

# Saint John Neumann Catholic Church

## Order of Christian Initiation

Sunday afternoons, SJN Faith & Family Center, Upper Level

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OCI Online: <http://saintjohnsunbury.org/becoming-catholic>

### What is the OCI?

How do people learn about the Catholic Church and choose to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist? This is part of the mission of our parish community - to welcome, form and equip disciples of Jesus Christ, in the fullness of the Roman Catholic tradition.

**The Order of Christian Initiation is not a “process,” or a “program” or even a “class.”**

It's an *order* of the Church – with its own unique set of rituals and stages – which comes from the ancient *catechumenate* that existed in the centuries that 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 of accompaniment, apprenticeship and discipleship was re-introduced into Church practice in 1974, made normative throughout the entire Church in 1988 and revised in 2021. All Catholic parishes have this ministry 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 the Parish School of Religion), to obtain their religious formation.



### What can I expect?

OCI will help a participant to:

- 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 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.
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## 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 Entrance* or *Rite of Welcome*, there is a public commitment. Over time, committed 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 registered or 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 Catechumenate sessions and the Minor Rites, which are not “options.”** 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.**

According to our custom, those preparing for Baptism will need at least *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!

## What does it look like?

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.



## **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 Entrance & 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 Entrance 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**

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent (which in 2024 is on February 14). On the following Sunday we celebrate a *Rite of Sending* at the parish as a way of recognizing the candidates and sending the Catechumens to the Bishop for their admission to the final period of preparation for Baptism.

That diocesan celebration, led by the Bishop as the head of our local Church, involves those from SJN and every Catholic parish in the local Church. It is there that 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. Things begin to take on a more intense feel going forward. We always say, “There *will* be drama!”

### **Lent: 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 year.

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

A *Sponsor* is a mature Catholic in good standing who commits to being 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.

### A qualified prospective Sponsor will:

- Be a registered and actively contributing parishioner of St. John Neumann,
- Have received all the Sacraments of Initiation,
- Be no younger than 16 years of age,
- Not the Inquirer’s parent or step-parent,
- Be in good standing within the Church, and
- Commit to accompanying all sessions with the Inquirer.

Sponsors and participants form a tight, supportive group over time and partnership becomes critical as time goes by. It’s a considerable commitment to be sure, and not for everybody. If a prospective Sponsor’s personal schedule will result in multiple times away (“Snowbirds,” sports involvement, etc.), it might be better for that person to consider another role in the Inquirer’s path through OCI.

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 might also be sponsored by their Catholic spouses. Members of the OCI Team do not act as Sponsors, as their responsibilities are different.

## What does 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 have an open invitation to attend. Our sessions include four parts, designed for you, the group, and the topics we'll cover.

- (1.) **Checking In, Gathering, and a Meal.**
- (2.) **"Housekeeping."**
- (3.) **Brief video-based segment, Teaching, a short break, and "Q&A"**
- (4.) **Prayer Time – for you, for others, and for the whole Church.**

Sessions will feature video segments from *Sycamore*, a video-based series aimed at faith formation for adults. These may be discussed during the session, and available online to add depth to what's been discussed; they are listed along with discussion topics and relevant dates, found on the following 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, unbaptized children aged 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.

## Understanding the Sacrament of Matrimony

As Inquirers first meet with the OCI Team, they will be asked to discuss their relationship with the Church, including their understanding of the Sacraments, which includes Matrimony. Preparing an Inquirer's existing marriage to be blessed by the Church must happen before proceeding further.

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 has been previously married, should be ready to discuss their situation and how to proceed. The OCI Director will discuss the Tribunal process, a ministry offered at absolutely no cost, usually taking 9-12 months 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, 2023-24

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

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| <b>September 10, 2023:</b><br><b>23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Time</b><br><b>(Lectionary – Year A)</b><br><br><b>127:</b> Ezek 33: 7-9<br>Rom 13:8-10<br>Matt 18: 15-20 | <b>INQUIRY PERIOD BEGINS</b><br><br><b>The Rescue Project: <i>Why Stories Are Important</i></b><br><br><b><i>Inquirer Interviews during session</i></b><br><i>During session time, Team Members speak with Inquirers, review their paperwork, and help them locate a suitable Sponsor if needed.</i> |
| <b>September 17:</b><br><b>24<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (A)</b><br><br><b>130:</b> Sir 27:30—28:7<br>Rom 14:7-9<br>Matt 18:21-35                                   | <b>The Rescue Project: <i>Why Is There Something Rather Than Nothing?</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>September 24:</b><br><b>25<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (A)</b><br><br><b>133:</b> Is 55:6-9<br>Phil 1:20c-24, 27a<br>Matt 20:1-16a                                | <b>The Rescue Project: <i>The Enemy Is the Enemy</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>October 1:</b><br><b>26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (A)</b><br><br><b>136:</b> Ez 18:25-28<br>Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5<br>Matt 21:28-32                               | <b>The Rescue Project: <i>It Gets Worse</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>October 8:</b><br><b>27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (A)</b><br><br><b>139:</b> Is 5:1-7<br>Phil 4:6-9<br>Matt 21:33-43                                            | <b>The Rescue Project: <i>What if Anything Has God Done About It?</i></b><br><b>(N.B.: There is no session next week due to the BWLS long weekend.)</b>                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>October 22:</b><br><b>29<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (C)</b><br><br><b>145:</b> Is 45:1, 4-6<br>1 Thes 1:1-5b<br>Matt 22:15-21                                    | <b>The Rescue Project: <i>What Difference Does It Make?</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Saturday, October 28:</b><br><b>30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (A)</b><br><br><b>148:</b> Ex 22:20-26<br>1 Thes 1:5c-10<br>Matt 22:34-40                          | <b>The Rescue Project:</b><br><b><i>Retreat, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Faith &amp; Family Center</i></b><br><br><b><i>Words Are Not Enough</i></b><br><br><b><i>What Does God Want from Me?</i></b>                                                                                                     |

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| <p><b>November 5:</b><br/><b>31<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Time (A)</b></p> <p><b>151:</b> Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10<br/>1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13<br/>Matt 23:1-12</p>           | <p><b>The Rescue Project: <i>Getting Clarity on The Mission</i></b><br/><i>(Those taking part in the Rite of Entrance and Welcome MUST have forms submitted and at least one Interview by this date!)</i></p>                                                                                          |
| <p><b>November 12:</b><br/><b>32<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Time (A)</b></p> <p><b>154:</b> Wis 6:12-16<br/>1 Thes 4:13-18<br/>Matt 25:1-13</p>                      | <p><b>CATECHUMENATE PERIOD BEGINS</b><br/><b><i>Rite of Entrance &amp; Welcome, 11:00 a.m. Mass</i></b><br/><b>Life Groups: Forming Christian Communities</b></p>                                                                                                                                      |
| <p><b>November 19:</b><br/><b>33<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Time (A)</b></p> <p><b>157:</b> Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31<br/>1 Thes 5:1-6<br/>Mt 25:14-30</p>          | <p><b>Sycamore: <i>The Bible</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #11 - #19)</b></p> <p>What is the Bible?<br/>Can we trust the Bible?<br/>How the Bible can change your life.<br/><i>Handout: The Year of Grace Calendar 2024</i></p> <p><b>(N.B.: No session next week – Thanksgiving weekend)</b></p> |
| <p><b>December 3: I Advent</b><br/><b>(Lectionary Year B)</b></p> <p><b>2:</b> Isa 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7<br/>1 Cor 1:3-9<br/>Mark 13:33-37</p>                 | <p><b>Sycamore: <i>The Power of Prayer</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #469 - #489)</b></p> <p>What is prayer?<br/>Does prayer make a difference?<br/>How to pray.</p>                                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>December 10:</b><br/><b>II Advent (B)</b></p> <p><b>5:</b> Is 40:1-5, 9-11<br/>2 Pt 3:8-14<br/>Mark 1:1-8</p>                                             | <p><b>Sycamore: <i>The Light of Christ</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #26 - #40)</b></p> <p>The Christian Creed.<br/>The light of Christ.<br/>The Holy Trinity.</p>                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>December 17:</b><br/><b>III Advent (B)</b><br/><b><i>Gaudete Sunday</i></b></p> <p><b>8:</b> Is 61:1-2a, 10-11<br/>1 Thes 5:16-24<br/>Jn 1:6-8, 19-28</p> | <p><b>Sycamore: <i>Creation, Fall, Salvation</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #41 - 70)</b></p> <p>The goodness of creation.<br/>Suffering and sin.<br/>The gift of salvation.</p> <p><b>(N.B.: There are no sessions during Christmas Break.)</b></p>                                               |
| <p><b>January 7, 2024:</b><br/><b>Epiphany of the Lord (B)</b></p> <p><b>20:</b> Is 60: 1-6<br/>Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6<br/>Matthew 2:1-12</p>                          | <p><b>Sycamore: <i>The Community of the Church</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs 129 - #144)</b></p> <p>Why do we need the Church?<br/>The special place of the Catholic Church.<br/>Being Catholic today.</p>                                                                                        |



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| <p><b>January 14:</b><br/><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Time (B)</b></p> <p><b>65:</b> 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19<br/>1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20<br/>John 1:35-42</p> | <p><b>Sycamore: <i>Finding True Freedom</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #291 - #298; #343 – 351)</b></p> <p>Is there such a thing as right and wrong?<br/>Where can we find moral guidance?<br/>How do you discover your true identity?</p>                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p><b>January 21:</b><br/><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Time (B)</b></p> <p><b>68:</b> Jon 3:1-5, 10<br/>1 Cor 7:29-31<br/>Mark 1:14-20</p>             | <p><b>Sycamore: <i>The Meaning of Love</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #321 - #342; #359 - #366)</b></p> <p>What is love?<br/>How to love your neighbor.<br/>Knowing the love of God.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>January 28:</b><br/><b>4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (B)</b></p> <p><b>71:</b> Dt 18:15-20<br/>1 Cor 7:32-35<br/>Mark 1:21-28</p>               | <p><b>Sycamore: <i>The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #166 - 192)</b></p> <p>The liturgy and the Sacraments – an overview.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p><b>February 4:</b><br/><b>5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (B)</b></p> <p><b>74:</b> Job 7:1-4, 6-7<br/>1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23<br/>Mk 1:29-39</p>       | <p><b>Anointing of the Catechumens, 11:00 a.m. Mass</b></p> <p><b>Sycamore: <i>The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #193 - #207; #310 - #311)</b></p> <p>The power of the sacraments and the liturgy.<br/>How Baptism can change your life.<br/>Confirmation and the gift of the Holy Spirit.</p>                                                                          |
| <p><b>February 11:</b><br/><b>6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (B)</b></p> <p><b>77:</b> Sir 15:16-21<br/>1 Cor 2:6-10<br/>Matt 5:17-37</p>              | <p><b>Sycamore: <i>The Holy Eucharist</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #208 - #223)</b></p> <p>The meaning of the Mass.<br/>The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.<br/>The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p><b>February 14:</b><br/><b>Ash Wednesday</b></p> <p><b>219:</b> Joel 2:12-18<br/>2 Cor 5:20-6:2<br/>Matt 6:1-6, 16-18</p>                         | <p><b>PURIFICATION &amp; ENLIGHTENMENT PERIOD BEGINS</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>February 18:</b><br/><b>I Lent (B)</b></p> <p><b>23:</b> Gen 9:8-15<br/>1 Pt 3:18-22<br/>Mark 1:12-15</p>                                      | <p><b>Parish Rite of Sending, 9:00 a.m. Mass</b></p> <p><b>Sycamore: <i>Forgiveness, Healing and Mission</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #312 – 320; #224 - #247)</b></p> <p>Forgiveness and the Sacrament of Confession.<br/>Healing and the Sacrament of the Sick.<br/>Christian mission and the call to share our faith.</p> <p><b>Diocesan Rite of Election, 2:00 p.m., St. Paul Church, Westerville</b></p> |

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| <p><b>February 25:</b><br/><b>II Lent (B)</b></p> <p><b>26:</b> Gen 22:1-2, 9a,<br/>10-13, 15-18<br/>Rom 8:31b-34<br/>Mark 9:2-10</p>                             | <p><b>Sycamore: <i>The Christian Vocations</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #145; #248 - #271; #400 - #425)</b></p> <p>The meaning of vocation.<br/>Marriage and family life.<br/>Love, sexuality, chastity, and the gift of children.<br/>Ordination and consecrated life.</p>                                                                                |
| <p><b>Saturday, March 2:</b><br/><b>III Lent (B)</b></p> <p><b>29:</b> Ex 20:1-7<br/>1 Cor 1:22-25<br/>John 2:13-25</p>                                           | <p><b>Lenten Day of Reflection</b><br/><b>9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Faith &amp; Family Center</b><br/><b><i>Pre-Lenten Interviews during this Retreat</i></b></p> <p><b><i>The First Scrutiny &amp; The Presentation of the Creed - 4:00 p.m. Mass</i></b></p>                                                                                                      |
| <p><b>March 10</b><br/><b>IV Lent (B)</b><br/><b><i>Lætare Sunday</i></b></p> <p><b>32:</b> 2 Chr 36:14-16,<br/>19-23<br/>Eph 2:4-10<br/>John 3:14-21</p>         | <p><b><i>The Second Scrutiny - 11:00 a.m. Mass</i></b></p> <p><b>Sycamore: <i>The Social Teaching of the Church</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #367 - #399; #426 - 461)</b></p> <p>The dignity of the human person and the right to life.<br/>Christian teaching about family, society and citizenship.<br/>Speaking the truth and following conscience.</p> |
| <p><b>March 17:</b><br/><b>V Lent (B)</b></p> <p><b>35:</b> Jer 31:31-34<br/>Heb 5:7-9<br/>John 12:20-33</p>                                                      | <p><b><i>The Third Scrutiny &amp; Presentation of the Lord's Prayer - 9:00 a.m. Mass</i></b></p> <p><b>Sycamore: <i>How to Pray</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #490 - #527)</b></p> <p>The amazing adventure of prayer.<br/>Four basic ways of praying.<br/>Prayers and devotions to help you through the day.</p>                                           |
| <p><b>Sunday, March 17</b><br/><b>Monday, March 18</b><br/><b>Tuesday, March 19</b></p>                                                                           | <p><b>Parish Lenten Mission - Conferences, 7:00 p.m., in Church</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><b>Wednesday, March 20</b></p>                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>Parish Lenten Penance Service, 7:00 p.m., in Church</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>March 24:</b><br/><b>PALM SUNDAY (B)</b></p> <p><b>37:</b> Mark 11:1-10<br/>(w/Procession)<br/><b>38:</b> Is 50:4-7<br/>Phil 2:6-11<br/>Mark 14:1-15:47</p> | <p><b>Sycamore: <i>Mary and the hope of Heaven</i></b><br/><b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #146 - #165)</b></p> <p>Death, judgment, and our longing for eternal life.<br/>Holiness, the saints, and our hope for Heaven.<br/>What Catholics believe about the Blessed Virgin Mary.</p>                                                                                    |

## THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

**Holy Thursday:** *Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper* – March 28, 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday:** *Service of the Lord's Passion* – March 29, 7:00 p.m.

**Holy Saturday:** *Rehearsal & Setup for Easter Vigil* – March 30, 10:00 a.m., in Church  
*Recitation of the Creed*, immediately following Rehearsal

### VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD: MARCH 30, 8:00 p.m.

Elect and Candidates arrive with Sponsors **no later than 7:00 p.m.**

*A reception begins at 10:00 p.m. for Neophytes, Sponsors, Team Members, Families & Guests.*

**April 14:**  
**Easter III (B)**

#### MYSTAGOGY PERIOD BEGINS

**Being Called**

**47:** Acts 3:13-15, 17-19  
1 John 2:1-5a  
Luke 24:35-48

**April 28:**  
**Easter V (B)**

**Being Formed**

**53:** Acts 9:26-31  
1 John 3:18-24  
John 15:1-8

**May 19:**  
**Pentecost Sunday (B)**

**Being Sent**

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