

WHAT TO EXPECT

You should expect to be welcomed into our community, to meet Jesus in and through others, to grow your understanding of the Catholic faith, and to deepen your own personal spiritual life, even if you choose not to become Catholic.

YOU SHOULD ALSO EXPECT TO:

- Be treated with respect and understanding at all times.
- Have your previous religious and spiritual experiences valued.
- Be clearly informed about all aspects of formation and opportunities for participation in the Catholic faith community.
- Make your own free choice about your continued participation and eventual membership in our Catholic faith community.
- Be guided, encouraged, and supported in making and explaining to your family and friends your decision to join the Catholic Church.

WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?

- Visit with a trusted friend or spiritual guide about your decision.
- Talk to someone you know who is an active Catholic.
- Visit Catholic parishes in the area and attend Sunday Mass often.
- Continue to pray for God's guidance and grace and seek more information about the Catholic church so you can make an informed decision.

If you or someone you know is curious about joining the Catholic church or completing their Sacraments, please contact the Parish Office. Someone from our Becoming Catholic Team will reach out to meet with them and invite them to join us at our monthly Inquiry Discussions which are held on the last Sunday of each month after the 5:30 PM Mass

St. John the Evangelist

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BECOMING CATHOLIC & THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION



Information for those considering
joining the Catholic Church or
inquiring about the Faith

BECOMING CATHOLIC

Are you thinking about becoming Catholic or completing your Sacraments? The Catholic Church doesn't pressure anyone to join – this journey is deeply personal and often takes time. It involves a true commitment to God and the church community.

YOU BELONG HERE

No matter your background, your story, or your doubts, there is a place for you in the Catholic Church.

Becoming Catholic isn't about having all the answers; it's about being open to discovering God's presences in your life in a deeper, more personal way.

Through the OCIA process, you'll be welcomed into a community that walks with you, prays with you, and grows with you. It's not just about learning doctrine or tradition – it's about encountering Christ in Scripture, in the sacraments and in the people around you.

WHAT IS THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is modeled on the initiation ritual of the early Christian church. It is an experience of personal formation and spiritual growth which incorporates prayer, study, reflection, and discernment in a combination of public rituals and community preparations. It is the way unbaptized persons become Catholic.

FORMATION

We offer year-round formation, which means your journey begins when you are ready. Participants attend Sunday Mass and regular formation sessions.

RITES

There is a series of sacred rites throughout the four phases leading to a solemn public celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist. This celebration generally takes place at Easter Vigil Mass.

SPONSORS

A sponsor and prayer partner, as well as other members of the Catholic faith community, accompany you through your faith journey.

HOW DO PEOPLE JOIN THE CHURCH?

Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church welcomes individuals or families who are interested in joining our Catholic faith community. Our parish offers Adult Faith Formation through:

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is for those adults or high school age teenagers who are:

UNBAPTIZED

Those who have never been baptized, known as Catechumens.

BAPTIZED

Those who have been baptized in another Christian faith community and desire to follow Jesus in the full communion of the Catholic Church, known as Candidates.

The sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation are given at the Easter Vigil by our Pastor.

Adult Confirmation Formation is for:

Baptized Catholics

Who have not received the Sacraments of Confirmation, will receive individualized catechesis to be prepared to be Confirmed by the Bishop in the fall or spring at the Cathedral in Fall River.