

St. Justin Martyr Roman Catholic Church • Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults • 2019-2020

Weekly meetings on Thursdays from 7:00-8:30pm in the grade school's ATR Room

DATE	MEETING TOPIC	USCCA	RCIA PERIOD & RITE
SEPTEMBER			<p>Pre-Catechumenate The main purpose is to give the inquirer an opportunity to question and explore many different aspects of the Catholic faith, while introducing some of the Gospel values.</p> <p>Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens Inquirers express the interest and the Church accepts their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ.</p>
5	RCIA, our stories, faith & conversion	Chapters 1 & 4	
12	Who is Jesus?		
19	Prayer in the Catholic Tradition	Chapters 35-36	
26	The Mass: Source & Summit of the Christian Life	Chapter 17	<p>Catechumenate This is by far the longest and most formal part of the process. During this phase the catechumen is expected to participate with the whole Catholic community in their Sunday celebrations. The catechumen participates by sharing in the Liturgy of the Word. Through prayer, learning and coming to know other Catholic Christians, catechumens discover the love and power of God in their lives and in the church. This phase is meant to be one not only of intellectual and faith formation, but also one of great delight and opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the parish community. The focus clearly is on a conversion of heart, through prayer and good works, but also of conversion of the mind, in which we start to see through the eyes of God, to think, perceive and act as Christ desires. During this time, catechumens receive anointings, participate in prayers of exorcism and blessings, which assists this conversion.</p> <p>The Rite of Election is an acknowledgment on behalf of the bishop, based on the testimony of the priest, the RCIA team, and the sponsors, that the catechumen is adequately formed and ready to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. It is a formal acceptance on behalf of the Church. The catechumen too, formally declares that he / she has believed and accepted all that was presented to them during the Catechumenate. This is a formal declaration that it is their desire to become a fully active participant within the Catholic faith community. This Rite takes place during the first Sunday of Lent and from this time, until they are baptized, the catechumens are called the elect.</p> <p>Purification & Enlightenment This phase takes place during Lent, and is marked by 3 community celebrations known as <i>Scrutinies</i>. During this period, the elect and the parish community together focus on conversion, scrutinize their lives in light of the Gospel and celebrate the presentations of the Creed and Lord's Prayer. The Scrutinies coincide with the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday's of Lent, and they ask God for healing and forgiveness of the elect.</p> <p>The Rites of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are the climax of being fully incorporated into Christ & His Church. This takes place at the Easter Vigil.</p> <p>Mystagogia This is an important period of reflection by the newly initiated with their parish community. The formation and teaching continues during this time, in order to help the neophytes become incorporated into the full life of the Christian community. It is the final stage of the RCIA, but it is only the first stage of the rest of their lives as a fully active member of the Catholic Church.</p>
OCTOBER			
3	Tour of St. Justin Martyr Church		
10	In the Beginning: God the Holy Trinity & Creation	Chapters 5 & 6	
17	Jesus & Salvation	Chapters 7 & 8	
24	Divine Revelation: Scripture & Tradition	Chapters 2 & 3	
31	Blessed Virgin Mary & the Communion of Saint	Chapter 12	
NOVEMBER			
7	The Catholic Church & Her History	Chapters 10 & 11	
14	Sacraments & Liturgy	Chapter 14	
21	Liturgical Year & Advent		
28	<i>Thanksgiving — no meeting</i>		
DECEMBER			
5	Sacraments of Initiation	Chapters 15, 16, 17	
12	Sacraments of Healing & of Vocation	Chapters 18- 21	
19	Celebrating Christmas in the Catholic Church		
26	<i>Merry Christmas! — no meeting</i>		
JANUARY			
2	<i>Happy New Year! — no meeting</i>		
9	Christian Moral Life	Chapters 23 & 24	
16	The 1st, 2nd & 3rd Commandments	Chapters 25, 26, 27	
23	The 4th & 5th Commandments	Chapters 28 & 29	
30	The 6th & 9th Commandments	Chapters 30 & 33	
FEBRUARY			
6	The 7th, 8th & 10th Commandments	Chapter 31, 32 & 34	
13	Eternal Destiny: Heaven, Hell & Purgatory	Chapter 13	
20	The Liturgical Season of Lent		
27	The Teachings of Jesus		
MARCH			
5	Conversion		
12	Catholic Spirituality		
19	Sacrament of Penance & How to Celebrate It	Chapter 18	
26	The Paschal Mystery & the Sacraments of Initiation	Chapter 8	
APRIL			
2	Preparing to Receive the Sacraments of Initiation		
5	Palm Sunday Retreat, 11:00-3:00pm (after 9:30 Mass, in the ATR)		
9	Holy Thursday: Fellowship Meal & Mass of the Last Supper		
11	Holy Saturday, 9:00am Prayer & Vigil practice • Evening—EASTER VIGIL		
16	Reflecting on the Vigil & Life in the Holy Spirit	Chapter 9	
23	Union with Christ in the Holy Eucharist & Full Participation in the Mass		
30	Discipleship & Personal Vocation		
MAY			
7	Role of the Laity & Participating more fully in the life of St. Justin Parish		
14	Potluck Dinner		