

OCIA Interest Form

Name:



Phone Number:

E-Mail Address:

Best day/time to contact you:

Do you prefer to be contacted
by phone or e-mail?

Please deposit this completed form
in the donation bin at church or in
the Sunday collection basket or
bring it to the Church office during
normal business hours.

What is the OCIA Program?

The **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)** is a process through which adults become full members of the Roman Catholic Church. It offers an environment of support and guidance as you discover how God is working in your life. The OCIA is a journey of faith:

- through the initial stages of asking and seeking;
- through beginning involvement with Christian/Catholic people;
- through hearing the Gospel proclaimed and by faithful reflection and prayer on the Word of God
- through study and discussion about the Catholic experience;
- through doubts and hesitations;
- through discernment of God's call in your life
- through the steps of commitment;
- through the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist)

The OCIA is based on a lifelong faith formation model. There are several stages involved in the process, beginning with a period of Inquiry to find out more about Catholicism. As the process evolves, the parish celebrates certain rites (rituals) that signify the end of one stage and the beginning of another.

Who is the OCIA program for?

- + Adults who have never been baptized in any Christian faith
- + Adults who were baptized in another mainstream Christian tradition and who are now thinking about becoming Catholic.
- + Adults who were baptized as Catholics but have not received the Sacraments of Eucharist (First Communion) or Confirmation

What if I have never belonged to or been baptized in another faith?

You may feel God calling you to explore a different spiritual path at this point in your life. The Catholic Church is always ready to welcome those who wish to become part of our faith community. There are many reasons you may be considering Catholicism. Perhaps your spouse, fiancé or another friend has encouraged you to consider Catholicism. Or there may be other reasons you have been searching. In some way, God is calling you into a deeper relationship. We welcome you and any questions you may have about Catholicism. If you decide you want to become a fully initiated Catholic, we will accompany you through the stages of the OCIA Process.

The decision to change faith traditions should involve a deep spiritual commitment and should not be made lightly. Please know that we deeply respect other religions. If you have been baptized in another mainstream Christian tradition, we honor your baptism; you will not be baptized again. If you decide to make Catholicism your spiritual home, you will be receiving the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation as part of the Roman Catholic Church.

What do I need to bring? What else will be expected of me?

Bring an open heart and mind. The OCIA is a process of learning to live our call to be disciples of Jesus in the context of the Catholic Church. We will be studying and praying with Scripture and learning about the Catholic faith. But the OCIA process is more than learning facts and history; it is about conversion. Conversion is a lifelong process—not a single moment or a change of religion. Conversion is the ongoing process of growing in our relationship with God.

Do I need a sponsor?

If there is someone you know who is a practicing Catholic and would be willing to be your sponsor, please invite them. Otherwise, we will assign you someone from the OCIA Team to accompany you on the journey. Sponsors are asked to be available to you the candidate, to participate in weekly sessions if they are able, and take part in the rites that we celebrate along the way.

How do I get started in the OCIA process?

The process begins with a personal interview to determine how we can best serve your spiritual needs. Please complete the interest form in this brochure. The Adult Faith Formation Coordinator will contact you to arrange this meeting, and together you will complete the information forms that need to be filled out, should you decide to join the Inquiry phase that begins in October.

There is no fee for OCIA.

Saint Paul's Roman Catholic Church
783 Hard Road
Webster, New York
Phone: 585-671-2100

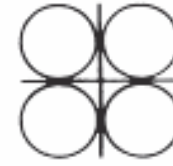
What kind of commitment is involved?

We ask that you honestly commit to deepening your own faith life. As a participant in the OCIA process, the time commitment involves weekly sessions that are a combination of learning, prayer, and community, as well as participation in Sunday liturgies. You will be asked if you wish to continue the OCIA process as we move through the various stages. If at anytime you feel that you are not ready to continue, we will respect your decision.

When and where do the OCIA sessions take place?

Starting in October we will meet weekly in the Gather Room at Saint Paul's Church. There is no set time limit for individuals going through OCIA process. The typical journey is about 7-8 months, September through May. The culmination of the OCIA process takes place at the Easter Vigil, on the eve of Easter, when one would receive the sacraments of initiation and become a full member of the Catholic Church.

For More Information Contact
Katie Van Damme
St. Paul's Church Adult Faith Formation Coordinator
671-2100 x 24 or Katie.Vandamme@dor.org



Saint Paul's Roman Catholic Church

INTERESTED IN BECOMING
CATHOLIC?

Are you or someone you know thirsting for a deeper experience of the heart when it comes to God and the Faith community?



Join
O.C.I.A
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults