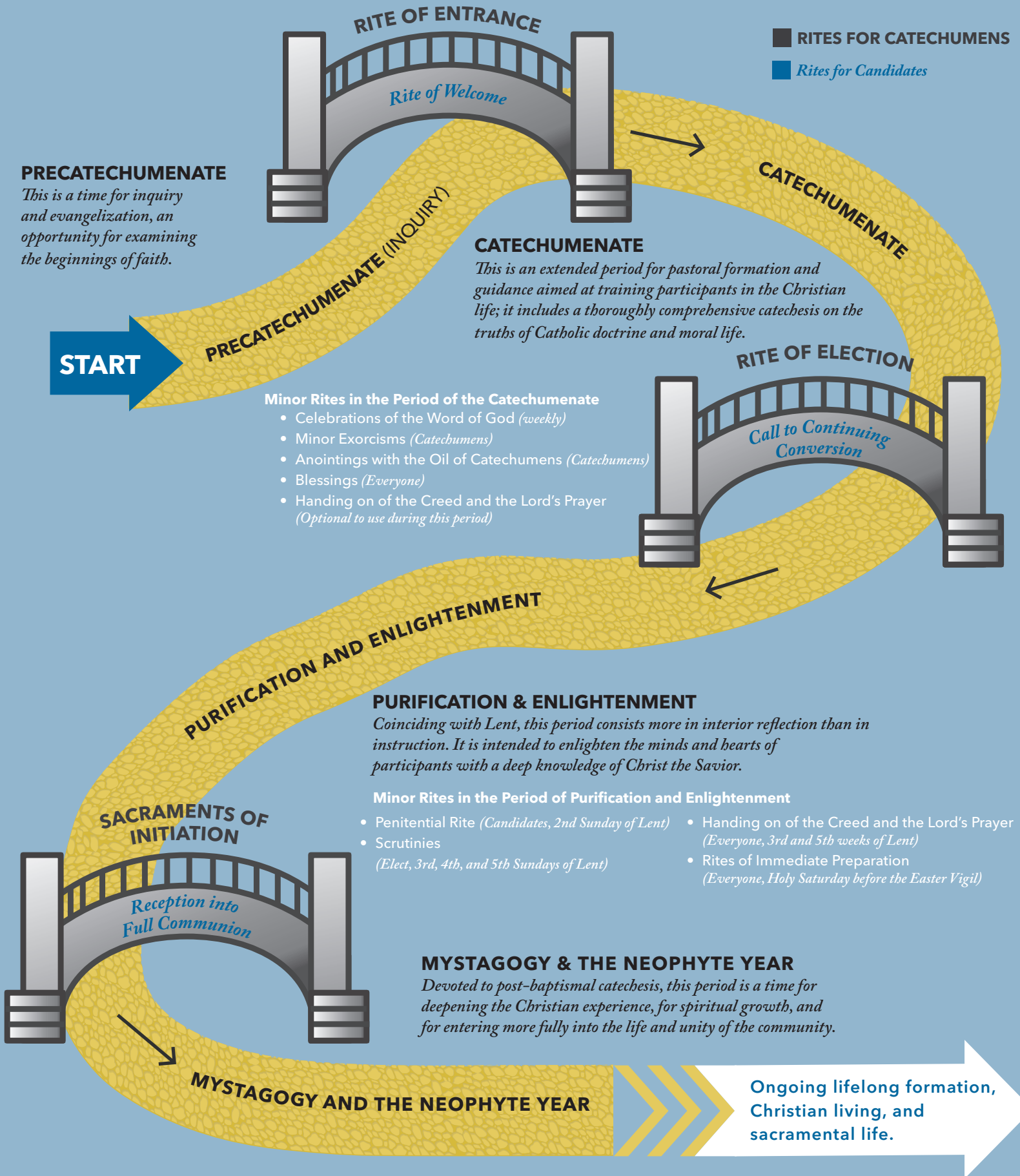


# THE CATECHUMENAL PROCESS (OCIA)



### Minor Rites in the Period of the Catechumenate

- Celebrations of the Word of God (*weekly*)
- Minor Exorcisms (*Catechumens*)
- Anointings with the Oil of Catechumens (*Catechumens*)
- Blessings (*Everyone*)
- Handing on of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer (*Optional to use during this period*)

### PURIFICATION & ENLIGHTENMENT

*Coinciding with Lent, this period consists more in interior reflection than in instruction. It is intended to enlighten the minds and hearts of participants with a deep knowledge of Christ the Savior.*

### Minor Rites in the Period of Purification and Enlightenment

- Penitential Rite (*Candidates, 2nd Sunday of Lent*)
- Scrutinies (*Elect, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent*)
- Handing on of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer (*Everyone, 3rd and 5th weeks of Lent*)
- Rites of Immediate Preparation (*Everyone, Holy Saturday before the Easter Vigil*)

### MYSTAGOGY & THE NEOPHYTE YEAR

*Devoted to post-baptismal catechesis, this period is a time for deepening the Christian experience, for spiritual growth, and for entering more fully into the life and unity of the community.*

# THE CATECHUMENAL PROCESS

## (The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, OCIA)

### PRECATECHUMENATE PERIOD:

This is a time for inquiry and evangelization, an opportunity for examining the beginnings of faith, proclaiming the kerygma, giving witness to and evidence of the spirit of the Christian community, realizing the first stirrings of repentance, and beginning to call upon God in prayer.

### RITE OF ENTRANCE *(Inquirers)*

### RITE OF WELCOME *(Candidates for Catechetical Instruction Leading to Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church)*

The first Liturgical Step in the process. May be held several times a year as needed. Discernment interviews should precede this rite and taking this step.

### CATECHUMENATE PERIOD:

Catechumens are now joined to the household of Christ. An extended period for pastoral formation and giving guidance aimed at training participants in the Christian life. Includes a thoroughly comprehensive catechesis on the truths of Catholic doctrine, the moral life, Church precepts, and developing a profound sense of the mystery of salvation.

#### Minor Rites in the Period of the Catechumenate

- Celebrations of the Word of God *(weekly)*
- Minor Exorcisms *(Catechumens)*
- Anointings with the Oil of Catechumens *(Catechumens)*
- Blessings *(Everyone)*
- Handing on of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer *(Optional to use during this period)*

### RITE OF SENDING *(Everyone going to the bishop)*

Within the parish community the preliminary judgement is made concerning the catechumen's and candidate's state of formation and progress. This rite offers the parish an opportunity to express approval and send them forth to the bishop and celebration of election and call to continuing conversion assured of the parish's care and support. This is an optional rite that can be done at the parish Mass before catechumens and candidates are sent to the bishop at the diocese.

### RITE OF ELECTION *(Catechumens)*

### CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

*(Candidates for Catechetical Instruction Leading to Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church)*

The second Liturgical Step generally occurs on the first Sunday of Lent, or per the bishop's choice. Deliberation should be made prior to celebrating this rite by the pastor, deacon, OCIA team members, parish sponsor, godparent/sponsor, and representatives of the parish community to discern catechumens/candidates state of readiness to advance toward the sacraments of initiation.

### PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT PERIOD:

Coinciding with Lent, this period consists of more interior reflection, serious examination of their lives, and repentance, rather than catechetical instruction. It is intended to enlighten the minds and hearts of participants with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior. The entire parish community surrounds them with prayer to accompany and lead them to a more profound encounter with Christ.

#### Minor Rites in the Period of Purification and Enlightenment

- Penitential Rite *(Candidates, 2nd Sunday of Lent)*
- Scrutinies *(Elect, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent)*
- Handing on of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer *(Everyone, 3rd and 5th weeks of Lent)*
- Rites of Immediate Preparation *(Everyone, Holy Saturday before the Easter Vigil)*

### SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION *(Elect)*

### RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH *(Candidates)*

This third Liturgical Step is held at the Easter Vigil. The Elect receive all their sacraments of initiation then. The candidates may be received into Full Communion at the Vigil or on other Sundays or significant feast days of the year per the pastor's discretion.

- Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist *(Elect)*
- Profession of Faith, Confirmation, and the Eucharist *(Candidates)*

### MYSTAGOGY PERIOD:

Devoted to post-baptismal catechesis, this period is a time for welcoming the neophytes with open arms and charity, for deepening the Christian experience, for spiritual growth through a fuller and more effective understanding of the mysteries they have encountered, for deepening their grasp of the Paschal Mystery and meditating on the Gospel, for doing the Works of Mercy, for sharing in the Eucharist, and for entering more fully into the life and unity of the parish community. Some celebration should be held at the end of the Easter season near Pentecost Sunday.

- Mass of the Neophytes *(together as a body, each Sunday of the Easter season)*
- Solemnity of Pentecost Mass, *(last Sunday of the Easter Season)*

### NEOPHYTE YEAR:

At least monthly gatherings to surround and accompany neophytes as they enter more fully into the parish community by joining the typical parish events offered throughout the year, being prayed for and encouraged, connecting to parish groups and apostolates in which their charisms and gifts might be further activated, participating in works of service, seeing the witness of the parish community and the living of Christian life, celebrating the Eucharist weekly if not daily, and participating in ongoing formation and growth in holiness and virtue. On the anniversary of their baptism, gather the neophytes to give thanks to God, share their spiritual experiences, and renew their commitment.

- Celebration Mass with the Bishop *(sometime during the Neophyte Year)*
- Anniversary Mass and celebration *(on the anniversary of the baptism)*
- Lifelong, ongoing formation, living the Christian life, engaging Jesus' mission to the world