

# Order of Christian Initiation

Saint John Neumann Catholic Church, 2022-2023

**Sessions:** Sunday afternoons in the SJN Faith & Family Center, Upper Level  
**OCI Online:** <http://saintjohnsunbury.org/becoming-catholic>  
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## What is the OCI?

How do people learn about the Christian faith, be led into the Catholic Church and receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist? This is part of the mission of our parish community, which is to welcome, form and enable disciples of Jesus Christ, in the fullness of the Roman Catholic tradition. It takes time – but it’s worth it!

**The Order of Christian Initiation is not a “process,” or a “program” or even a “class.”** It’s an actual *order* of the Church – with its own unique set of rituals and stages – which comes from the ancient *catechumenate* that existed in the centuries which followed the Apostles themselves. It was the early Church’s way of bringing the message and promise of Jesus to those throughout the Roman Empire and the rest of the world. This method was re-introduced in 1974 and made normative throughout the entire Church in 1988. All parishes have OCI in some form.

Participants are usually adults. Those between seven and fifteen years of age take part according to their own needs, so long as they are actively enrolled in either a recognized Catholic school or the parish Family of Faith program (formerly known as the Parish School of Religion), to obtain their primary religious formation.

## What can I expect?

The OCI helps the participant:

- bring about a “conversion experience,” with a sincere intention to change their life and enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ,
- develop the practice of calling on God in prayer, individually and in the worshipping assembly,
- experience the beginnings of spiritual life,
- experience the Catholic Church through the life of the parish community,
- identify what is a personal “sense of Church,” *and*
- understand and explain the fundamentals of Roman Catholic teaching and customs.



## What does OCI look like?

### Discernment: The Beginning

In reality, OCI begins for a person upon contacting the Parish Office and saying something like, “I want to be baptized,” or, “I’d like to know more about the Catholic Church.” A person interested in taking the next steps should contact the Parish Office and schedule an Interview with the OCI Director before attending sessions. This is a one-on-one discussion to provide basic information, assist with difficulties or challenges, and/or answer immediate or lingering questions. Prospective Inquirers should provide information about themselves – the *Inquirer Form* and, if available, proof of their Baptism. When the prospective Inquirer is ready, the next steps can begin.

### The Period of Inquiry

The formal Inquiry takes place *year-round*, with a “rolling entry,” for those who ask about the Church at any given time. For those with some religious experience, including those baptized Catholics wanting to complete their initiation (Confirmation and/or Eucharist), there are topical discussions on Sunday afternoons that begin in late summer.

*Adults from the SJN community are welcome to “sit in” with sessions at any time of the year.* Participants continue until they are ready to take the next step in OCI at a time appropriate for them and the community. They are learning in God’s good time, not ours!



### The Rites of Acceptance & Welcome

Inquirers who have experienced an encounter with Jesus Christ, and are ready and willing to move further toward Baptism, take part in their first public ritual, known as the *Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens*. Celebrated at a Sunday Mass, they are publicly welcomed for the first time. They “declare their intention to the Church and the Church in turn...accepts them as persons who intend to become its members” (*Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, n. 41). This completes the first stage of Christian Initiation, and opens the door to the second.

Those already baptized as Christians in another faith tradition (or even those baptized Catholics who have not yet received all the Sacraments of Initiation) take part in the *Rite of Welcome*. The church and the Parish community recognize their oneness with these Candidates, even though they may not yet be ready to share the Eucharist until Easter. Baptized Candidates are always considered distinct from the unbaptized, because of the “one baptism” we as Catholics profess to share with them.

### The Catechumenate

The second stage is a period that includes training in the Christian way of life: belief, worship, living a moral life, and a life of prayer. There are two groups at this point: *Catechumens* who are unbaptized, and *Candidates* who are already baptized. They may be joined by newer Inquirers, and those who are already Catholic and wanting to resume their own initiation.

During this time participants will learn about the Scriptures, and the doctrines and practices of our Church. They attend weekly Mass to hear the Word of God proclaimed. The Catechumens and Candidates are occasionally *dismissed* after the Homily; that is, they are invited to leave the body of the Church and meet with a *Catechist* (a trained volunteer or member of the Parish Staff) to

discuss the Scriptures they heard proclaimed at Mass (readings at Mass are listed in our Schedule; see below). Study and reflection are a part of their formation which helps them prepare for the day when they will receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

In addition, there are sessions to help participants understand the doctrine and practices of the Church. Catechumens and Candidates also learn about Catholic prayer and worship. They learn how to live and serve others in apostolic witness. They develop their own particular relationship with the parish community. When they have experienced a true conversion to the Christian way of life, they celebrate the second major ritual of Christian Initiation.

### **The Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion**

This second ritual happens on the First Sunday of Lent, immediately following Ash Wednesday (which in 2023 is on February 22). This is a diocesan celebration, led by the Bishop – the head of our local Church – and involves those from SJN and every Catholic parish in the local Church.

The Catechumens, accompanied by their Sponsors, are formally declared by the Bishop as *the Elect* (that is, chosen by God) to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. Earlier, we will have celebrated a *Rite of Sending* at the parish as a way of recognizing the candidates' upcoming election and sending them on to the Bishop for their admission to the final period of preparation.



### **Purification & Enlightenment**

This final period is one of intense spiritual recollection during the liturgical Season of Lent, which prepares us for the mysteries of the Easter Season. It is a time for *reflection* more than teaching. The Elect purify their minds and hearts by celebrating several rituals.

Three purifying rituals, the *Scrutinies*, take place on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, to strengthen the Elect and help them to complete their conversion. The *Presentation of the Creed* and the *Presentation of the Lord's Prayer* also enlighten the minds of the Elect in the final weeks of their preparation for the sacraments, and help the Candidates to strengthen their own baptismal commitment.

As the time of preparations draw to a close, the OCI Director and OCI Team will help answer any questions, gather necessary records and above all reduce any pre-celebratory anxieties. As with any big moment in a person's life, there is "drama" and so we want to make sure everyone involved is at ease and confident with what happens next.

Lent ends when the sacred *Triduum* – the "three days" of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter – begins at sunset of Thursday of Holy Week. The *Preparatory Rites* on Holy Saturday morning serve as the Elect's immediate preparation for the Sacraments. They will formally recite the *Nicene Creed* for the first time, and join the parish community in preparing for the celebrations which will be celebrated that night, at long last, at the *Easter Vigil*.

## The Real Beginning: The Sacraments of Initiation

After dark on Holy Saturday, the Elect and Candidates celebrate all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism (for the Elect), Confirmation and Eucharist.

The Elect are plunged into the waters of new birth and come out of those waters reborn in Christ. The Candidates affirm their desire to be received into full communion with the Church by making a Profession of Faith. Then all become configured to Christ through the Sacred Chrism (consecrated oil) of Confirmation. Finally, the culmination of their initiation happens when they taste the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist for the first time in this most holy time of the Church's entire Calendar.



## What Happens Next: Mystagogy

Christian Initiation continues even after the Easter celebration, during the period of *Mystagogy*. This comes from a Greek word meaning a new and deeper understanding of the mysteries of our faith. During the Easter season, the *neophytes* ("new shoots," the newly initiated) gather twice a month to deepen their grasp of the great Paschal Mystery into which they have just been incorporated. Sometimes there are events, or trips, or other occasions in the wider Church.

These new Christians who have received the Body of Christ have indeed become part of the Body of Christ through their Baptism. The Church uses this time to help these neophytes understand and live out their new lives as part of the Body of Christ. *Mystagogy* is also about *mission*. These new Catholics, now part of Christ's body, must go forth with us to continue the mission of Christ. That's where the whole parish, indeed the entire Church, comes in again.

## What will be expected of me?

The Inquiry period – the first portion of OCI - is a voluntary, question-driven phase, with no obligations. Once an Inquirer/Sponsor has agreed to move forward with the *Rite of Acceptance* or *Rite of Welcome*, there is a public commitment.

According to our custom, those preparing for Baptism will need one calendar year or more of active, continual progress and experience in the life of the Church. This will permit them to experience a Catholic understanding of the Scriptures, worship and the various disciplines within the Church (*National Statutes*, 1988, n. 6).

Those already baptized in a Christian tradition and who have a prior religious background may need less time, depending on circumstances. Practicing (or returning) Catholics wanting to complete their Initiation (usually the Sacrament of Confirmation) may also need less time in preparation.

After receiving the Sacraments, all may continue participating in OCI as long as they wish – in formation, working as Sponsors to others, or on the OCI Team. Christian discipleship lasts a lifetime, after all!

## OCI participants will be expected to...

**(1.) Become active in the life of our community.** Registering into SJN should happen as soon as possible if the Inquirer is not already part of a registered family.

**(2.) Attend Sunday Mass.** Celebrating the Eucharist every week is required of all Catholics, and the most important way to come to know what it means to be Catholic. (Masses with Dismissals will involve the *Breaking Open the Word* session immediately after the Homily. Practicing Catholics should plan to attend Mass at another time if they wish to receive Eucharist.)

**(3.) Attend all Catechumenate sessions and Rites, which are not “optional.”** So much of the formation that happens in OCI takes place during the Catechumenate period. If a situation occurs where absences result, the Director and the individual participant/Sponsor will need to evaluate what is happening, and what needs to be done. Prospective Sponsors should consider this obligation carefully before making the commitment for the duration of OCI.

**(4.) Attend Retreats and Days of Reflection, when offered.**

## What is the role of the Sponsor? Why do I need one?

A *Sponsor* is a mature Catholic in good standing, willing to be a companion to an Inquirer, Candidate or Catechumen over the entire time they are in formation. As they get acquainted, both partners listen to one another, answer questions, pray together, and connect with the larger group and the parish community. Sponsors find their role to be one that enriches and deepens their own faith as well. They're not meant to have *all* the answers, but show the Catholic faith as it is lived and encountered in the everyday.

Sponsors and participants form a tight, supportive group over time and partnership becomes critical as time goes by. So, it's a considerable commitment to be sure, and not for everybody. Life happens, of course, and an absence or two through the year can be made up. If a prospective sponsor feels their personal schedule or habits will result in multiple times away, it might be better that the person consider another role.

A Sponsor must be a *registered, active parishioner of St. John Neumann* who is at least 16 years of age and has received all the Sacraments of Initiation, so long as the Inquirer is not the Sponsor's child. Prospective sponsors should contact the Director or a Team Member as soon as possible, to provide information about his or her background and relationship with the Church, and ask questions.

Sponsors will occasionally meet to discuss their role and undergo training on how to help the people they are sponsoring and identify areas of challenge and growth. A candidate's fiancé/e may be suitable as a Sponsor so long as the commitments to the OCI are met and *not* secondary to the details of preparing for a wedding. Baptized non-Catholics may also be sponsored by their Catholic spouses. Members of the OCI Team cannot act as Sponsors, as their responsibilities within OCI are different.



## What will an OCI session look like?

The time we spend together will be important, and we want to make sure that it's worth doing. You'll have an opportunity to not only meet others on their respective paths to the Sacraments, but also the larger parish community, who are always welcome to attend.

Our sessions include four parts, designed for you, the group, and the topics we'll discuss with you.

**(1.) Checking In, Gathering, and a Meal.**

**(2.) Brief Discussion and "Housekeeping."**

**(3.) Teaching, a short break, and "Q&A"**

**(4.) Prayer Time – for you, for others, and for the whole Church.**

Sessions will also include handouts from *Catholic Update*, a popular series of "quick study" guides focusing on a number of topics. These may be discussed during the session or given as further reading to add depth to what's been discussed. Topics of the handouts are listed along with discussion topics and relevant dates, found on the next page.

## What about younger participants and/or small children?

By Church law, we consider a child at age seven to be "of catechetical age," who can begin to understand the basics of Christian faith. For this reason, all unbaptized children age seven years and older will be prepared to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil in the proper and historic sequence – Baptism, followed by Confirmation, followed by Eucharist – at the Easter Vigil or another time in the Easter season (*Code of Canon Law* 97, 852 §1).

Children involved in OCI must also be enrolled in either at SJN through Family of Faith, or in a recognized Catholic school. This will enable them to develop a sense of community and set them on a course of ongoing Christian formation after they have received the Initiation Sacraments...**Confirmation is never thought of as graduation!** Please contact the Director for PSR enrollment details. Those children who can follow the material in the larger group of participants at the Sunday sessions are encouraged to do so, accompanied by a parent and/or Sponsor.

We will gladly provide childcare during sessions for Team Members, Candidates and Sponsors. Child Care is located in our Faith & Family Center. Please be sure to sign children in a few minutes prior to the start of sessions, and provide materials (diapers, wipes, etc.) to our helpers at that time. Our helpers are trained in First Aid and certified in the *Protecting God's Children* Safe Environment program as required.

## Becoming Catholic and the Sacrament of Matrimony

As Inquirers meet with the OCI Director and the OCI Team, they will discuss their relationship with the Church, including their current understanding of Sacraments which includes Matrimony. Preparing an Inquirer's existing marriage to be blessed by the Church *must happen* before proceeding further with OCI. For those engaged to be married, there will be discussions about how OCI can work in tandem with – but never secondary to – those important wedding preparations.

Inquirers who have been previously married or currently engaged/married to one who previously married should be ready to discuss their situation and how to proceed. The OCI Director will introduce Inquirers to the Tribunal process, a ministry offered at absolutely no cost, before they can plan to marry and/or enter the Church. You are welcome to contact the Director or the Pastor at any time with questions and for support throughout the process.

# OCI Session Schedule, 2022-2023

*Lectionary readings, Session Topics, Reading Materials, Events & Minor Rites*

<p><b>September 10/11, 2022</b>  <b>24<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (C)</b></p> <p><b>132:</b> Exod 32:7-11, 13-14          1 Tim 1:12-17          Luke 15:1-32</p>	<p style="background-color: yellow;"><b>INQUIRY BEGINS</b></p> <p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>C8610A: What Catholics Believe: An Overview of Catholic Teaching          C0708A: What it Means to be Catholic: 12 Human Needs  <i>C0604: Bringing Your Marriage into the Church</i>  <i>C1001: Ten Questions about Annulments</i></p>
<p><b>September 17/18:</b>  <b>25<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (C)</b></p> <p><b>135:</b> Amos 8:4-7          1 Tim 2:1-8          Luke 16:1-13</p>	<p><b><i>The Rescue Project: Chapter One – Why Stories Are Important</i></b></p> <p>C8807A: The Trinity: Mystery at the Heart of Life          C9506A: Who is the Holy Spirit?          C1305A: Four Faces of Jesus          C8509A: Who is Jesus?</p>
<p><b>September 24/25:</b>  <b>26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (C)</b></p> <p><b>138:</b> Amos 6:1a, 4-7          1 Tim 6:11-16          Luke 16:19-31</p>	<p><b><i>The Rescue Project: Chapter Two – Why Is there Something...?</i></b></p> <p>C8904A: The Whole Bible at a Glance          C1406A: Celebrating God’s Word: How Catholics Read the Bible          C1803A: Choosing and Using a Bible          C1306A: Scripture and Tradition: Revealing God’s Plan</p>
<p><b>October 1/2:</b>  <b>27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (C)</b></p> <p><b>141:</b> Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4          2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14          Luke 17:5-10</p>	<p><b><i>The Rescue Project: Chapter Three – The Enemy Is the Enemy</i></b></p> <p>C9202A: An Invitation to Prayer          C1603A: Ten Excuses for Not Praying</p>
<p><b>October 8/9:</b>  <b>28<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (C)</b></p> <p><b>144:</b> 2 Kgs 5:14-17          2 Tim 2:8-13          Luke 17:11-19</p>	<p><b><i>The Rescue Project: Chapter Four – It Gets Worse</i></b></p> <p>C8612A: What it Means to Be Saved          C8009A: What is the Kingdom of God?          C9305A: The “Last Things:” Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell</p> <p><b>NOTE: There is no session next week (October 15/16)</b></p>
<p><b>October 22/23:</b>  <b>30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (C)</b></p> <p><b>150:</b> Sir 35:12-14, 16-18          2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18          Luke 18:9-14</p>	<p><b><i>The Rescue Project: Chapter Five – What Has God Done About It</i></b></p> <p>C1109A: A Walk Through the Mass: Why We Do What We Do          C1211A: Nine Reasons for Going to Mass          C9010A: The Lectionary: Heart of the Bible</p>
<p><b>October 29/30:</b>  <b>31<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Time (C)</b></p> <p><b>153:</b> Wis 11:22-12:2          2 Thess 1:11-2:2          Luke 19:1-10</p>	<p><b><i>The Rescue Project: Chapter Six – What Difference Does It Make?</i></b></p> <p>C0505A: The Communion of Saints</p>

<p><b>November 5/6:</b> <b>32<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Time (C)</b></p> <p><b>156:</b> 2 Macc 7:1-2, 9-14 2 Thess 2:16-3:5 Luke 20:27-38</p>	<p><b><i>The Rescue Project: Chapter Seven – Words Are Not Enough</i></b></p> <p>C8803A: Infallibility and Church Authority C0106A: How the Spirit Guides the Church</p>
<p><b>November 12/13:</b> <b>33<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Time (C)</b></p> <p><b>159:</b> Mal 3:19-20a 2 Thess 3:7-12 Luke 21:5-19</p>	<p><b><i>The Rescue Project: Chapter Eight – What Does God Want From Me?</i></b></p> <p>C0308A: The Rosary: A Prayer for All Seasons C1312A: The Liturgy of the Hours C9307A: The Sacramentals</p>
<p><b>November 19/20:</b> <b><i>Christ the King (C)</i></b></p> <p><b>162:</b> 2 Sam 5:1-3 Col 1:12-20 Luke 23:35-43</p>	<p><b><i>The Rescue Project: Chapter Nine – Getting Clarity on the Mission</i></b></p> <p>C8505A: What Does it Mean to “Be Church?” C1412A: Many Faces, One Church C1707A: We Are Today’s Apostles</p> <p><i>Those taking part in the OCI Rite of Acceptance and Welcome MUST have forms submitted and at least one Interview by this date!</i></p>
<p><b>Saturday, December 3</b></p>	<p><b>CATECHUMENATE BEGINS</b></p> <p><b><i>Inquirer &amp; Sponsor Day of Reflection:</i></b> <b><i>Faith &amp; Family Center, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</i></b></p> <p>OCI Minor Rites, Catechumenate and Dismissals Explained</p> <p><b><i>Rite of Acceptance &amp; Welcome, 4:00 p.m. Mass, with Dismissal</i></b></p>
<p><b>December 3/4:</b> <b>II Advent (Year A)</b></p> <p><b>4:</b> Isa 11:1-10 Rom 15:4-9 Matt 3:1-12</p>	<p><b>What is the “Church Year?”</b></p> <p>C1195A: The Liturgical Year: How Christians Celebrate Time <i>Handout: The Year of Grace Calendar 2023</i></p>
<p><b>December 10/11:</b> <b>III Advent (A)</b></p> <p><b>7:</b> Isa 35:1-6a, 10 Jas 5:7-10 Matt 11:2-11</p>	<p><b>Church History, Part I</b></p> <p>C8706A: Ten Peak Moments of Church History C0100: The Christian Family Tree</p>
<p><b>December 17/18:</b> <b>IV Advent (A)</b></p> <p><b>10:</b> Isa 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Matt 1:18-24</p>	<p><b>Church History, Part II</b></p> <p>C1301A: Ten Achievements of Vatican II C0905: Treasures of Vatican II: Our Compass for the Future</p> <p><b>(N.B.: There are no sessions during Christmas/Epiphany Break)</b></p>
<p><b>January 7/8, 2023:</b> <b><i>Epiphany (A)</i></b></p> <p><b>20:</b> Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Matt 2:1-12</p>	<p><b>Four Marks of the Church, Part I - Oneness and Holiness</b></p> <p>C8803A: Infallibility and Church Authority C0106A: How the Spirit Guides the Church C8505A: What Does it Mean to “Be Church?”</p>



<p><b>January 14/15:</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Time (A)</b></p> <p><b>64:</b> Is 49:3, 5-6 1 Cor 1:1-3 John 1:29-34</p>	<p><b>Four Marks of the Church, Part II - Catholicity and Apostolicity</b></p> <p>C1082: The Roman Curia – How the Church is Run C0904: Nine Things That Make Us Catholic</p>
<p><b>January 21/22:</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Time (A)</b></p> <p><b>67:</b> Is 8:23b-9:3 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 Matt 4:12-23</p>	<p><b>Seventy-three Books of the Bible, Part I – The Old Testament</b></p> <p>C8904: The Whole Bible at a Glance</p> <p><b>N.B.:</b> This Sunday has been declared <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i> by Pope Francis (cf. Apostolic Decree <i>Aperuit Illis</i>)</p>
<p><b>January 28/29</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (A)</b></p> <p><b>70:</b> Zeph 2:3 – 3:12-13 1 Cor 1:26-31 Matt 5:1-12a</p>	<p><b>Seventy-three Books of the Bible, Part II – The New Testament</b></p>
<p><b>February 4/5:</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (A)</b></p> <p><b>73:</b> Is 58:7-10 1 Cor 2:1-5 Matt 5:13-16</p>	<p><b>Three Sacraments of Initiation</b></p> <p>C9508A: What Are Sacraments? C0103A: Sacraments of Initiation: Sacraments of Invitation C0607A: Baptism: Our Lifelong Call C9510A: Confirmation: A Deepening of Christian Identity</p>
<p><b>February 11/12:</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (A)</b></p> <p><b>76:</b> Sir 15:16-21 1 Cor 2:6-10 Matt 5:17-37</p>	<p><b>Two Sacraments of Healing</b></p> <p>C0906A: The Sacrament of Reconciliation C1602A: Reconciliation: Coming Home to God C9601A: Anointing of the Sick: A Parish Sacrament</p>
<p><b>February 18/19:</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (A)</b></p> <p><b>79:</b> Lev 19:1-2, 17-18 1 Cor 3:16-23 Matt 5:38-48</p>	<p><b><i>Anointing of the Catechumens, 11:00 a.m. Mass, w/Dismissal</i></b></p> <p><b>Two Sacraments of Service</b></p> <p>C1612A: Being a Permanent Deacon C9707A: Sacrament of Orders: Priesthood in Transition C9605A: Sacrament of Marriage: Sign of Faithful Love C1506A: In Defense of Traditional Marriage</p>
<p><b>February 22:</b> <b><i>Ash Wednesday</i></b></p> <p><b>219:</b> Joel 2:12-18 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Matt 6:1-6, 16-18</p>	<p><b>LENT: PERIOD OF PURIFICATION &amp; ENLIGHTENMENT BEGINS</b></p> <p><b>7:30 p.m. Mass: With distribution of Ashes, with Dismissal</b></p> <p>C0402A: Ash Wednesday: Our Shifting Understanding of Lent C0502A: In the Desert With Jesus: Biblical Themes of Lent C9002A: Lent: A 40-Day Retreat</p>
<p><b>February 25/26:</b> <b>I Lent (A)</b></p> <p><b>22:</b> Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7 Rom 5:12-19 Matt 4:1-11 (Temptation)</p>	<p><b><i>Rite of Sending, 11:00 a.m. Mass, w/Dismissal</i></b></p> <p><b>A Morally Complex World – Part One</b></p> <p>C8909A: The Ten Commandments: Sounds of Love from Sinai C9701A: Understanding Sin Today C8212A: Your Conscience and Church Teaching</p> <p><b><i>Rite of Election, 7:00 p.m., St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville</i></b></p>

<p><b>March 4/5:</b> <b>II Lent (A)</b></p> <p><b>25:</b> Gen 12:1-4a 2 Tim 1:8b-10 Matt 17:1-9 (Transfiguration)</p>	<p><b>A Morally Complex World – Part Two</b></p> <p>C9011: 100 Years of Catholic Social Teaching C9207: How Should We Think About the Poor</p>
<p><b>March 11/12:</b> <b>III Lent (A)</b></p> <p><b>28:</b> Ex 17:3-7 Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 John 4:5-42 (Samaritan Woman)</p>	<p><b><i>The First Scrutiny &amp; The Presentation of the Creed: 9:00 a.m. Mass, w/Dismissal</i></b></p> <p><b>A Morally Complex World – Part Three</b></p> <p>C0892: Human Sexuality: “Gift” and “Awesome Responsibility” C9509: The Gospel of Life C0806: End of Life Ethics</p>
<p><b>March 18/19:</b> <b>IV Lent (A)</b></p> <p><b>31:</b> 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13a Eph 5:8-14 John 9:1-41 (Man Born Blind)</p>	<p><b><i>The Second Scrutiny: 5:00 p.m. Mass, w/Dismissal</i></b></p> <p><b>One Lord’s Prayer</b></p> <p>C9612: Our Father: The Prayer Jesus Taught</p>
<p><b>Saturday, March 25:</b> <b>V Lent (A)</b></p> <p><b>34:</b> Ezek 37:12-14 Rom 8:8-11 John 11:1-45</p>	<p><b><i>The Third Scrutiny &amp; Presentation of the Lord’s Prayer: 4:00 p.m. Mass, w/Dismissal</i></b></p>
<p><b>Monday, March 27</b> <b>Tuesday, March 28</b></p>	<p><b><i>Parish Lenten Mission (w/ Deacon Greg Kandra)</i></b></p> <p><b>Conferences at 7:00 p.m., in Church</b></p> <p><b>Social follows each conference in the Faith &amp; Family Center</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday, March 29</b></p>	<p><b>Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service, 7:00 p.m., in Church</b></p>
<p><b>April 1/2:</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY (A)</b></p> <p><b>38:</b> (Matt 21:1-11) Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Matt 26:14-27:66</p>	<p><b>Four Last Things</b></p> <p>C9305: The Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell C9404: Our Holiest Week C0802: Agony in the Garden: Understanding the Passion of Jesus</p>

## THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

**Holy Thursday:** *Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper*..... April 6, 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday:** *Service of the Lord's Passion*..... April 7, 7:00 p.m.

**Holy Saturday:** *Rehearsal for Easter Vigil*..... April 8, 10:00 a.m.  
*Recitation of the Creed* following rehearsal

**VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION** ..... **April 8, 8:30 p.m.**

All arrive (w/sponsors) no later than 7:30 p.m.

*A reception immediately follows the Easter Vigil.*

### EASTER: MYSTAGOGY BEGINS

Neophytes (newly baptized and confirmed Catholics) and their families are invited to experience deeper encounters with Christ and His Church, discuss their Easter experiences and learn more about moving into a life of *missionary discipleship* within the parish community.

**Mystagogy sessions meet after the 9:00 a.m. Mass**

**April 22/23:** **Being Called**  
**Easter III (A)**

**46:** Acts 2:14, 22-33  
 1 Peter 1:17-21  
 Luke 24:13-35

**April 29/30:** **Being Formed**  
**Easter IV (A)**

**49:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
 1 Peter 2:20b-25  
 John 10:1-10

**May 6/7:** **Being Sent: PILGRIMAGE**  
**Easter V (A)**

**52:** Acts 6:1-7  
 1 Peter 2:4-9  
 John 14:1-12

**May 20/21:** **Mass of the Neophytes, with Bishop Earl Fernandes**  
**Pentecost Sunday (A)** **St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus (Time TBA)**

**63:** Acts 2:1-11  
 1 Cor 12:3b-7,12-13  
 John 20:19-23