

The Lord's Call



The Lord invites us to salvation and intimate union with Him, through the Catholic Church, leading to eternal life. "Repent, and believe in the Gospel. Come follow me." (Mark 1:15). This journey of conversion is a complete turning of our whole life to God, who is Love, through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who became man, suffered, died, was buried, and rose again, securing eternal life for all who believe. He left us a Church as the means of fulfilling His divine life on earth. That faith-life is a bonding with the Blessed Trinity and the human community beginning with the rebirth of Baptism, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, and continuing in the solemn celebration of the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Catholic faith. "Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb" (Mass Communion Rite).

We invite you to attend OCIA if you are...

- **an adult who has never been baptized**
- **a non-Catholic who has been baptized in another Christian denomination**
- **a baptized Catholic who did not continue to receive First Communion and Confirmation**
- **Catholics who want to learn more about their faith**

"Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."

—Pope Benedict XVI

The Process

At St. Frances Cabrini, the OCIA is a seven-month series of weekly classes in preparation for reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at Easter, followed by another month of continued study. Adults explore the treasures of our Catholic faith. They learn about the person of Jesus and to develop an intimate friendship with our Savior through prayer, scripture study, exploration of Catholic beliefs and practices, Eucharistic worship, and fellowship. The journey is marked by milestones along the way, public celebrations of a deepening acceptance of the Lord's call.

The Classes



Our first class will be Thursday, August 28th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Cabrini Center, the building to the west of church. Classes will continue to meet weekly on Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. A detailed calendar will be provided at our first meeting.

Our classes are led by St. Frances Cabrini parishioners. We will accept new inquirers throughout September and October. To enroll, complete and "inquiry" application and return it to the parish office located in the Cabrini Center or simply show up at one of our classes and introduce yourself. All materials for the OCIA will be provided.

Outline of the OCIA Year 2025-2026

Inquiry Period, September-October

This is a time of no fixed duration or structure, a time of informal inquiry and introduction.

First Step: Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, Fall.

This rite, held at a Sunday Mass in the fall (exact date to be decided by class) marks the beginning of a more formal period of preparation. The **non-baptized are enrolled as catechumens**, a term from the early Church for those who are being prepared for baptism. Those **already baptized, referred to as candidates, are called to continuing conversion**. All participants express, and the Church accepts, their intention to follow Christ more closely.

Period of Catechumenate, October-February

A time for nurturing and growth of the catechumens' and the candidates' faith and conversion through readings and instruction.

Second Step: Rite of Election, First Sunday of Lent, February 22nd.

In this Rite, held at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, the catechumens write their names into the Book of the Elect, expressing their desire to receive the sacraments. The bishop, on behalf of the whole Church, accepts them among the elect. Baptized candidates participate as well, affirming their call to continuing conversion. It is a momentous occasion in which we join all the other OCIA participants in the diocese in our cathedral.

Period of Purification and Enlightenment, Lent to Easter

The elect, the baptized candidates, and the whole parish prepare for Easter in a time of deepening reflection, penance, and prayer, during the five weeks of Lent. Candidates will make their first Confession and Fr. Joseph will meet with each member of the class. On the final three Sundays of Lent, the OCIA will be prayed over at Mass in what are called the Scrutinies. Holy Week, which begins on Palm Sunday, March 29th, recalls the final week of Christ's life, and is an intense week of preparation for the OCIA, including a sacraments rehearsal in church.

Third Step: Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, Easter Vigil, April 4th.

This is the pinnacle of the liturgical year, in whose candle-lit splendor the Risen Jesus appears anew in each Christian's soul, and into His loving embrace new Catholic disciples are welcomed.

The elect will be baptized, and both the elect and candidates will be confirmed and receive the Risen Christ in Communion for the first time.

Period of Postbaptismal Catechesis or Mystagoga, April-May

The newly initiated enter into full participation in the Christian community by means of continued catechesis, regular celebration of the Sunday Eucharist, and in invitation to spread God's love in service to others.



For Further Information

Please contact:
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Religious Education Coordinator
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(941) 776-9097

Or simply show up at our introductory class on Thursday, August 28th from 6-8 p.m. in the Cabrini Center. There is no obligation. Those participants who are fairly certain they want to continue to receive the sacraments at Easter are asked to attend classes regularly, so that they are well-prepared to take these serious steps with full understanding and conviction.

St. Frances Cabrini welcomes you!

St. Frances Cabrini
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Parrish, FL 34219
(941) 776-9097
www.cabriniparrish.org

*"I will go anywhere and do anything
in order to communicate the love of Jesus
to those who do not know Him
or have forgotten Him."*

- St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Are You Thinking of Becoming Catholic?



OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation
of Adults

St. Frances Cabrini
2025-2026