

Are you Seeking
MEANING?
TRUTH?
COMMUNITY?

Explore the Catholic
faith
and consider
becoming Catholic.

**COME
AND SEE**

**INQUIRE
ANYTIME**

St. Lawrence Catholic Church

Fr. Henry Atem, Pastor

For information about how
ADULTS become Catholic or if
you are already Catholic and
over 18 seeking sacraments,
contact
Diane at

dmaguire@saintlaw.org

Para obtener información
sobre cómo los **ADULTOS**
pueden hacerse católicos o, si
ya es católico y tiene más de
18 años pero aún necesita
recibir algún sacramento,
comuníquese con Cristina en

ccorbin@saintlaw.org

319 Grayson Hwy, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 • 770-963-8992



We are glad to hear of your interest in responding to God's call for a deeper relationship with him. The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (O.C.I.A.), for those 18 and older, is the name of the process that prepares you for a deeper relationship with God and membership in a Catholic community that believes and lives Jesus' teachings. There is no obligation to become Catholic if you inquire or enroll in the process. Here are some things you need to consider as you discern God's call:

1. Have you ever been baptized?

If not: you will be prepared to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion at the **Easter Vigil** which is the **only time** that we baptize adults.

If you've been baptized, please provide a copy of your baptism certificate from the church where the baptism took place for verification.

2. Class times for sacrament preparation.

If you have not been baptized, you are expected to regularly attend the sessions held on **Sundays after the 10:00 Mass**. While you are welcome to inquire about the process at any time and even begin attending sessions with the current group if you wish, there is a firm enrollment deadline at the end of September. Those who enroll after this date will continue their formation but will not be eligible to celebrate the sacraments at the upcoming Easter Vigil, and will instead join the following year's Easter Vigil group.

If you were **baptized in a Catholic or Christian church**, sessions are offered on **Tuesday nights** after the 6:30 p.m. (from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.). These sessions are offered twice a year (Fall and Spring.) You only sign up for one of these twelve week sessions. The **Fall sessions** prepare adults to celebrate their sacraments on the **Feast of Christ the King**. The **Spring sessions** prepare adults to celebrate their sacraments on **Pentecost Sunday**. This is assuming all necessary requirements have been met. If you enroll before September 30, the Sunday morning sessions are also an option for those who want a more in-depth study of the faith with sacraments being celebrated at the Easter Vigil.



3. Your Marital Status Matters! The Catholic Church calls all Catholics, and those preparing to become Catholic, to celebrate marriage within the Church. If you are married civilly (outside the Catholic Church or married by an ordained minister), you are still welcome to participate; however, your marital situation will need to be reviewed by our pastor. In some cases, additional preparation or the resolution of a prior marriage bond may be

required before receiving sacraments. This process can affect the timing of your sacramental reception, so it's best to start the review process *as soon as possible*. Our pastor and parish team are here to guide you through each step with care and respect. Keep in mind his calendar fills up quickly and preparation classes or the annulment process can take months or longer depending on your particular situation. **To schedule an appointment with our pastor, Fr. Henry, contact Darleine at darce@saintlaw.org.**



4. Required Paperwork.

- At your initial meeting with the coordinator, you will be asked to fill out a **general inquiry form**, which among other things, includes information about your marital status. *With your permission, we will put your name, photo, and a short blurb about you on the church slides so parishioners can pray for you.*
- You need to be a **Registered Member** of the parish. To fill out the parish registration form, go to saintlaw.org , scroll down and click on the box labeled “Become a Member”. Register all household members (even if non-Catholic!).
- You need to fill out the **O.C.I.A. Class Enrollment Form**. *This is different from the parish registration.* After your initial meeting, a link will be sent to you to enroll and pay for the books used in the sessions.
- Submit a copy of your **Birth Certificate**.
- (If Married) submit a copy of your **Marriage Certificate**.

5. Sponsor for Baptism and/or Confirmation.

A sponsor is a Catholic individual who will serve as a spiritual companion on your journey of faith. Whomever you choose, he or she will need to submit a **Sponsor Letter** stating eligibility from the parish they attend, even if they attend St. Lawrence.

Requirements of Sponsor:

- You need only one sponsor.
- Your sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
- A biological parent cannot serve as your sponsor.
- Your sponsor must be an active Catholic who has received Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion, and is practicing the faith.
- If married, your sponsor must have been married in the Catholic Church.

Additional Note (for those receiving both Baptism and Confirmation): If you choose to have two individuals, they must be of opposite gender (one will serve as the sponsor and the other as a godparent).

6. Saint's Name for Confirmation.

In addition, you will be asked to **choose a saint** whom you admire and want as your heavenly sponsor to intercede on your behalf. Once you have chosen that saint you will submit **a paragraph** explaining why you chose him or her.

7. After you celebrate your sacraments, what's next?

This is the mission statement for everyone in our parish, young and old:

“Encounter Christ • Grow as Disciples • Share the Gospel”

Your Baptism or Confirmation is only the beginning of a deeper relationship not only with God but also with family and whomever God puts in your path. You were created for a purpose. God has a plan for how you will be the means of His grace to others.

- Ongoing Sunday Mass attendance and Confession are two ways to help you continue to grow in God's grace and be able to do good and avoid evil.
- An ongoing personal prayer life is essential in discerning God's will for your happiness now and forever in Heaven. There are many traditional Catholic practices, such as Eucharistic Adoration or the rosary, that you can do as part of a group or on your own to stay close to Jesus.
- Get involved! God has given you specific talents that are needed in our parish. One way we build community is by serving. Every one is asked to discern which of the many different ministries in the parish God is calling them to participate in. A list of ministries is on our parish website under the Parish Life tab to consider.
- Ongoing adult faith formation is very important! Today more than ever there are many reputable Catholic websites, books, podcasts, parish programs, etc. to help you better understand and live out the moral truths that Christ taught us in a world that rejects belief in God and his teachings.
- Stay in touch with your sponsor. He or she is a person you can talk to in real time and volunteer with.
- Don't forget to pray/talk to your Confirmation saint. You have chosen him or her to intercede on your behalf in discerning God's will for you.

