

# Order of Christian Initiation

Saint John Neumann Catholic Church, 2024-2025

Sessions: Sundays, in the SJN Faith & Family Center

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Online: <http://saintjohnsunbury.org/oci>

## What is the OCI?

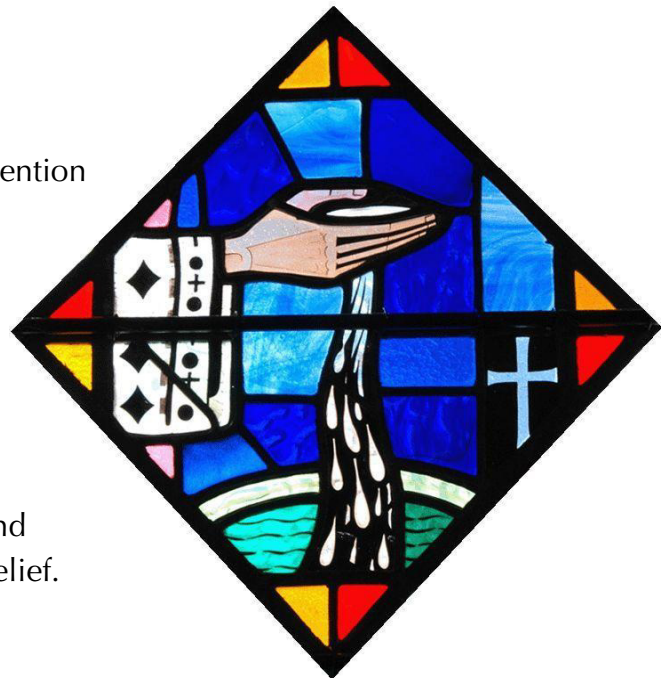
The **Order of Christian Initiation** is how people can learn about the Christian faith and enter the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. The OCI is not a “process,” or a “program,” or a “class.” This is a ministry, and part of the Mission of our parish to lead people to a transformative encounter with Jesus Christ in the Roman Catholic tradition.

Participants are usually adults. Those between seven and fifteen years of age can take part according to their own needs, so long as they obtain adequate religious formation through either the SJN *Family of Faith* program, or a Catholic school.

## What can I expect?

Formation in OCI will help the participant to:

- bring about a “conversion experience,” with an intention to change their life and enter a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ,
- develop the practice of calling upon God in prayer, as an individual and part of the assembly,
- experience the beginnings of spiritual life,
- experience the life of the parish community,
- identify what is a personal “sense of Church,”
- understand and explain basic Catholic teaching, and
- obtain a basic understanding of Roman Catholic belief.



## What does it look like?

### Discernment

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

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## The Period of Inquiry

The formal Inquiry can start at any time – when the Holy Spirit moves a person. We receive new Inquirers with a “rolling entry,” throughout the year. 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 sessions at any time of the year. OCI participants continue until they are ready to take the next step at a time appropriate for them and the community. They are learning in God’s good time, not ours!*

## The Church & Your Marriage

An initial interview with the OCI Director will ensure, among other things, that Inquirers know about their present relationship with the Church. That includes their understanding of the laws of the Church about our Sacraments, which includes Matrimony.

- Those engaged to be married will be shown how OCI can work in tandem with – but *never* secondary to – the wedding preparations. OCI can take place during the course of pre-marital preparation (Pre-Cana/Mentor Couples/NFP) as required by the Diocese.
- Those who have been previously married, or currently engaged/married to a spouse with a prior marriage, should be ready to discuss their situation.

Preparing an Inquirer’s marriage to be blessed by the Church (convalidated) *must happen before* reception of the Sacraments. Working with the Parish and the Diocesan Tribunal requires an investment of time. Please carefully consider this process, offered at no charge, before making future plans. Please feel free to contact the Director at any time with questions, or for support.

## 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” (n. 41). This completes the first stage of Christian Initiation, and opens the door to the second.

Those already baptized as Christians in another tradition (even 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 in Baptism, even though they may not yet be ready to share the Eucharist. Baptized Candidates are always considered distinct from unbaptized Catechumens, because of the “one baptism” we as Catholics profess to share.

## **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. The word is derived from a term in Greek meaning “to echo back” something that has been taught. There are two groups at this point: *Catechumens* who are unbaptized, and *Candidates* who are already baptized. They may be joined throughout the year by newer Inquirers, and those already Catholic and wanting to resume their own initiation or continue their own formation.

During this time – which can be different for everyone - 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 parish volunteer or member of the Parish Staff) to discuss the Scriptures they heard proclaimed at Mass (the readings for Mass are listed in the Schedule; see below). This 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.

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 relationship with the parish community, of which they are seeking to be a part. When they have experienced a true conversion to the Christian way of life, they celebrate the next 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 2025 is on March 5). This is a diocesan celebration, led by our Bishop – the head of our local Church – and involves those from every Catholic parish in the local church.

Qualified 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, they will have celebrated a *Rite of Sending* at a Mass at the parish, as a way of recognizing their admission to the final period of preparation.

## **The Period of 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 end, the Evangelization Director and Evangelization Team will meet to ensure that each participant has submitted their basic personal information to be entered into the Parish Sacramental Records. They will also help to answer any questions and reduce any pre-celebratory anxieties. As with any big moment in a person’s life, there is usually “drama,” and we want to make sure everyone involved is at ease and confident with what happens next.

Lent comes to an end when the sacred *Triduum* – the “three days” of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter – begins at sunset of Thursday of Holy Week. Finally, 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**

At some time after dark on Holy Saturday, the Elect and Candidates receive 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 through the Easter season, during the period of *Mystagogy*. The comes from an ancient Greek word meaning a new and deeper understanding of the mysteries of our faith.

During this 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 *Mystagogy* 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 a fuller 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.

## **Our Sunday Sessions**

Sessions are open for *anyone* in our parish to attend, for their own faith formation and getting to meet and know those who are making their way to the Sacraments. The OCI is a *parish ministry*, and the parish is called to share in the task of preparing new Catholics.

Those who are just starting out and wanting to ask basic questions can visit us as well. Inquirers should anticipate taking part in the Sunday sessions once they have committed to deeper learning and all that follows.

After receiving the Sacraments, anyone 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 will be required 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.

**Formation takes time. According to our custom, those preparing for Baptism could need a full calendar year or more of continual progress and experience in the life of our Church.** Those already baptized who have a prior religious background may need less time, depending on their circumstances. Practicing (or returning) Catholics wanting to complete their Initiation may take their own time as well.

All participants are expected to:

- **Become an active member in our parish.** Registration into SJN should take place as soon as possible if the Inquirer is not already part of a registered family.
- **Attend regular Sunday Mass,** as it is the most fundamental way to come to know what it means to be Catholic.
- **Attend all sessions and Rites as scheduled.** If a situation occurs where absences result, the Director and the individual participant/Sponsor will need to evaluate what is happening, and what will need to be done. *Prospective Sponsors should consider this obligation carefully before making the commitment for the duration of OCI.*
- **Attend all Retreats and Days of Reflection,** when they are offered.

*Sponsors* will, once they are assigned a Candidate or Catechumen, be expected to attend a Sponsor Orientation and assist the OCI Team as needed throughout the year.

## What, exactly, is the role of the Sponsor?

A *Sponsor* is a Catholic in good standing who is willing to be a companion to an Inquirer, Candidate or Catechumen over the time that formation in the OCI takes place. As they are 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 are 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 the partnership becomes critical as time goes by. It is 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's better that the person considers another role.

**A Sponsor must be a registered, active parishioner of St. John Neumann at least 17 years of age and who 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.

Fitness to serve as a Sponsor is determined by the Director with the help of the OCI Team. 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 Evangelization Team cannot act as Sponsors, as their responsibilities within OCI are different.

## How about younger participants, and small children?

Our Church considers a child at age seven to be "of catechetical age," that is, someone 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*). Older children who can follow the material in the larger group of OCI participants at the Sunday sessions are encouraged to do so, accompanied by a parent and/or their Sponsor.

Children involved in OCI must also be enrolled in either the *Family of Faith* program, or an accredited 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. **OCI is not a shortcut to Sacraments, and Confirmation is never graduation!** Please contact the Director for PSR enrollment details and expectations.

For small children, we gladly provide childcare during sessions for Team Members, Candidates and Sponsors. Our helpers are trained in First Aid and certified in *Protecting God's Children* as required. Child Care is provided 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.

# 2024 - 2025 OCI Session Schedule

## Lectionary readings, Session Topics, Events & Minor Rites

<p><b>September 7/8:</b> <b>23<sup>rd</sup> Week of Ordinary Time (Lectionary Cycle B)</b></p> <p>128: Is 35:4-7a Jas 2:1-5 Mark 7:31-37</p>	<p><b>INQUIRY SESSIONS BEGIN</b></p> <p><b>The Rescue Project:</b> <i>Why Stories Are Important</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Session Scheduling Note:</b> In September and October 2024, sessions featuring the episodes of <i>The Rescue Project</i> will take place after the 9:00 a.m. Mass (10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.). Participation in this series counts as Inquiry for those who wish to participate in sessions of OCI after the 11:00 a.m. Mass (12:15 – 2:00 p.m.), which begin November 3.</p>
<p><b>September 14/15:</b> <b>24<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time</b></p> <p>131: Is 50:4-9a Jas 2:14-18 Mark 8:27-35</p>	<p><b>The Rescue Project:</b> <i>Why Is There Something Rather Than Nothing?</i></p>
<p><b>September 21/22:</b> <b>25<sup>th</sup> OT (B)</b></p> <p>134: Wis 2:12, 17-20 Jas 3:16-4:3 Mark 9:30-37</p>	<p><b>The Rescue Project:</b> <i>The Enemy Is the Enemy</i></p>
<p><b>September 28/29:</b> <b>26<sup>th</sup> OT (B)</b></p> <p>137: Num 11:25-29 Jas 5:1-6 Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48</p>	<p><b>The Rescue Project:</b> <i>It Gets Worse</i></p>
<p><b>October 5/6:</b> <b>27<sup>th</sup> OT (B)</b></p> <p>140: Gen 2:18-24 Heb 2:9-11 Mark 10:2-16</p>	<p><b>The Rescue Project:</b> <i>What if Anything Has God Done About It?</i></p>
<p><b>October 12/13:</b> <b>28<sup>th</sup> OT (B)</b></p> <p>143: Wis 7:7-11 Heb 4:12-13 Mark 10:17-30</p>	<p><b>The Rescue Project:</b> <i>What Difference Does It Make?</i></p> <p><b>(N.B.:</b> There is no OCI session next week due to the BWLS/OLSD long weekend.)</p>

<b>Saturday, October 26</b>	<b>The Rescue Project:</b> <b>Retreat, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Faith &amp; Family Center</b> <b>Words Are Not Enough</b> <b>What Does God Want from Me?</b> <b>Getting Clarity on The Mission</b>
<i>Handouts:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• YOUCAT (The <i>Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>)</li><li>• Sycamore: <i>The Catholic Faith Explained</i></li></ul>	
<b>October 26/27:</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> OT (B)</b>	<b>Life Groups: Forming Christian Communities</b>
149: Jer 31:7-9 Heb 5:1-6 Mark 10:46-52	
<b>November 2/3:</b> <b>31<sup>st</sup> OT (B)</b>	<b>Rites of Entrance &amp; Welcome, 11:00 a.m. Mass</b> <b>CATECHUMENATE SESSIONS BEGIN</b>
152: Deut 6:2-6 Heb 7:23-28 Mark 12:28b-34	<b>Sycamore:</b> <b>The Bible</b> <b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #11 - #19)</b>  What is the Bible? Can we trust the Bible? How the Bible can change your life.
<b>November 9/10:</b> <b>32<sup>nd</sup> OT (B)</b>	<b>Sycamore:</b> <b>The Power of Prayer</b> <b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #469 - #489)</b>
155: 1 Kgs 17:10-16 Heb 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44	What is prayer? Does prayer make a difference? How to pray.
<b>November 16/17:</b> <b>33<sup>rd</sup> OT (B)</b>	<b>Sycamore:</b> <b>How to Pray</b> <b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #490 - #527)</b>
158: Dan 12:1-3 Heb 10:11-14, 18 Mark 13:24-32	The amazing adventure of prayer. Four basic ways of praying. Prayers and devotions to help you through the day.
<b>November 23/24:</b> <b>CHRIST THE KING</b>	<b>The Roman Liturgical Calendar</b> <i>Handout:</i> The Year of Grace Calendar 2025  <b>(N.B.: There is no session next week due to the Thanksgiving long weekend.)</b>
161: Dan 7:13-14 Rev 1:5-8 John 18:33b-37	



<p><b>December 7/8:</b> <b>Week II of Advent</b> <b>(Lectionary Cycle C)</b></p> <p>6: Bar 5:1-9 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Luke 3:1-6</p>	<p><b>Church History, Part I: Jesus to AD 1600</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday, December 11</b></p>	<p><b>PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE,</b> <b>6:30 p.m., in Church</b></p>
<p><b>December 14/15:</b> <b>III Advent (C)</b></p> <p>9: Zep 3:14-18a Phil 4:4-7 Luke 3:10-18</p>	<p><b>Church History, Part II: AD 1600 to Right Now</b> <b>(N.B.: There are no OCI sessions during the Christmas Break.)</b></p>
<p><b>January 4/5, 2025:</b> <b>EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (C)</b></p> <p>21: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Acts 10:34-38 Luke 3:15-16, 21-22</p>	<p><b>Sycamore:</b> <b><i>The Community of the Church</i></b> <b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs 129 - #144)</b></p> <p>Why do we need the Church? The special place of the Catholic Church. Being Catholic today.</p>
<p><b>January 11/12:</b> <b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)</b></p> <p>21: Is 40:1-5 1 Cor 12:4-11 John 2:1-11</p>	<p><b>Anointing of the Catechumens - 11:00 a.m. Mass</b></p> <p><b>Sycamore:</b> <b><i>The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation</i></b> <b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #193 - #207; #310 - #311)</b></p> <p>The power of the sacraments and the liturgy. How Baptism can change your life. Confirmation and the gift of the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p><b>January 18/19:</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> OT (C)</b></p> <p>66: Is 62:1-5 Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7 Luke 3:15-16, 21-22</p>	<p><b>Sycamore:</b> <b><i>The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation (Part II)</i></b> <b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #193 - #207; #310 - #311)</b></p>
<p><b>January 25/26:</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> OT (C)</b></p> <p>69: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 1 Cor 12:12-30 Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21</p>	<p><b>Sycamore:</b> <b><i>The Holy Eucharist</i></b> <b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #208 - #223)</b></p> <p>The meaning of the Mass. The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.</p>

<p><b>February 1/2: PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (C)</b></p> <p>524: Mal 3:1-4 Heb 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40</p>	<p><b>Sycamore: Creation, Fall, Salvation (YOUCAT: Paragraphs #41 - 70)</b></p> <p>The goodness of creation. Suffering and sin. The gift of salvation.</p>
<p><b>February 8/9: 5<sup>th</sup> OT (C)</b></p> <p>75: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8 1 Cor 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11</p>	<p><b>The Mass, Up Close (Featuring a tour of the Church)</b></p>
<p><b>February 15/16: 6<sup>th</sup> OT (C)</b></p> <p>78: Jer 17:5-8 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20 Luke 6:17, 20-26</p>	<p><b>Sycamore: Forgiveness, Healing and Mission (YOUCAT: Paragraphs #312 – 320; #224 - #247)</b></p> <p>Forgiveness and the Sacrament of Confession. Healing and the Sacrament of the Sick. Christian mission and the call to share our faith.</p>
<p><b>February 22/23: 7<sup>th</sup> OT (C)</b></p> <p>81: 1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 1 Cor 15:45-49 Luke 6:27-38</p>	<p><b>Sycamore: The Christian Vocations (YOUCAT: Paragraphs #145; #248 - #271; #400 - #425)</b></p> <p>The meaning of vocation. Marriage and family life. Love, sexuality, chastity, and the gift of children. Ordination and consecrated life</p>
<p><b>March 1/2 8<sup>th</sup> OT (C)</b></p> <p>84: Sir 27:4-7 1 Cor 15:54-58 Luke 6:39-45</p>	<p><b>Sycamore: Finding True Freedom (YOUCAT: Paragraphs #291 - #298; #343 – 351)</b></p> <p>Is there such a thing as right and wrong? Where can we find moral guidance? How do you discover your true identity?</p>
<p><b>March 5: Ash Wednesday</b></p> <p>219: Joel 2:12-18 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Matt 6:1-6, 16-18</p>	<p><b>PURIFICATION &amp; ENLIGHTENMENT SESSIONS BEGIN</b></p> <p><b>6:30 p.m. Mass: With distribution of Ashes</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday, March 8</b></p> <p><b>Lenten Day of Reflection w/OCI Team, 10:00 – 3:30 p.m., Faith &amp; Family Center</b></p> <p><b>Rite of Sending of Catechumens &amp; Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates: 4:00 p.m. Mass</b></p>	

<p><b>March 8/9:</b> <b>I Lent (C)</b></p> <p>24: Deut 26:4-10 Rom 10:8-13 Luke 4:1-13</p>	<p><b>Diocesan Rite of Election:</b> <b>2:00 p.m., That Church in Westerville</b></p>
<p><b>March 15/16:</b> <b>II Lent (C)</b></p> <p>27: Gen 15:5-12, 17-18 Phil 3:17-4:1 Luke 9:28b-3</p>	<p><b>Sycamore:</b> <b>The Social Teaching of the Church</b> <b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #367 - #399; #426 - 461)</b></p> <p>The dignity of the human person and the right to life. Christian teaching about family, society, and citizenship. Speaking the truth and following conscience</p>
<p><b>March 22/23:</b> <b>III Lent (C)</b></p> <p><i>(N.B.: Cycle "A" readings may apply to Masses with the Scrutinies.)</i></p> <p>30: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 Luke 13:1-9</p>	<p><b>THE FIRST SCRUTINY &amp; PRESENTATION OF THE CREED</b> <b>11:00 a.m. Mass</b></p> <p><b>Sycamore:</b> <b>The Light of Christ</b> <b>(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #26 - #40)</b></p> <p>The Christian Creed. The light of Christ. The Holy Trinity.</p>
<p><b>March 23-25</b> <b>(Sunday – Tuesday)</b></p>	<p><b>LENTEN PARISH MISSION</b> <i>Facilitator: TBA</i></p> <p><i>Conference One:</i> March 23, 6:30 p.m. in Church <i>Conference Two:</i> March 24, 6:30 p.m. in Church <i>Conference Three:</i> March 25, 6:30 p.m. in Church</p>
<p><b>March 29/30:</b> <b>IV Lent (C)</b></p> <p>33: Jos 5:9a, 10-12 2 Cor 5:17-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32</p>	<p><b>THE SECOND SCRUTINY</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Mass</b></p> <p><b>Four Marks of the Church: One, Holy</b></p>
<p><b>April 5/6:</b> <b>V Lent (C)</b></p> <p>36: Is 43:16-21 Phil 3:8-14 John 8:1-11</p>	<p><b>Four Marks of the Church: Catholic, Apostolic</b></p> <p><b>THE THIRD SCRUTINY &amp; PRESENTATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER:</b> <b>5:00 p.m. Mass</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday, April 9</b></p>	<p><b>PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE,</b> <b>6:30 p.m. in Church</b></p>

**April 12/13:  
PALM SUNDAY (C)**

37: Luke 19:28-40  
(w/Procession)  
Is 50:4-7  
Phil 2:6-11  
Luke 22:14-23:56

**Sycamore:**  
*Mary and the hope of Heaven*  
**(YOUCAT: Paragraphs #146 - #165)**

Death, judgment, and our longing for eternal life.  
Holiness, the saints, and our hope for Heaven.  
What Catholics believe about the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## **THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM:**

### **Holy Thursday**

*Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper - April 17, 7:00 p.m.*

### **Good Friday**

*Service of the Lord's Passion - April 18, 7:00 p.m.*

### **Holy Saturday**

*Rehearsal for Easter Vigil - April 19, 10:00 a.m.*  
*Recitation of the Creed, in Church immediately following rehearsal*

## **VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

**Saturday, April 19, 8:30 p.m.**

*All arrive with their sponsors no later than 7:30 p.m.*

*A reception immediately follows the Easter Vigil.*

## **MYSTAGOGY SESSIONS**

**May 18 & June 8, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass, in the Faith & Family Center**

Neophytes – those newly confirmed Catholics – will gather to experience deeper encounters with Christ and His Church, discuss their experiences through the Catechumenate, Purification & Enlightenment and the Vigil itself, and learn more about moving into a life of intentional missionary discipleship.