





OCIA School Year Program Schedule


TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026 — PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2027

This schedule shows how the complete *Invited* curriculum can be implemented in a school year, with sessions held on weekday evenings. In this sample calendar schedule, the program opens the week of August 18, 2026, and concludes with Pentecost Sunday, May 16, 2027. All twenty-eight lessons are completed before Palm Sunday. Breaks are observed for Thanksgiving (one week) and Christmas (two weeks). Seven Mystagogy sessions follow on Tuesday evenings from March 30 through May 11.


Legend:  prayer checkpoint  liturgical milestone/rite  holy day or feast note
Grey rows = scheduled breaks **Gold rows** = enlightenment period **Red rows** = retreat/special events
Blue rows = catechumenate period **Green rows** = Mystagogy

Week	Date	Session	Notes
PRECATECHUMENATE · LESSONS 1-9 (AUGUST-OCTOBER 2026)			
1	Tuesday, August 18	Lesson 1—What Do You Seek?	Introduction
2	Tuesday, August 25	Lesson 2—How Can We Know That God Exists?	
3	Tuesday, September 1	Lesson 3—God Reveals Himself to Us	 Prayer checkpoint: prayer in the context of God's self-revelation
4	Tuesday, September 8	Lesson 4—The Holy Trinity: God Is Love in Relationship	Labor Day (Monday, September 7)—no scheduling conflict
5	Tuesday, September 15	Lesson 5—If God Is Good, Why This Mess?	
6	Tuesday, September 22	Lesson 6—Salvation History: God's Promise to Free Us	
7	Tuesday, September 29	Lesson 7—Jesus Christ: God Becomes Man	
8	Tuesday, October 6	Lesson 8—The Paschal Mystery: Jesus Delivers Us from Evil	
9	Tuesday, October 13	Lesson 9—The Holy Spirit: God Dwells in Us	

Week	Date	Session	Notes
CATECHUMENATE · LESSONS 10–23 (OCTOBER 2026–FEBRUARY 2027)			
	Sunday, October 18	Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate	Celebrated at the principal Sunday Mass. The Rite of Welcoming Baptized but Previously Uncatechized Adults may be celebrated at the same time.
10	Tuesday, October 20	Lesson 10—Christian Prayer: God Invites Us into Relationship	 Prayer checkpoint: prayer as a response to God who dwells in us
11	Tuesday, October 27	Lesson 11—The Old Law and the New: Learning Freedom	
12	Tuesday, November 3	Lesson 12—The Church: God’s Family	
13	Tuesday, November 10	Lesson 13—The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints: Our Extended Family	
14	Tuesday, November 17	Lesson 14—The Last Things: God Will Set All Things Right	Close of first doctrinal sequence
—	Tuesday, November 24	Interviews—Thanksgiving Week	No session. Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 26.
15	Tuesday, December 1	Lesson 15—The Liturgy and the Sacraments: Christ with Us	Year B begins.
16	Tuesday, December 8	Lesson 16—The Sacrament of Baptism: Christ Welcomes Us	 This session falls on or near the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation. The team may consider attending Mass together.
17	Tuesday, December 15	Lesson 17—The Sacrament of Confirmation: The Holy Spirit Seals Us	
—	Tuesday, December 22	Break—Christmas	No session. Encourage participants to attend Christmas Masses and reflect during the Octave.
—	Tuesday, December 29	Break—Christmas Octave	 The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1, 2027) falls on a Friday and is a regular holy day of obligation. Include a reminder in any communications that are sent during the break.
18	Tuesday, January 5	Lesson 18—The Holy Eucharist: Christ Feeds Us	

Week	Date	Session	Notes
19	Tuesday, January 12	Lesson 19—The Mass: We Worship God	
20	Tuesday, January 19	Lesson 20—The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Christ Forgives Us	
21	Tuesday, January 26	Lesson 21—The Anointing of the Sick: Christ Accompanies Us in Our Weakness	
22	Tuesday, February 2	Lesson 22—The Sacrament of Holy Orders: Christ Acts Through the Clergy	● This session falls on (or near) the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.
23	Tuesday, February 9	Lesson 23—The Sacrament of Matrimony: The Domestic Church	● Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 10. At this time, confirm that all who are in irregular marriages can enter into canonical marriages.
	Wednesday, February 10	Ash Wednesday	Lent begins. The Period of Purification and Enlightenment opens for the Elect. Encourage attendance.
PURIFICATION & ENLIGHTENMENT · LESSONS 24–28 (FEBRUARY–MARCH 2027)			
	Sunday, February 14	Rite of Election (First Sunday of Lent)	The bishop formally enrolls the Elect in the Book of the Elect at the cathedral. The Rite of Calling to Continuing Conversion is celebrated for baptized candidates.
24	Tuesday, February 16	Lesson 24—Liturgical Prayer and Popular Devotions	 Prayer checkpoint: prayer as communal bond.
—	Weekend, February 20–21	Lenten Retreat—Saturday and Sunday	
25	Tuesday, February 23	Lesson 25—The Christian Moral Life: Knowing Right from Wrong	Remind the Elect to be present at the Scrutiny.
	Sunday, February 28	First Scrutiny (Third Sunday of Lent)	Celebrated at the principal Sunday Mass—directed to the Elect only.
26	Tuesday, March 2	Lesson 26—The Social Doctrine of the Church and the Works of Mercy	
	Sunday, March 7	Second Scrutiny (Fourth Sunday of Lent—Laetare Sunday)	Scrutiny at the principal Sunday Mass.
27	Tuesday, March 9	Lesson 27—The Culture of Life: Protecting the Most Vulnerable	Remind the Elect that the Third Scrutiny is this coming Sunday.

Week	Date	Session	Notes
	Sunday, March 14	Third Scrutiny (Fifth Sunday of Lent)	Final Scrutiny at the principal Sunday Mass. Palm Sunday follows in one week.
28	Tuesday, March 16	Lesson 28—Discipleship and Evangelization: Sharing the Joy	This is the final lesson of the program.
HOLY WEEK · TRIDUUM (MARCH 21–27, 2027)			
	Sunday, March 21	Palm Sunday—Holy Week Begins	No session this week. The team should be fully available for the Triduum liturgies.
	Tuesday, March 23 or Wednesday, March 24	Penance Service	Hold a communal penance service for the candidates and team before the Triduum begins.
—	Thursday, March 25 or Friday, March 26	Rehearsals	Rehearse the full Easter Vigil with the Elect, candidates, and sponsors: the procession, Baptism and Confirmation gestures, receiving Communion, and the recessional.
	Saturday, March 27	Easter Vigil—Initiation of the Elect	The celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist for the Elect. Reception into full Communion with the Church for baptized candidates.
	Sunday, March 28	Easter Sunday	The newly initiated are now neophytes.
MYSTAGOGY · EASTER TO PENTECOST (APRIL – MAY 2027)			
1	March 30	Mystagogy Session 1	
2	Tuesday, April 6	Mystagogy Session 2	 The Solemnity of the Annunciation (March 25) is transferred to Monday, April 5.
3	Tuesday, April 13	Mystagogy Session 3	
4	Tuesday, April 20	Mystagogy Session 4	
5	Tuesday, April 27	Mystagogy Session 5	

Week	Date	Session	Notes
6	Tuesday, May 4	Mystagogy Session 6	
7	Tuesday, May 11	Mystagogy Session 7	
	Sunday, May 16, 2027	Pentecost Sunday—End of Program Year	Close of Mystagogy. Memorial Day (Monday, May 31) falls after the program concludes.

PLANNING NOTES FOR THE OCIA TEAM

The Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens: If celebrated at the principal Sunday Mass on October 18, it would be necessary to schedule interviews outside the class time to inquire about their willingness to continue the process.

Thanksgiving and Christmas: One session is skipped for Thanksgiving (Tuesday, November 24). Consider using this time to check in with participants about their spiritual progress and willingness to continue the path. Two sessions are skipped for Christmas (December 22 and December 29). The program resumes January 5 with Lesson 18. Encourage participants to attend Christmas Masses, observe the Christmas Octave, and use the time to explore the additional material given.

The Rite of Election: Before participating in the Rite of Election, the leaders must ensure that all participants in irregular marriages can enter into a canonical marriage. These situations can be frustrating for some. Leaders must ensure they accompany each person in their individual process.

Holy Week—No Sessions: All twenty-eight lessons should be completed before Holy Week. The team has a full, uninterrupted Holy Week for the Triduum liturgies, penance service, and Easter Vigil rehearsals. The penance service (if it has not already occurred) is recommended for Tuesday or Wednesday evening during Holy Week. Rehearsals for the Vigil should be scheduled on Thursday or Friday, working around the Mass of the Lord's Supper (Thursday evening) and the Good Friday liturgy.

Mystagogy: Seven Mystagogy sessions meet after Easter. The Easter Octave closes on Divine Mercy Sunday (April 4). The Solemnity of the Annunciation is celebrated on Monday, April 5. Pentecost Sunday is May 16. Memorial Day (Monday, May 31) falls after the program concludes.

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

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