



## OCIA is about relationship with Jesus

*The OCIA is often described as the process of "becoming Catholic," and that is true at one level. But becoming Catholic is really about becoming Christian or deepening your relationship with Christ as you respond to his call to encounter him in fullness within the Church and her worship.*

*That is why the OCIA process in our parish is focused on Jesus' call to know him, to integrate well into his community, the Church, and to take your place as one of his people in life, service, and mission. The OCIA really is a journey of faith in Jesus Christ, one that is undertaken with friends who will make that journey with you and with plenty of room to ask questions, encounter God, and learn more about what he asks of you at your own pace.*

*Sure, there are some sessions to attend, some important things to do, some videos to watch, and some reading, but everything is designed to help you make the choice to follow Jesus with both head and heart, a choice we know you will never regret, but a choice nevertheless—offered but never imposed.*

### Who is the OCIA for?

The OCIA is for anyone who is seeking to know more about Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. It is also for anyone who is a Christian who has been baptized in another Christian faith tradition and who seeks full communion with the Catholic Church. If you were baptized Catholic and were never confirmed, it is for you too!

### How long does it take?

The journey is different for everyone, and so it takes as long as you need. For most Christians, the journey into the Catholic Church happens within months. For those new to Christian faith, the journey can take a little longer as they come to know Jesus and prepare to accept the grace of baptism into his Church and the commitment that implies.

### What does the OCIA entail?

**A period of inquiry** with the OCIA director or one of our OCIA shepherds as you ask questions, come to understand what the journey will look like, and make sure that you fully desire to make that journey.

**A period as catechumens** (a fancy word for those new to the Christian faith who are preparing for baptism) **or candidates** (baptized Christians preparing for confirmation) during which,

- You will have things to do to help you get to know the people of this parish and begin to become a part of our church community.
- You can begin serving Jesus in and through his church community.
- You will be a part of some rites along the way that help prepare you for each part of your journey and that mark your progress.
- You will watch some videos and study other resources to help you learn more about Jesus and his Church.
- You will attend monthly meetings to study scripture, pray, and discuss things you are learning.
- You will participate in a few special sessions and retreats along the way to help you focus on important special concerns, like the mystery of Jesus and the relationship he seeks with you, prayer, and, reconciliation with God.

**A period of purification and enlightenment** when you are ready to officially prepare for baptism, confirmation, and eucharist.

**A period called mystagogy** when those newly baptized and confirmed reflect on those sacramental experiences and all they mean for their place in the Church and the world.

### When can I start?

Any time. When you sense that God may be speaking to you about taking this step, you are ready (as are we)!

### Who do I talk to to get started?

Visit your parish office and ask for your OCIA director. You are also welcome to ask to talk to our priest or deacons.