

Churches of St Michael, St Mary, and St Charles

Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA)



2024/2025 Syllabus

Instructor Information:

Jerry Buchman -

John Morton

Mike Rota -

Dennis Stevens -

Fr. Michael Creagan -

Fr. Philip Conklin -

Fr. Bruno Nwachukwu

Description:

Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Are you a Catholic who needs the sacrament of Confirmation? Or are you simply curious about the Catholic faith? If so, our OCIA class is perfect for you. Join us to explore what the Catholic Church teaches and why. There's no commitment required and no cost involved.

Parishes across the world welcome new Catholics into the Church through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). The OCIA program introduces people to the structure and content of the Catholic faith through weekly meetings and conversations with parishioners and each other. This is for non-Christians or Adults who have missed sacraments.

Meeting Details:

OCIA will meet on the days listed in the schedule below from 6:15 pm to 8 pm in the St Michael's Rose Hall (unless stated otherwise). We will pray together and discuss key aspects of the Catholic Christian faith and the Catholic Church. Please let John Morton or Jerry Buchman know if you must miss any of the scheduled sessions.

Course Materials:

Evangelium (Participant's Book)

Evangelium uses art and clearly organized lessons to ground participants in the full panorama of Catholic beliefs. Evangelium is designed for those coming into the Catholic faith as well as Catholics who want to learn more about their faith. Lessons follow the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd Edition

A catechism is a teaching tool (in Greek, “to echo” – students would repeat or echo answers to questions back to their teachers). The Catechism of the Catholic Church is an organized presentation of the essential teachings of the Catholic Church on both faith and morals. The main divisions of the Catechism are: the Profession of Faith; the Celebration of the Christian Mystery; Life in Christ; and Christian Prayer. However, the Catechism is not meant to stand alone as the only reference for Catholic teaching. The church’s rich tradition, the Bible, and liturgy all illuminate each other and help us grow in faith, hope, and love.

“In reading the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we can perceive the wonderful unity of the mystery of God.”

— Pope John Paul II

Definitions:

Catechumen

Unbaptized persons who desire to be fully incorporated into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

Candidate

Those who have been baptized in the Christian faith and are seeking full communion in the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

Sponsor

Each catechumen and candidate selects a sponsor. Someone who has been instrumental in their life by way of example, words of encouragement, or lengthy discussions. It might be a close friend, a co-worker, a spouse or other family member, and it could be a number of different people. This would be a parishioner who is a practicing Catholic and in good standing with the Church. The sponsor will participate in the various Masses and rituals with the catechumens and candidates, and is asked to attend class if possible.

Cor Jesu

Cor Jesu is a Latin phrase for “Heart of Jesus.” It’s an opportunity for everyone to continue to encounter Christ through Eucharistic Adoration, and Praise and Worship. It begins at 6:15pm in St Michael’s Sanctuary with the [Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#), followed by the [Litany of the Sacred Heart](#) and then [Benediction](#) at 7:05pm. There will be refreshments in Rose Hall afterwards, this is a great opportunity to meet other parishioners and other OCIA participants.

Course Schedule:

Evangelium Curriculum (Class Topics)

In the schedule below the topics for each class are color coded, corresponding with the four parts of the Evangelium Curriculum; **The Creed**, **The Sacraments**, **Morals**, and **Prayer**. This delineation is based on the [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#), which is structured using those same four parts. In brief;

1. **The Creed** - builds the foundation, our profession of faith, ‘how we know what we know?’ and ‘what we know about the faith?’
2. **The Sacraments** - now that we know about the faith, what do we do? How do we enter into communion with the Holy Trinity?
3. **Morals** - learn to live as Christ lived, how we ought to conduct ourselves as a Christian in the world, and the reasons behind these moral precepts
4. **Prayer** - consider various aspects of prayer, meditation, contemplation. Learn from the Saints and other great teachers about different devotions and the Catholic mystical tradition

Rites

At different times in this initiation process there will be rites given, depending on the sacraments you’re seeking. Those rows highlighted in purple are rites associated with Catechumens and those rows highlighted in red are rites associated with Candidates. Everyone should try to attend these, even if the rite is not specific to them, to show support for our fellow initiates.

* Classes are color coded based on topic and the Evangelium Participant’s Book

** Everyone should attend all classes

Date	Topic(s) (alternative time & location)	Presenter (Attendee notes)
Sept 25	Welcome & Introductions, The Meaning of Life (p 1)	John Morton
Oct 9	Praying the Mass (p 45), Mass Gestures (Meet in St. Michael’s Sanctuary after 5:30 mass)	Fr. Michael Creagan
Oct 23	Creation and Fall (p 3), Salvation History (p 5)	John Morton
Nov 1 (Friday)	All Saint’s Day (Holy Day of Obligation - no class)	(All should attend Mass)
Nov 6	The Incarnation (p 7), Life of Christ (p 9)	Fr Philip Conklin
Nov 20	The Paschal Mystery (p 11)	Fr Bruno Nwachukwu
Date	Topic(s) (alternative time & location)	Presenter (Attendee notes)
Dec 1 (Sunday)	Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (9:15am Mass - St Michael’s)	All should attend but only Catechumens have a part in Mass

Dec 4	The Church (p 15), Scripture & Tradition (p 17)	Jerry Buchman
Dec 11	The Trinity (p 13)	Jerry Buchman
Dec 18	Cor Jesu (6:15pm - St Michael's Sanctuary)	(All should attend)
Dec 25	The Birth of Our Lord, Christmas (Holy Day of Obligation - no class)	(All should attend Mass)
Jan 1	New Year's Day (no class)	No class
Jan 8	Mary & the Last Four Things (p 19)	John Morton
Jan 15	Cor Jesu (6:15pm - St Michael's Sanctuary)	(All should attend)
Jan 29	The Life of Prayer (p 41), The Lord's Prayer (p 43)	Fr. Michael Creagan
Feb 12	Liturgy and Sacraments (p 21), Baptism and Confirmation (p 23)	Fr Bruno Nwachukwu
Feb 19	Cor Jesu (6:15pm - St Michael's Sanctuary)	(All should attend)
Feb 26	Confession and Anointing (p 27), Marriage and Holy Orders (p 29)	Fr Bruno Nwachukwu
Mar 5	Ash Wednesday Mass Anointing of the Catechumens (5:30pm Mass - St Michael's)	All should attend but only Catechumens have a part in Mass
Mar 12	Eucharist (p 25)	Fr Bruno Nwachukwu
Date	Topic(s) (alternative time & location)	Presenter (Attendee notes)
Mar 19	Cor Jesu (6:15pm - St Michael's Sanctuary)	(All should attend)

Mar 26	Moral Action (p 31)	Dennis Stevens
Apr 9	Natural Law and the Ten Commandments (p 33)	Dr. Michael Rota
Apr 17 (Thursday)	Mass of the Lord's Supper	(All should attend Mass)
Apr 18 (Friday)	Good Friday of the Lord's Passion	(All should attend a Good Friday Service)
Apr 19 (Saturday)	Easter Vigil (8:30pm Mass - St Michael's)	All should attend but only Catechumens have a part in Mass
Apr 23	Virtues and Vices (p 37), Grace and the Beatitudes (p 35)	John Morton/ Dennis Stevens
May 7	Christian Life in the World (p 39), Catholic Devotions (p 49)	Jerry Buchman
May 21	Mercy and The Practice of Confession (p 47)	Fr Bruno Nwachukwu
Jun 1 (Sunday)	Profession of Faith (9:15am Mass - St Michael's)	All should attend but only Candidates have role in Mass
Jun 4	Sacrament of Confession (meet in atrium - St Michael's)	
Jun 7 (Saturday)	Vigil of Pentecost (7pm Mass - St Michael's)	All should attend but only Candidates have role in Mass
Jun 18	Celebration! Living Mission - Parish Life	