

What are the differences between *Foundations of Faith* and *Invited*?

Since both *Foundations of Faith* and *Invited* study the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, here's a list of the differences between the two programs.



It should be noted that neither option is “better” than the other! They are made with different goals in mind.

Parishes have different resources and structures, and every year OCIA receives people from many different backgrounds. Even though *Invited* is intended specifically for OCIA, you may find that one option better fits your parish's OCIA setting. Let's take a look at the key differences between these two programs.

Differences

		
Purpose/ Audience	Designed for those considering or preparing to enter the Catholic Church (unbaptized, non-Catholic Christians, unconfirmed Catholics).	Designed for Catholics already in the Church who want a deeper understanding of the <i>Catechism</i> .
Assumed Knowledge	Assumes little to no prior knowledge of the Faith; explains foundational concepts from the ground up.	Assumes a Catholic baseline; the language and framing take familiarity with the Church for granted.
Tone	Invitatory, welcoming, and pastoral—meets people where they are, including those with wounds or skepticism about religion.	Academic and formational, with a stronger emphasis on theological content and the structure of the <i>Catechism</i> .
Number of Sessions	28 lessons	20 sessions

Differences ... continued

	 <p>Invited Your Journey into the <i>Catholic Church</i></p>	 <p>FOUNDATIONS of FAITH <i>A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church</i></p>
Video Length	~10 minutes per lesson, designed to leave room for discussion.	~30 minutes per session
Filming Approach	<p>Parish-centered and relationally grounded; the visual world reflects the ordinary experience of parish life.</p> <p>Keeps the camera closer to home because the person it's speaking to is still deciding whether they belong here at all. The scale of the Church could feel as intimidating as it is inspiring to someone at the threshold.</p>	<p>Filmed across 40+ locations in 11 countries—a cinematic pilgrimage through the history behind the doctrines of the Catholic Church.</p> <p>Uses grandeur and historical sweep to inspire awe in people already inside the Church who are diving deeper.</p>
Structural Framework	Follows the OCIA stages (Inquiry, Catechumenate, Purification and Enlightenment, and Mystagogy).	Follows the four pillars of the <i>Catechism</i> with a color-coded system; includes a good amount of directed reading from the <i>Catechism</i> .
Spiritual Emphasis	Explicitly prayerful; each lesson includes a catechist's prayer, an opening and a closing prayer, and at-home spiritual activities.	Study-oriented; transformation comes through a deeper comprehension of Church teaching.
Supplemental Resources	Free videos and resources are integrated into the Ascension app, allowing participants to learn about the Faith at their own pace.	Includes a workbook and the <i>Catechism at a Glance</i> chart; designed to work with the Ascension Edition of the <i>Catechism</i> .
Goal	Intended to form missionary disciples—not just to convey doctrine, but to draw people into a living relationship with Christ and the Church.	Intended to present the <i>Catechism</i> as a key to understanding the core beliefs of the Catholic Faith and God's plan for our lives.



Similarities

Format	Both are video-based programs for parish or small group use.
Presenters	Both include the key voices of Fr. Mike Schmitz and Jeff Cavins.
Catechism Coverage	Both engage substantially with the content of the <i>Catechism</i> .
Participant Books	Both include printed companion resources (participant guide/workbook) to support engagement with the content.
Accessibility	Both aim to make Catholic teaching comprehensible—not just for scholars but for ordinary people in the pews.
Scope	Both cover the breadth of the Catholic Faith: the sacraments, Scripture, moral life, prayer, and the nature of the Church.

More questions? Please contact us. We'd love to hear from you!

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