







Year-Round OCIA Program Schedule

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2027 — PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2028

This schedule maps a complete year-round OCIA program cycle using the *Invited* curriculum. It opens with Mystagogy for the previous year's neophytes following Easter 2027—which falls early this year, on March 28, and closes with Pentecost 2028 (June 4), after the initiation of a new group of Elect at the Easter Vigil on April 15. The cycle follows six phases: Mystagogy (Year 1), Team Preparation, Precatechumenate (Lessons 1–9), Catechumenate (Lessons 10–25), Purification and Enlightenment (Lessons 26–28), and Mystagogy (Year 2).

Legend:  prayer checkpoint  liturgical milestone/rite  holy day or feast note
Grey rows = scheduled breaks **Gold rows** = enlightenment period **Red rows** = Q&A/interview/special event weeks
Blue rows = catechumenate period **Green rows** = Mystagogy

Week	Date	Session/Event	Notes
PHASE I—MYSTAGOGY · EASTER TO PENTECOST, YEAR 1 (MARCH – MAY 2027)			
	March 28, 2027	Easter Sunday—Year 1	Easter falls on March 28. The Easter Vigil initiates the new Elect; Mystagogy begins the following Tuesday.
1	March 30	Mystagogy Session 1	
2	April 6	Mystagogy Session 2	 The Solemnity of the Annunciation (March 25) is transferred to Monday, April 5.
3	April 13	Mystagogy Session 3	
4	April 20	Mystagogy Session 4	
5	April 27	Mystagogy Session 5	
6	May 4	Mystagogy Session 6	
7	May 11	Mystagogy Session 7	
	May 16, 2027	Pentecost Sunday	Close of Mystagogy for Year 1 neophytes.

Week	Date	Session/Event	Notes
PHASE II—TEAM PREPARATION (MAY - JUNE 2027)			
—	May 18	Break	
—	May 25	Team Preparation—Week 1	Review curriculum; recruit and train catechists and sponsors.
—	June 1	Break	
—	June 8	Team Preparation—Week 2	Hospitality, logistics, and schedule review. Begin outreach and inquiry conversations. Memorial Day falls on May 31—adjust gathering time as needed.
PHASE III—PRECATECHUMENATE · LESSONS 1-9 (JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2027)			
1	June 15	Lesson 1—What Do You Seek?	
2	June 22	Lesson 2—How Can We Know That God Exists?	
3	June 29	Lesson 3—God Reveals Himself to Us	 Prayer checkpoint: prayer in the context of God's self-revelation
—	July 6	Break—Independence Day	No session. This year, July 4 falls on a Sunday.
4	July 13	Lesson 4—The Holy Trinity: God Is Love in Relationship	
5	July 20	Lesson 5—If God Is Good, Why This Mess?	
—	July 27	Break—Late Summer	Rest week; no session
6	August 3	Lesson 6—Salvation History: God's Promise to Free Us	
7	August 10	Lesson 7—Jesus Christ: God Becomes Man	
8	August 17	Lesson 8—The Paschal Mystery: Jesus Delivers Us from Evil	
—	August 24	Overflow, catch up from the previous two lessons	The previous two lessons are long and might take extra time to process. Consider scheduling extra time to catch up or overflow from previous lessons.

Week	Date	Session/Event	Notes
9	August 31	Lesson 9—The Holy Spirit: God Dwells in Us	● The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on Sunday, August 15; it is a holy day of obligation absorbed into the Sunday obligation.
—	September 7	Break—Labor Day Weekend	No session; Labor Day is September 6.
—	September 14	Q&A Session 1 / Progress Interviews	Open Q&A with the group; individual progress reviews with the team
PHASE IV—CATECHUMENATE · LESSONS 10–25 (SEPTEMBER 2027 – JANUARY 2028)			
	Late September / Early October 2027	Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate	Celebrated at Sunday Mass; The Rite of Welcoming Baptized but Previously Uncatechized Adults may be celebrated at the same time.
10	September 21	Lesson 10—Christian Prayer: God Invites Us into Relationship	✝ Prayer checkpoint: prayer as a response to God who dwells in us. Catechumenate stage begins.
11	September 28	Lesson 11—The Old Law and the New: Learning Freedom	
12	October 5	Lesson 12—The Church: God’s Family	
13	October 12	Lesson 13—The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints: Our Extended Family	
14	October 19	Lesson 14—The Last Things: God Will Set All Things Right	Close of first doctrinal sequence
—	October 26	Q&A Session 2 / Progress Interviews	Open Q&A with the group; individual progress reviews with the team
15	November 2	Lesson 15—The Liturgy and the Sacraments: Christ with Us	● All Saints Day is Nov. 1, a holy day of obligation. Consider attending Mass together.
16	November 9	Lesson 16—The Sacrament of Baptism: Christ Welcomes Us	
17	November 16	Lesson 17—The Sacrament of Confirmation: The Holy Spirit Seals Us	
—	November 23	Break—Thanksgiving	No session; Thanksgiving is November 25.
18	November 30	Lesson 18—The Holy Eucharist: Christ Feeds Us	First Sunday of Advent. Year C begins.

Week	Date	Session/Event	Notes
19	December 7	Lesson 19—The Mass: We Worship God	● The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8, Wednesday) is a holy day of obligation. Remind participants and encourage them to attend Mass.
20	December 14	Lesson 20—The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Christ Forgives Us	
—	December 21	Break—Christmas	Christmas break, no session. Encourage participants to attend Christmas Masses and observe the Octave.
—	December 28	Break—Christmas Octave	No session
—	January 4, 2028	Break—New Year / Epiphany	No session; resume January 9. Note: The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1) falls on a Saturday this year. In the United States, when this solemnity falls on a Saturday, the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated by the USCCB.
21	January 11	Lesson 21—The Anointing of the Sick: Christ Accompanies Us in Our Weakness	
22	January 18	Lesson 22—The Sacrament of Holy Orders: Christ Acts Through the Clergy	
23	January 25	Lesson 23—The Sacrament of Matrimony: The Domestic Church	Close of sacramental doctrine
—	February 1	Q&A Session 3 / Progress Interviews	Open Q&A with the group; individual progress reviews with the team
24	February 8	Lesson 24—Liturgical Prayer and Popular Devotions	✝ Prayer checkpoint: prayer as communal bond. Ash Wednesday is March 1—this session begins the transition toward Lent.
25	February 15	Lesson 25—The Christian Moral Life: Knowing Right from Wrong	Ash Wednesday approaches March 1; Rite of Election is March 5 (First Sunday of Lent)
—	February 22	Pre-Lenten Quiet Week	No session. Ash Wednesday is March 1. Encourage participants to prepare their hearts and plan their Lenten practice.

Week	Date	Session/Event	Notes
—	February 29	Final Discernment Interviews	Individual readiness interviews; the team confirms initiation roster before Lent begins. Ensure that everyone in irregular situations can enter into a canonical marriage.
✦	March 1	Ash Wednesday	Lent begins; the Period of Purification and Enlightenment opens for the Elect.
PHASE V—PURIFICATION & ENLIGHTENMENT · LESSONS 26–28 (FEBRUARY – APRIL 2028)			
✦	March 5	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.
26	March 7	Lesson 26—The Social Doctrine of the Church and the Works of Mercy	
—	Saturday, March 11	Lenten Retreat	Full-weekend retreat for the Elect, candidates, sponsors, and team. This replaces the regular session for this week.
✦	March 19	First Scrutiny (Third Sunday of Lent)	
27	March 21	Lesson 27—The Culture of Life: Protecting the Most Vulnerable	
✦	March 26	Second Scrutiny (Fourth Sunday of Lent)	
28	March 28	Lesson 28—Discipleship and Evangelization: Sharing the Joy	Final lesson of the program
✦	April 2	Third Scrutiny (Fourth Sunday of Lent)	
—	April 4	Q&A Session 4	● Palm Sunday is April 9; Holy Week begins. Use this time to answer questions, revisit past lessons and reflect on the meaning of Holy Week.
HOLY WEEK · EASTER VIGIL 2028 (APRIL 9 – 15, 2028)			
✦	Week of April 4	Penance Service	Hold a communal penance service for the candidates and OCIA team. Schedule it on a weekday evening—Tuesday or Wednesday (April 8–9) is recommended to allow time for pastoral follow-up before the Vigil.

Week	Date	Session/Event	Notes
●	April 9 – 14	Rehearsals	Rehearse the Easter Vigil rites with the Elect, candidates, and sponsors. Cover the full liturgy: the procession, Liturgy of the Word, Baptism and Confirmation gestures, reception of Communion, and the recessional.
✦	April 15 (Saturday)	Easter Vigil—Initiation of the Elect	Celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist for the Elect. Reception into full Communion with the Church for baptized candidates.
✦	April 16	Easter Sunday—Year 2	The newly initiated are now neophytes. Mystagogy begins.
PHASE VI—MYSTAGOGY · EASTER TO PENTECOST, YEAR 2 (APRIL – JUNE 2028)			
1	April 18	Mystagogy Session 1	
2	April 25	Mystagogy Session 2	
3	May 2	Mystagogy Session 3	
4	May 9	Mystagogy Session 4	
5	May 16	Mystagogy Session 5	
6	May 23	Mystagogy Session 6	
7	May 30	Mystagogy Session 7	
✦	June 4	Pentecost Sunday—End of Program Year	Close of Mystagogy for Year 2 neophytes. The cycle begins again.

PLANNING NOTES FOR THE OCIA TEAM

Marian Feasts and Holy Days in This Cycle: Several Marian observances carry special significance or liturgical adjustments this year.

1. The Solemnity of the Annunciation (March 25, 2027) is transferred to Monday, April 5, because March 25 falls within Holy Week and then within the Octave of Easter—both of which preclude its celebration.
2. The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15) falls on a Sunday in 2027. Mass attendance on that day fulfills both the Sunday obligation and the Holy Day obligation.
3. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8) falls on a Wednesday and remains a holy day of obligation. Remind participants and the OCIA team during the Lesson 19 session (December 7) so they can plan accordingly.
4. The Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12) coincides this year with the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) and is not observed liturgically; the Sunday of Advent takes precedence. No accommodation is needed in the session schedule.

5. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1, 2028) falls on a Saturday. The USCCB has abrogated the obligation to attend Mass when this solemnity falls on a Saturday, though Mass is still celebrated and attendance remains commendable.

Independence Day on a Sunday: July 4, 2027, falls on a Sunday. This is noted explicitly in the schedule. No session is held that week.

Rite of Acceptance / Welcome: The Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (for unbaptized inquirers) and the Rite of Welcoming Baptized but Previously Uncatechized Adults should be celebrated at a Sunday Mass in late September or early October, as the Catechumenate stage opens. Coordinate with your pastor and parish liturgist well in advance.

All Saints Day: All Saints Day (November 1) is a holy day of obligation. Make sure to mention it to the class.

Christmas Break and Holy Days: The Christmas break runs from December 19, 2027, through January 7, 2028, covering three full weeks. Several significant liturgical observances fall within this period that leaders should communicate to participants. Encourage participants to attend.

Pre-Lenten Quiet Week: A deliberate quiet week falls on February 20—ten days before Ash Wednesday and two weeks before the Rite of Election. Rather than treating this as a passive gap, leaders should use the time to reach out to participants individually, encourage them to reflect on their Lenten intentions, and prepare sponsors for the period ahead. The team must make sure all cases of catechumens in irregular marriages have been resolved; otherwise, they cannot celebrate the Rite of Election yet.

The Rite of Election (First Sunday of Lent): This properly marks the period of Enlightenment for those who will receive Baptism.

Scrutinies: The three Scrutinies are celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent (March 19, 26, and April 2 in this cycle) at the principal Sunday Mass. They are directed solely toward the Elect, those who are unbaptized.

Rites of Handing On: The Presentation of the Creed and the Presentation of the Lord's Prayer are traditionally celebrated during the Lenten period. Many parishes incorporate these rites into a regular weekday Mass. Coordinate with your pastor to schedule them appropriately, typically between the Rite of Election (March 5) and the fifth week of Lent.

Lenten Retreat: The retreat is scheduled as a full-weekend event on the Second Sunday of Lent. Sponsors and the full OCIA team are encouraged to attend alongside the elect and candidates.

Penance Service and Reconciliation: Baptized candidates who have not previously received the Sacrament of Reconciliation should do so before the Easter Vigil. A communal penance service with individual confessions is recommended before Holy Week (April 8–9), allowing time for pastoral follow-up before the Vigil on April 15.

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

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