

**ST. JUSTIN MARTYR CATHOLIC CHURCH • RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

**2023-2024 • WEDNESDAYS • 6:00-7:30PM • ATR ROOM**

DATE	TOPIC	USCCA	RCIA PERIODS & RITES
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			<b>Pre-Catechumenate</b> —The main purpose is to give the inquirer an opportunity to question and explore many different aspects of the Catholic faith, while introducing some of the Gospel values.
6	RCIA, Our Stories, Faith & Conversion	Chapters 1 & 4	
13	Salvation History & ‘Who is Jesus?’		
20	Praying as a Catholic	Chapters 35-36	
27	The Mass: Source & Summit of the Christian Life	Chapter 17	<b>Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens</b> Inquirers express the interest and the Church accepts their intention to respond to God’s call to follow the way of Christ.
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
4	Tour of St. Justin Martyr Church		<b>Catechumenate</b> - This is by far the longest and most formal part of the process. During this phase the catechumen is expected to participate with the whole Catholic community in their Sunday celebrations. The catechumen participates by sharing in the Liturgy of the Word. Through prayer, learning and coming to know other Catholic Christians, catechumens discover the love and power of God in their lives and in the church. This phase is meant to be one not only of intellectual and faith formation, but also one of great delight and opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the parish community. The focus clearly is on a conversion of heart, through prayer and good works, but also of conversion of the mind, in which we start to see through the eyes of God, to think, perceive and act as Christ desires. During this time, catechumens receive anointings, participate in prayers of exorcism and blessings, which assists this conversion.
11	In the Beginning: God the Holy Trinity & Creation	Chapters 5 & 6	
18	Jesus & Salvation	Chapters 7 & 8	
25	Divine Revelation: Scripture & Tradition	Chapters 2 & 3	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			<b>The Rite of Election</b> is an acknowledgment on behalf of the bishop, based on the testimony of the priest, the RCIA team, and the sponsors, that the catechumen is adequately formed and ready to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. It is a formal acceptance on behalf of the Church. The catechumen too, formally declares that he / she has believed and accepted all that was presented to them during the Catechumenate. This is a formal declaration that it is their desire to become a fully active participant within the Catholic faith community. This Rite takes place during the first Sunday of Lent and from this time, until they are baptized, the catechumens are called the elect.
1	Blessed Virgin Mary & Communion of Saint	Chapter 12	
8	The Catholic Church & Her History	Chapters 10 & 11	
15	Liturgy, Liturgical Year & Advent		
22	<i>Thanksgiving — no meeting</i>		
29	The Seven Sacraments	Chapter 14	<b>Purification &amp; Enlightenment</b> - This phase takes place during Lent, and is marked by 3 community celebrations known as <i>Scrutinies</i> . During this period, the elect and the parish community together focus on conversion, scrutinize their lives in light of the Gospel and celebrate the presentations of the Creed and Lord's Prayer. The Scrutinies coincide with the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday's of Lent, and they ask God for healing and forgiveness of the elect.
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
6	Sacraments of Initiation	Chapters 15, 16, & 17	
13	Sacraments of Healing & of Vocation	Chapter 18 & 21	
20	Celebrating Christmas in the Catholic Church		<b>The Rites of Initiation</b> , Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are the climax of being fully incorporated into Christ & His Church. This takes place at the Easter Vigil.
27	<i>Merry Christmas &amp; Happy New Year! — no meeting</i>		
<b>JANUARY</b>			<b>Mystagogia</b> —This is an important period of reflection by the newly initiated with their parish community. The formation and teaching continues during this time, in order to help the neophytes become incorporated into the full life of the Christian community. Is is the final stage of the RCIA, but it is only the first stage of the rest of their lives as a fully active member of the Catholic Church.
3	Christian Moral Life	Chapters 23 & 24	
10	The 1st, 2nd & 3rd Commandments	Chapters 25, 26, & 27	
17	The 4th & 5th Commandments	Chapters 28 & 29	
24	The 6th & 9th Commandments	Chapters 30 & 33	
31	The 8th, 7th & 10th Commandments	Chapter 32, 31, & 34	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
7	Eternal Destiny: Heaven, Hell & Purgatory	Chapter 13	
14	The Liturgical Season of Lent (Ash Wednesday)		
21	The Teachings of Jesus		
28	Conversion Catholic Spirituality		
<b>MARCH</b>			
6	Sacrament of Penance & How to Celebrate It	Chapter 18	
13	The Paschal Mystery & the Sacraments of Initiation	Chapter 8	
20	Preparing to Receive the Sacraments of Initiation		
24	Palm Sunday Retreat— 12:00-4:00pm, in the ATR / school building / church		
28	Holy Thursday—Fellowship Meal & Mass of the Last Supper		
29	Good Friday: Stations of the Cross		
30	Holy Saturday: 9:00am Prayer & Vigil practice / Evening—EASTER VIGIL		
<b>APRIL</b>			
3	Reflecting on the Vigil & Life in the Holy Spirit	Chapter 9	
10	Union with Christ in the Holy Eucharist & Full Participation in the Mass		
17	Discipleship, Personal Vocation & the Role of the Laity		
24	Participating more fully in the life of St. Justin Martyr Parish		
<b>MAY</b>			
1	Potluck Dinner		