

## Catechetical Aspect:

### **A Suggested Topical List of Teachings for the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults***

Ordinarily, a person who has entered the catechumenate [unbaptized] is to remain in it from at least the Easter Time of one year until the beginning of the Easter Time of the next year; preferably it should begin before Lent in one year and extend until Easter of the following year. (OCIA Book, Norm 4: National Statutes United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

“With the same reasoning that applies to catechumens, the preparation of uncatechized baptized adults demands a lengthy period (cf. no. 76) in which the faith poured into them at Baptism ought to grow, in order to attain maturity and be fully formed through pastoral instruction that is handed on to them; their own Christian life must be strengthened by an appropriate formation offered to them, contact with the community of the faithful, and participation in certain liturgical rites.” (OCIA Book #401)

(See also OCIA Book #42-43, 76)

The **following OCIA schedule** includes specific teachings that will help to prepare people for the next Rite. This suggested list is provided as a tool to help you and your team to put together a schedule that best fits the group of individuals in the current process; i.e. you might need to teach the Ten Commandments sooner if someone is dealing with a major moral issue.

#### **Evangelization and the Precatechumenate**

\*A prepared teaching for each item listed in this suggested schedule is available by purchasing both the Diocesan Catechist Manual (\$10) and the *Association for Catechumenal Ministry* (ACM) Catechist Manual online.

#### **September**

Welcome Session *and* What is the Meaning of Life?

The Existence of God

The Blessed Trinity (Who is God?)

The Lord’s Prayer *and* Introduction to the Meaning of Prayer (How to Communicate with God)

Creation (What Does God Begin?)

The Fall: Original Sin

The Story of the Bible (How Much Does God Love Me?)

Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition and the Magisterium (How Has God Spoken?)

Faith (and Works) (What Does It Mean to Believe?)

Conversion / Daily Spiritual Reading leads to the development of a daily commitment to prayer

The 10 Commandments

The 10 Commandments continued

Introduction to The Mass: Liturgy of the Word *and* Praying the Prayers of the Opening of Mass through the Creed, gradually adding a few prayers each week, for the upcoming Sunday Mass. Repeat this praying with the prayers of the Mass for the upcoming Sunday over several weeks

The Four Last Things (Purgatory) *and* Explanation of Advent to prepare spiritually for Christmas

Mary the Mother of God *and* The Hail Mary

Incarnation *and* Praying with Scripture (*lectio divina* prayer worksheet) on the birth of Christ

Determine readiness for moving into the next period

Retreat for the Rite of Entrance (unbaptized) and Rite of Welcoming (baptized)

Prayer and teaching: The Church: The Kingdom of God on Earth I *and* Explanation of the Rite *and* Understanding the Wording of the Rite of Entrance and Welcoming

**Rite of Entrance and Rite of Welcoming held at the parish**

**Entrance into the Catechumenate**

Jesus Public Ministry

Redemption: The Fruit of the Paschal Mystery (Jesus' Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven)

The Holy Spirit

The Church: The Kingdom of God on Earth II

The Beatitudes

Freedom in Christ

The Communion of Saints and explain the meaning of Lent and how to live it.

**Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

Expressions and Types of Prayer *and* The Stations of the Cross

The Battle of Prayer and Praying with Scripture (*lectio divina* prayer worksheet)

Temptation and Sin

Traditions of Prayer

The Holy Rosary – The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

## **The Sacred Triduum – Easter Vigil**

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Easter Sunday is April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Catechumens and Candidates will receive Sacraments in 2027**

The Holy Rosary – The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

Grace

Liturgy: Communion with God

Sacrament of Baptism: The Door to the Life of Grace

Sacrament of Confirmation: Sealed by the Holy Spirit

Sacrament of Penance - Reconciliation

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Introduction to The Mass: Liturgy of the Eucharist; prayerfully reading through and explaining the Prayers for the Liturgy of the Eucharist (gradually adding more of the Eucharistic Prayer etc. each week) for the upcoming Sunday Mass

### **Summer: June and July**

Great Adventure Bible Timeline DVD Program with either Jeff Cavins or Mark Hart (younger adults) This 8-week process helps catechumens and candidates to receive an overview of the historical parts of the Bible, while taking into consideration that people will be taking vacations during this time frame. Contact the Office for Catechesis & Evangelization for info about excellent TNT video clips, eight minutes each, about key figures of the Bible with simple teaching and application to life

### **Summer Break: August**

### **September**

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist: Jesus' Sacrifice for Us

The Holy Eucharist: Communion with and Sharing God's Joy

Sacrament of Holy Orders

Sacrament of Matrimony

Social Teaching of the Church

The Dignity of the Human Person

Discovery: God's Love (DISCOVERY is first in the series by Catholic Christian Outreach; booklets may be purchased at [cedarhouse.co/brands/catholic-christian-outreach/](http://cedarhouse.co/brands/catholic-christian-outreach/) Short training videos are available at [cco.ca/resources](http://cco.ca/resources) There are to be 1 on 1

meetings with each of the catechumens and candidates to assist them to place Jesus at the center of their lives after session 5 of DISCOVERY. Contact the Office for Catechesis & Evangelization for specific training from those who have experience facilitating these 1 on 1 sessions.

Discovery: Love's Initiative

Discovery: Jesus Christ – Our Lord

Discovery: Jesus Christ – Our Savior

Discovery: Love is Offered

Discovery: A New Life - choosing to place Christ at the center of our life

Church Tour

God the Father

The Son of God

The Holy Spirit

The Universal Call to Holiness

The Virtues of Faith, Hope and Love (The Adult Catholic Life)

Cardinal Virtues of Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance

Virtues of Chastity and Humility

## **Lent**

**February 10, 2027**

**Ash Wednesday**

**Retreat on or before Saturday, February 13, 2027:** The meaning of Lent – a time of purification and enlightenment, the Apostolic Church regarding a bishop and his apostolic succession, preparation for the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion.

**Sunday, February 14, 2027: Rite of Sending at the Parish / Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at Cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent**

**Period of Purification and Enlightenment:** The Elect and Candidates are to receive direction on prayer and the spiritual life. Lent is to be spent much like a Retreat.

The Paschal Mystery *and* Stations of the Cross

Temptation and Sin / Preparation and Reception of the Sacrament of Penance (candidates)

Prayer

**Third Sunday of Lent                      First Scrutiny for the Elect (unbaptized)**

**Third Week of Lent                      Presentation of the Creed**

The Stations of the Cross

**Fourth Sunday of Lent                      Second Scrutiny for the Elect (unbaptized)**

Sacramental Living *and* explain Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament / Benediction

Time of silence in Adoration of Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament

**Fifth Sunday of Lent                      Third Scrutiny for the Elect (unbaptized)**

**Fifth Week of Lent                      Presentation of the Lord's Prayer**

Prayer

*Discernment to determine readiness to receive the Sacraments of Initiation and enter into full communion with the Catholic Church*

**Retreat before or on Holy Saturday: Preparation Rites: Immediate Sacramental Preparation; Explanation of the Easter Vigil; time for quiet prayer**

**March 27, 2027      Holy Saturday: The Easter Vigil: Sacraments of Initiation**

**March 28, 2027      Easter Sunday**

**Period of Mystagogy** – Neophytes (new Catholics) are introduced to a fuller and more effective understanding of the teachings with the help of God's grace received in the Sacraments. Instruction on living a deeper Christian life, especially as it relates to the Sacraments.

Celebration: Testimonies of the experience of Holy Saturday

Prayer in thanksgiving for "the wonderful works of God"

Source: The Holy Spirit (*SOURCE* is the second in the series from Catholic Christian Outreach)

Source: The Battle Within

Source: Living in the Spirit

Source: Barriers to Living in the Spirit

Source: Docility to the Holy Spirit

Source: Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

**Sunday, May 16, 2027**

**Pentecost**

**Neophyte Year**

Catholic Christian Outreach Faith Study Series:

Growth (6 sessions): GROWTH examines the fundamental practices which nurtures our Christian life such as prayer, Sacraments and fellowship.

Trust (8 sessions): TRUST helps participants grow in trusting the Lord in all aspects of life so as to live in greater freedom. Commission (10 sessions)

COMMISSION focuses on revealing our missionary identity as Catholics and its necessity in approaching our apostolate and personal growth in holiness. See [cedarhouse.co/brands/catholic-christian-outreach/](http://cedarhouse.co/brands/catholic-christian-outreach/)

Another option for the Neophyte Year: *CATHOLICISM Study Program*, by Bishop Robert Barron. Every parish in the Diocese was given this DVD Program several years ago. Contact the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization for discussion questions \ handouts to accompany this beautiful DVD Program.