

Welcome to OCIA. (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Any person who wants to be a Catholic Christian is welcome to join the Church by receiving the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion. Someone born into a Catholic family usually receives these Sacraments during their childhood, beginning with Baptism at birth and ending with Confirmation around the age of fourteen.

For people who decide to join the Catholic Church as adults, preparation for Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion is offered through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA).

How does the OCIA work?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is a process of growth that informs a person about the Catholic faith and prepares them to love God and love their neighbor as a disciple of Christ, a Christian.

In practice, the OCIA is a journey where Catholics lead the non-baptized in discussions about the Catholic faith and how it is fully lived. Typically, people interested in joining the Church meet once a week with ministry leaders to discuss a faith topic (such as Baptism, Communion, or belief in the Holy Trinity), the Sunday Scripture readings and how it all applies to our daily lives. It's not a class or lecture. *It's a discussion about living a Christian life!*

Like any Catholic Rite, there's a text that fully outlines the OCIA. But don't panic-most Catholics have never seen this text, much less read it, and they are not expected to read it. The OCIA text is the guide for Catholics who lead the OCIA ministry.

But what do I actually have to do to become a Catholic?

To become a Catholic, a person must choose to follow Christ by practicing the Catholic faith. That means a person must understand Catholic teachings and beliefs and choose to accept them.

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults provides a chance for any and every adult to learn about the Catholic faith so they can make an informed decision about joining the Catholic Church. So, if anyone wishes to join the Catholic Church, the normal process is participation in the OCIA.

How do I begin the OCIA Journey?

If you are interested in exploring the Catholic faith or beginning the OCIA journey, you may email or phone the parish office to schedule an appointment with Deacon Craig. You are also invited to drop in to any OCIA meeting; the meetings are scheduled on Wednesdays, October 29 – April 15, 7:00 p.m. at the parish office meeting room. Walk-ins are always welcome!

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How long does the OCIA journey last?

There is no set time period for the OCIA journey. It varies depending on the readiness of the individual, the time of preparation depends on the faith maturity of the individual.

Who decides when I can receive the Sacraments of Initiation and join the Catholic Church?

Any bishop or pastor can decide if a person is ready to join the Catholic Church. Typically, the decision is made after consulting with your local parish OCIA director, who relies on input from you and the OCIA ministry team.

New Catholics are usually baptized during the Easter Vigil Mass (celebrated on the Saturday evening before Easter Sunday). A person who has already been baptized, but who has not received Confirmation or Holy Communion may receive these sacraments at the discretion of their pastor, with approval by the bishop.

What does it cost to join the Catholic Church through the OCIA?

It only costs your time, participation, and desire.

Where can I get more information about becoming a Catholic?

You are welcome to contact Deacon Craig Korver for more information or to join in the formation process.

dcncraigkorver@gmail.com

320-468-6033

You may also read more about joining the Church at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' [website](#).