

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)
Begins Monday, October 19, 2026

We follow the model of the Association for Catechumenal Ministry (ACM). We begin by telling the story of God's plan for the salvation of humanity, incorporating important foundational principles of the Divine Law and Natural Law.

We then move to pastoral modules which are designed to incorporate these principles into living our faith on a daily basis.

We are facilitators, not teachers. Our sessions are not classes. Our mission is to accompany participants on their spiritual journey to deep conversion by knowing, loving and serving God and others.

Liturgical

Help participants to encounter God in a life-changing way through the rites, scripture reflection and worshipping in community.

Catechetical

Evangelize and catechize better by forming the minds and hearts of participants.

Pastoral

Gain the trust of our participants by helping them experience how their faith serves them in everyday life.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Participant Requirements-

Attendance

Weekly sessions/MAKEUPS- You will be required to attend 16 consecutive Monday evening sessions from 7-8:30 pm (with the exception of holidays/days off). Sessions are sequential- one builds upon another. If you have to miss a session, you need to contact a team member for a makeup. Makeups need to be completed prior to the next session.

If you have 3 or more absences, you may be asked to rejoin the process in April with the next group. Team members work full-time and have other obligations with the Church as well as with their own families.

Note to all Participants- Traditionally, OCIA has been a 2 ½ year process. With the approval of the Diocese of Raleigh, we are able to offer this as a 5 1/2-month journey. However, due to the abbreviated format, we are unable to accommodate or tolerate multiple missed sessions or events.

If you feel you might have a problem meeting all of the attendance requirements, you may want to set your sights on a more relaxed experience that spans two groups over 11 months.

Punctuality- We start on time so we can end on time. Please do your best to be on time for sessions and events.

Sunday sessions- “Breaking Open the Word” (BOtW)- Group discussion on the day’s Gospel and homily. We will sit at 9 am mass together as a group. The front few pews (on the left if facing the altar will be reserved) for you and your families. Breaking Open the Word will commence immediately after the conclusion of the 9 am mass in Room 3 and will run no longer than 30 minutes. We will be inviting members of the parish at-large to join us.

Mass attendance on Sunday is mandatory. You cannot be Catholic without a devotion to the mass. If you don’t plan on attending mass every Sunday, perhaps you have chosen the wrong faith.

Prayer- We will begin and end each Monday evening session with a prayer. Participants will rotate with each taking turns leading prayer.

Retreat- The Diocese of Raleigh requires a retreat for everyone presenting themselves for a Sacrament. Your retreat will be held on Saturday, March 20 from 9 am until 4 pm at the church.

You will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, March 27, 2027

Rites- There are two combined Rites celebrated along the journey. The first is the Rite of Entrance (those unbaptized)/Rite of Welcome (those baptized). This Rite will be scheduled after consultation with clergy.

The second is the Rite of Election (unbaptized)/Call to Continuing Conversion (baptized) which will be scheduled after consultation with clergy.

Scrutinies- Scrutinies are for the unbaptized only. However, attendance is mandatory for all. Scrutinies will be scheduled after consultation with clergy.

Currently we can neither support makeup sessions for the Rites nor for the Retreat.

Other Requirements

Parish Registration- Please register with the parish if you haven't already done so. You can fill out the form on the website or do it in person at the parish office.

Textbooks

There are two required texts that you need to bring with you every Monday evening. They are:

-New American Bible Revised Edition. Now we realize that many of you already have a favorite bible. The NABRE is the bible that contains the mass readings. In order that we are all working from the same translation, please use and carry this text.

-Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd Edition (Updated Edition).

Participation- You will get more out of this experience if you listen attentively, ask questions and add meaningful commentary to our discussions. You will also be helping others in the group to find their "spiritual footing."

Sacramental Events- Sacramental events help us deepen our relationship with God and others. Through prayer, ritual and gathering, they enhance our Catholic experience and spiritual journey. You will be required to attend 3 events over the course of the 5 1/2 month journey.

Examples of these events include First Friday or other Holy Hour Eucharistic Adorations, Rosary Prayer groups, other prayer groups, Bible study, ministry meetings, etc. Please watch the eNews for dates and times of these events.

Sponsors- You will need a sponsor for your journey. Sponsors must be fully initiated, practicing Catholics and not romantic interests or immediate family members. Sponsors are welcome and encouraged to attend sessions with you.

If you do not know anyone that would fit the requirements of a sponsor, please let us know and we will find you one. The sponsor form is attached. Please inform us of your sponsor no later than week 4, please.

St. Mary Magdalene OCIA Team

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