



Registration for OCIA Workshop

October 24, 2026

Holy Cross Diocesan Center, La Crosse

Schedule and Topics

- 9:30 **Adult Initiation for a Church on Mission**, Father Derek Sakowski. No one can deny that the Church in our Diocese looks different now than it did 10 years ago. Today we have fewer priests and parishes—and less laity. At the same time, there are abundant signs of life: young people and young families engage the faith, a spirituality centered on the Eucharist grows, and more and more people are seeking to encounter God in the Catholic Church. The present moment thus demands that our parishes not only teach the faith but accompany adult seekers into the fulness of faith via the OCIA. Father Sakowski discusses the OCIA and the current work to “Rebuild My Church” in the Diocese.
- 10:30 **The Catechetical Component of OCIA**, Ann Lankford. While the Church lays out what needs to be taught in each of the periods, catechumens and candidates must be guided from an initial, often passive interest in the faith to actively developing a relationship with the person of Jesus. In teaching the faith, how do we walk with and foster a change of mind and heart that leads to a decision to follow Christ in a deeply committed way?
- 11:30 **Mass** with Bishop Battersby.
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:15 **The Liturgies of the Adult Catechumenate**, Chris Carstens and John Shakal. The ritual celebrations of the initiation process offer the necessary graces of conversion. But these rites are often the last to be integrated into the parish process, since they are often unfamiliar to both pastors and OCIA leaders. *Tracks for both major and minor rites will be offered.*
- 2:00 **FAQs about OCIA**, Father Alan Guanella. What is needed for regularizing a marriage, and how long is the process? Can Confirmation be delayed? What are the requirements for godparents? Who is an “adult” in the OCIA? Father Guanella discusses these and other frequently asked questions surrounding adult initiation.
- 2:45 **The Pastoral Aspect of Adult Initiation**, Ann Lankford and John Shakal. Two tracks will be offered during this session. The first option examines an OCIA process in light of shared resources and collaboration among parishes in a region—how parishes can work together to build and maintain a process of initiation in the years ahead. The second option gives insights to parishes who are looking to begin, or have recently begun, an OCIA process, and allows parishes new to the OCIA to share challenges and successes.
- 3:30 End

Please print:

Attendee name(s):

Parish _____ City _____

Phone Number (principal contact): _____

Email (principal contact): _____

Cost for the day is \$25/person or \$50/parish (includes lunch).

What questions can we address on October 24? Tell us below if there are any specific things you would like more information on:

Please return completed registrations form by Wednesday, October 14, to:

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