

# ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is a journey of faith for catechumens – those interested in learning more about the Catholic Church; those who have never been baptized; those who were baptized into a non-Catholic Christian denomination; or those who were baptized into the Catholic Church but have not received the Sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

OCIA is a journey through which a person seeks conversion to Christ, an understanding of the Church He founded, and then initiation into the Catholic community. OCIA is an opportunity to explore the richness of the Catholic faith, focusing on the teachings, traditions, and experience of the Church. It ultimately prepares people to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Baptism incorporates us into Christ, forms us into God's people, and allows us to partake of the Holy Eucharist. In the Eucharist, we consume "the body and blood of Jesus Christ, so that we may have eternal life and show forth the unity of God's people." Confirmation makes us more completely into the image of the Lord and fills us with the Holy Spirit.

## THE OCIA PROCESS

The OCIA process is a gradual, four-step progression that takes place within the community of the faithful. Since conversion is a work of the Holy Spirit, there are no set deadlines for completion.

**INQUIRY** is the period during which inquirers explore some of the basics of the Catholic faith and decide if they want to continue to study. The period typically ends with the Rite of Acceptance and entry into the catechumenate.

**CATECHESIS** (religious instruction) includes an examination of the truth, goodness, and beauty of the Church...focusing on the teachings and Sacraments and their Scriptural foundations, as well as on the history, rites, and practices. The period typically ends at the beginning of Lent with the Rite of Election.

**PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT** ordinarily coincides with the forty days of Lent. During this period, the Elect reflect more deeply on their lives and their relationship with Christ. The period ends at Easter with the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

**POSTBAPTISMAL CATECHESIS** extends throughout the Easter season to Pentecost. It is devoted to a more spiritual focus on the Sacramental mysteries of the Catholic Church and on living as a Catholic Christian.

Our OCIA Inquiry classes typically begin in August. For more information, contact the Parish Office at (719) 633-2132 or Phil & Connie Pratt at [rcia@holytrinitycos.org](mailto:rcia@holytrinitycos.org).