

Open Wide Your Door to Christ!

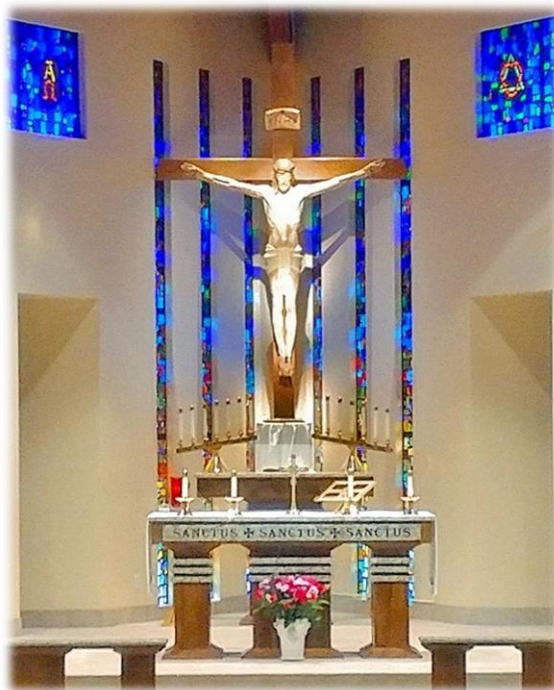
**Holy Trinity Parish
invites you into the
Roman Catholic faith
community.**



**We welcome those
interested in joining
the Catholic Church;
those who have been
away from the Faith
and are considering
returning; and those
who simply want to
learn more about the
Church instituted by
Jesus Christ.**

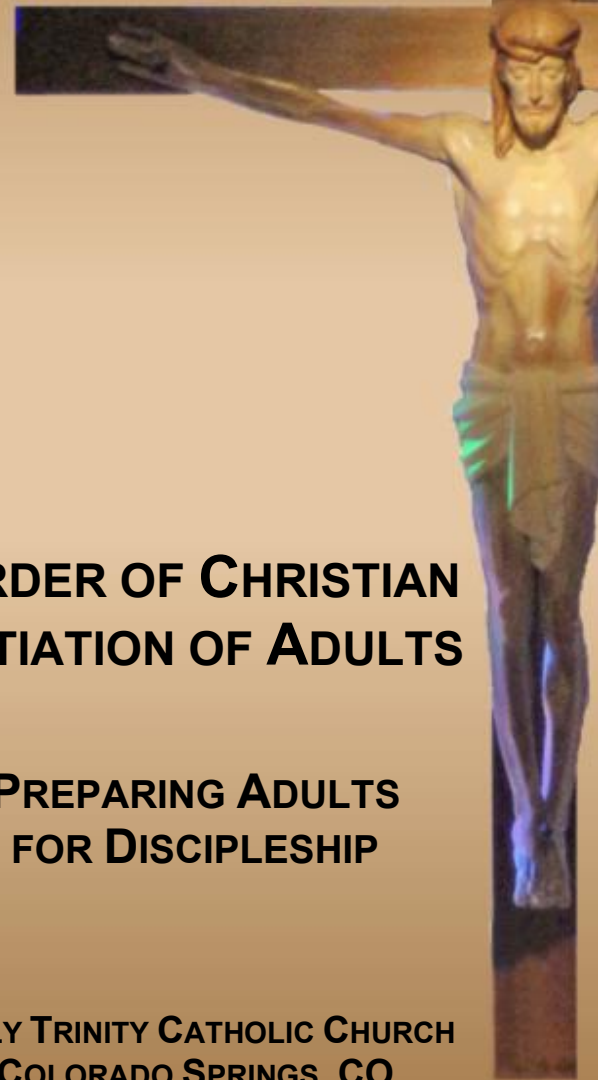
**Although we typically hold
Inquiry sessions in August, we
will help you with your journey
whenever the Holy Spirit moves
you to begin.**

**Our weekly classes follow the
Inquiry period and continue
through Pentecost.**



**For more information, contact us at:
(719) 633-2132
or
RCIA@holytrinitycos.org**

OCIA



**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN
INITIATION OF ADULTS**

**PREPARING ADULTS
FOR DISCIPLESHP**

**HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO**

What Is OCIA?

The Catholic Church invites anyone who is interested in the Catholic way of life to participate in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA).

Who Can Participate?

- Those who have not been baptized
- Those who received Christian baptism and are interested in the Catholic faith
- Those whose Catholic sacramental formation has not been completed
- Those who are sponsors
- Those who are family members

What is the Commitment?

OCIA is not a class but a process of conversion to Jesus. It will prepare you for commitment to a life-long journey of faith in the Church founded by Christ.

OCIA stresses both faith as a loving relationship with God, and the experience of the Church as participation in the Body of Christ. Turning toward God and being connected to His Family doesn't happen instantaneously. It takes time and prayer as the Holy Spirit nurtures and deepens the desire within.

The usual length of preparation is 9-12 months, typically ending with the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil.

What is OCIA Like?

OCIA involves four stages. Each one is marked by a special ritual that celebrates the person's deepening desire to say "Yes" to living the Catholic Faith.

Inquiry is the period during which candidates, with the help of the parish community, discern whether they want to continue exploring the Catholic Church. This first period ends with the Rite of Acceptance into the catechumenate.

Catechesis (or religious instruction) includes a study of the Church's beliefs, Biblical foundation, and beauty as well as her 2000-year-old history, traditions, and liturgical practices. This period normally ends at the beginning of Lent with the Rite of Election.

Purification and Enlightenment involves a further reflection on one's life. It begins at Lent and ends at the Easter Vigil with the Sacraments of Initiation.

Mystagogy is devoted to a more profound focus on the Sacramental mysteries of the Church and on living the fullness of Catholic life. It extends from Easter season to Pentecost.



Why Are There Rituals?

OCIA is a process by which the Catholic community introduces new members into the Church – the Family of God. The rituals express the community's support, prayers, and joy for those who are making the OCIA journey and preparing to become members of that loving Family. Rituals celebrate the Rite of Acceptance, the Rite of Election, the Scrutinies, and the Easter Vigil.

What Topics are Discussed?

Because Catholicism encompasses the whole of our lives, we cover a wide range of subjects. Patterned after the Catechism of the Catholic Church, topics include doctrines such as the Trinity and the Incarnation, Sacred Scripture, prayer, Mary and the saints, the Sacraments, Church seasons like Advent and Lent, Christian morality and justice, etc.

What Do You Need to Bring?

The only things you need to start are an open heart and the will to learn and love. We will provide all the materials.

Those choosing to continue with us will need a sponsor – someone fully initiated into, and actively participating in, the Catholic faith. Your sponsor will be with you for classes, key celebrations and events, and the Easter Vigil.