cancelled class. When the North Pole *Time and Temperature* message (488.1111) at 5 pm states the temperature is -40 degrees or colder, or when the roads are too icy, classes will be cancelled. Notifications will be sent out via Flocknote.

Course Materials

The "curriculum" we use for OCIA is available online. If you miss a session, you can easily make it up. You just need to stay in communication with Heather, the DRE. If your job makes it difficult to attend sessions, even though you are certain you would like to join the Church, be sure to speak Heather about ways we can work with you to make your initiation happen.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) 2025 - 2026

St. Nicholas Catholic Church



SYMBOLON
THE CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLAINED



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults Explained

For Whom OCIA Is Intended

OCIA is intended for people, not baptized as infants, who have attained the use of reason and are of catechetical (school) age. They seek Christian initiation either at the direction of their family, friends, or on their own initiative. Such individuals are capable of receiving and nurturing a personal faith and of recognizing an obligation in conscience.

Once readiness is reached, the individual will receive the three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Communion) at the Easter Vigil Mass.

If You Are Baptized in Another Faith...

Those who are already baptized but want to learn more about Catholicism and/or become Catholic, still need to participate in OCIA to receive formation in what the Catholic Church professes to believe.

If the candidate decides they want to become Catholic and readiness is reached, the individual will need to go to Confession, and will then complete the Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation and Communion) at the Easter Vigil. As long as one is baptized with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit/Ghost, it is deemed a valid baptism.



Prayer is essential to the process.

What the Process Is...

The process involves prayer, study, discussion, discernment, and study of God's Word, i.e., the Bible.

- * The process is Jesus-centered. It focuses on Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher, and His teachings.
- * OCIA provides opportunities for people to learn what the Church teaches by going through the Catechism of the Catholic Church in an engaging and informal manner.
- * The process allows people to deepen their relationship with God and grow in love for His revelation.

What You Need to Do...

- 1) Complete the OCIA Inquirer's Information Form.
- 2) Provide a copy of a Birth Certificate, a Baptismal Certificate if already baptized, and a Marriage License if married.
- 3) Attend Sunday Mass, the OCIA classes, and Rites with your sponsor.
- 4) Select a sponsor.

What a Sponsor Is...

A sponsor is a practicing Catholic who, if possible, will attend the OCIA sessions with you and who, like Jesus the Good Shepherd, will provide spiritual support and guidance while you journey through the initiation process together. The sponsor should have a strong



Christ, the Good Shepherd

knowledge of Catholic beliefs and traditions, be confirmed, be at least 16 years of age, and a person other than a spouse. You may have a sponsor in mind or there may be a member of the community who would like to assist you as a sponsor.

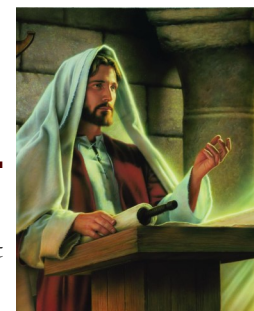
When and Where the Classes Are...

OCIA classes are held on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm in Room 107 in the Pastoral Center beginning September 16th. Sessions last two hours.

Sessions may be cancelled due to bad weather. Participants and their sponsors will be notified in advance should a session be cancelled.

Also...

- * Participants are expected to attend all weekly OCIA sessions on a regular basis
- * Support from the sponsor assists one's spiritual growth and discernment.



Christ, the Teacher

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