



OCIC: NEW to St. Matthew's

*Order of Christian Initiation of
Children (OCIC) into the Catholic Church*

St. Matthew's Catholic Church is offering the Order of Christian Initiation of Children (OCIC) for 2026-2027. This includes youth in 6th grade through high school Seniors who have not completed preparation to receive some or all of the sacraments of baptism, reconciliation, confirmation and eucharist.

The first session OCIC is Sunday, September 13, 2026, 10:45AM - 12:15PM, in the parish center. OCIC will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, September 2026 through April 2027. A calendar of meeting dates will be handed out to participants. These sessions will be lead by Deacon Mitch Anderson and his wife, Mary.

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend the first meeting with their children in order to help fill out registration forms. Please bring Certificates for any sacraments that the youth have received already.

The OCIC program is in addition to the same youth participating in the Wednesday Religious Education program. The OCIC program helps to inform participants on the basic tenets of the Catholic faith whereas the Religious Education program helps to form Catholic community amongst peers and to deepen the faith of all.

OCIC participants who intend to receive sacraments need a sponsor. The Canon of the Catholic Church, Canon 874, lists the basic criteria for sponsors:

1. The sponsor should be designated or invited by the person to receive sacraments. If the participant doesn't have someone in mind, the OCIC leaders can help identify a parishioner for the sponsor role.
2. The sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
3. The sponsor must be a confirmed Catholic "who leads a life of faith". This is someone who has already committed to and experienced the Catholic faith journey.
4. No sponsor can be subject to a Church penalty such as excommunication.
5. The sponsor cannot be the participant's parent.

If any youth of the parish would like to refresh their basic knowledge of what Catholics believe, they certainly are invited and welcome to attend the OCIC sessions. Perhaps a family's relocation interrupted a year or more of learning Catholic foundations? Whatever the reason, the OCIC sessions are open to any youth from 6th grade to high school Senior.

If any youth age 16 or older would like to be a sponsor to an OCIC participant, please contact the parish office.

Youth younger than 6th grade, who want to complete sacramental preparation, and who have not signed up for the youth Religious Education program, please contact Mary Quiroz, the Director of Religious Education.

Anyone who is age 18 or older, who is not enrolled in high school, and who wants to complete sacramental preparation, please contact Julie or Mark Brodhead 406-488-6331, leaders of the Adult OCIA program.



Looking for Fun, Fellowship, and Faith?

Join the Weekly OCIA Classes!

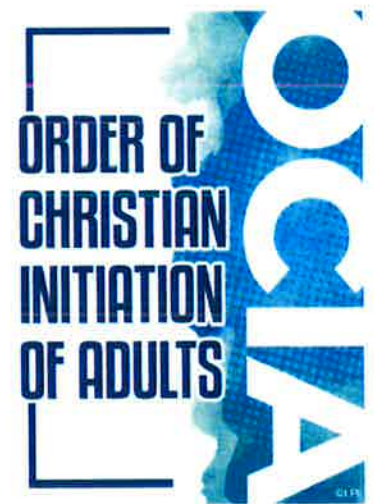
Are you looking to strengthen your faith, renew your beliefs, or start a new journey to joining the Catholic Church? We invite you to join us for free, fun, and faith-filled evenings with snacks, fellowship, and valuable learning.

Our weekly OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) Classes will begin on **Monday, September 14th at 6:15pm in the parish center conference room.** Whether you're preparing to join the church at the 2027 Easter Vigil celebration or simply seeking to grow in your faith, all are welcome to come and learn more about the Catholic Church.

What to Expect:

- Engaging sessions on the teaching of the Church
- Fellowship with fellow learners
- Snack and a warm community atmosphere
- Support for your spiritual growth

Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding of the Catholic faith!



For more information, **call Mark or Julie Brodhead at 406-488-6331** or inquire at the Parish Center Office.

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ALL ARE WELCOME