

Spirit  **OF**
Christ
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



March 26, 2026



Announcements

- 1) Next Class is on April 9 Mother Teresa Room
- 2) Rite of Entrance Date - May 3rd -
Catechumens Only

Order of Christian Initiation For Adults 101



Early Depiction of Baptism in the Catacombs
of San Callisto in Rome



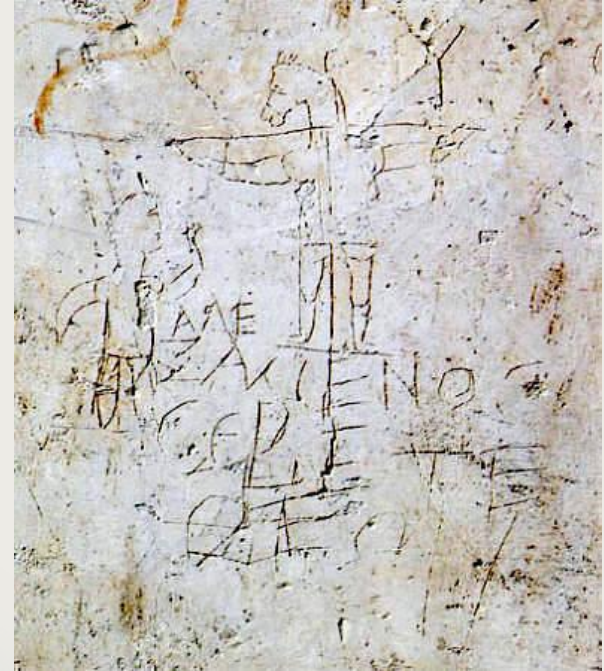
Where Are We Going?

- History of OCIA and Spread of Catholicism
- Roadmap of the OCIA Process
- Important Pit Stops Along the Way
- Particular and or Unique Circumstances
- Resources
- OCIA Intake Form



ORIGINS OF OCIA

- Jesus establishes a church - then what?
- First 70-100 years consisted of home churches and small local communities (c.33 AD-c.100 AD)
- Next 200 years required more formal process due to rising persecutions - this could take someone's entire life (c. 100 AD-c. 300 AD)
- 315 AD Emperor Constantine Legalizes Christianity - new period of catechumenate implements minimum 3 year requirement



Graffiti in Early Rome reading "Alexamenos worships his god" One of the earliest depictions of Jesus in a mocking manner



SPREAD OF CATHOLICISM

How is the spread of Catholicism different from the spread of other religions?

- Nonviolent
- Enculturation
- Missionary History and Spirit



Pope Benedict XVI Meeting with Patriarchs of Eastern Rites





THE GROWTH OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE

- Sinope
- Christian communities in the 1 century CE
- Christian communities in the 2 century CE
- Concentrated Christian congregations / 325 CE
- Concentrated Christian congregations / 451 CE
- Roman empire under Theodosius I, c.391
- The five churches in the Pentarchy
- 381
- Year of an ecumenical council
- Capital and name of a diocese
- Provincial capital, Notable city
- Areas of Arian Ascendancy
- Areas of Nestorianism / Church of the East
- Areas supporting Monophysitism

ATLANTIC OCEAN

North Sea

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Black Sea

Red Sea





Pius XII

Month	Event
January	1945
February	26
March	20
April	18
May	14
June	14
July	14
August	14
September	14
October	14
November	14
December	14

1945

Events & Saints

- S. Basil the Great**
370-379, Bishop of Caesarea
- St. Elizabeth**
12th century, Queen of Hungary
- S. Elizabeth**
12th century, Queen of Hungary



OCIA THROUGHOUT THE AGES

- Around the Fifth Century the Catechumenate dissolves due to mass practice of infant baptism (c. 400 AD - c. 1100 AD)
- Around the Twelfth Century the catechumenate process leaked into seminary formation programs (c. 1100 AD - c. 1500 AD)
- Sixteenth Century Religious Orders pushed to return to the Catechumenate and a soft form of the process we know today was established (c. 1500 AD - c. 1900 AD)
- Early Twentieth Century saw the need for a formal process to begin again especially in places such as Africa and France
- 1963 Vatican II votes and approves the reinstatement of Catechumenate





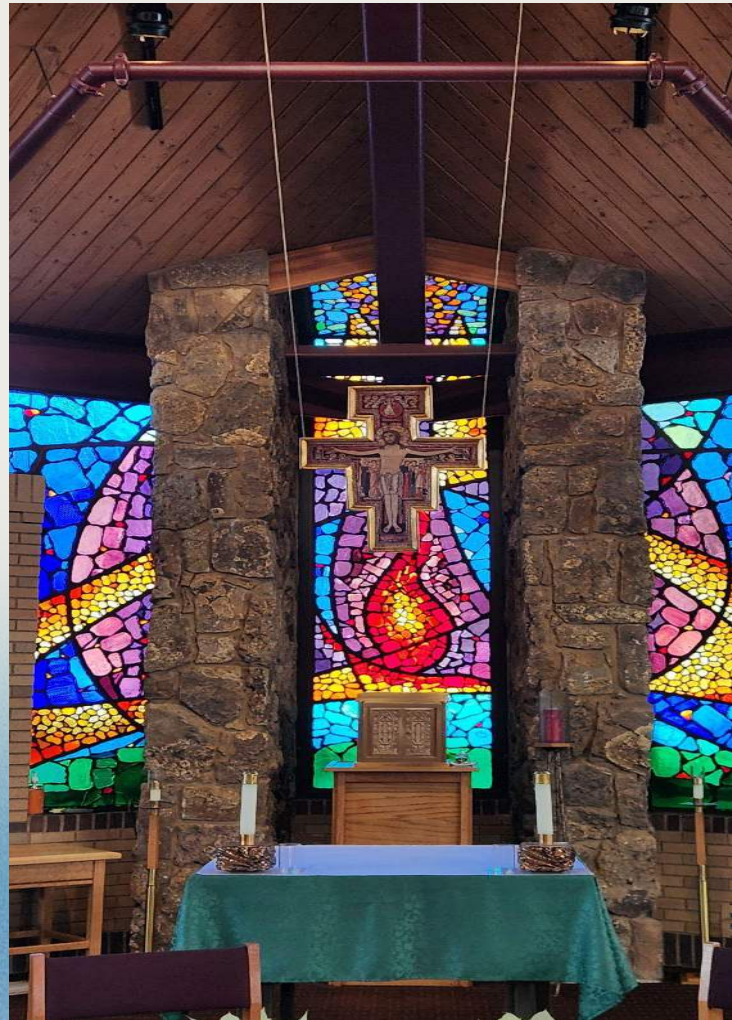
WHAT'S THE PROCESS?

- Evangelization/Pre-Catechumenate
- Catechumenate
- Purification and Enlightenment
- Mystagogy



WHAT'S THE EXPECTATION?

- Attend Weekly Mass
- Attend Class on Thursdays (80%)
- Read Assigned Material
- Participate
- Turn in Required Documents
- Build and Maintain Relationships with Sponsor and Classmates





PARTICULAR AND OR UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES

- Marriage Annulments and or Convalidations
- Living in accordance with Church moral teaching
- Communicate Communicate Communicate - We are here to accompany you on your journey

“The great task that has to be faced today for the renewal of society is that of recapturing the ultimate meaning of life and its fundamental values.”

-Saint Pope John Paul II



Navigating a Discussion

Etiquette for Small Groups

- Confidentiality
 - Authenticity/Honesty
 - Availability/Reliability
 - Only share your advice if asked
 - Avoid Generalizing & Submit to Scripture and Church Teaching
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RESOURCES

- Handbook of Prayers
- Bishop Barron's *An Introduction to Prayer*
- Trent Horn's *Why We're Catholic*
- The Mass/Welcome to Catholicism Booklet
- More to be given come September



OCIA INTAKE FORM

- Assessment of where you are in accordance with Church teachings
- A way to help us build a class that will benefit you
- A way for yourself to see where you stand in regards to Church teachings
- NOT A TEST



Vermeer's *Allegory for the Catholic Faith* c. 1670 AD



Small Group Discussion

- 1) Knowing you are part of a rich history of individuals converting to Christianity over thousands of years, how do you feel being part of this history?
- 2) What do you think about the OCIA process now that you understand the history of OCIA and the roadmap of what OCIA will look like for you?
- 3) How are you now compared to the start of this process? Are you more excited, scared, any other emotion?
- 4) How might the team walk with you on this journey, and how might you walk with your fellow classmates on this journey?

Closing Prayer

