



St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica  
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**2023-2024**

## **Overview of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Program**

*"The rite of Christian initiation [...] is designed for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. By God's help they are strengthened spiritually during their preparation and at the proper time will receive the sacraments fruitfully." (RCIA, 1)*

### **WHO IS RCIA FOR?**

The RCIA program is designed for adults (at least 16 years of age) who are seeking to grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith and interested in becoming fully initiated into the life of the Catholic Church. Participants must be willing to attend weekly sessions and days of recollection throughout the year.

### **THE DIFFERENT CANDIDATES ENTERING RCIA AT ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA:**

<b>The Non-Baptized</b>	<b>Baptized Non-Catholics</b>	<b>Baptized Catholics who received First Communion</b>
Have never been baptized in any church, Catholic or non-Catholic.	Were validly baptized in another Christian denomination.	Did not previously receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
Will receive full initiation into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion.	Will receive full initiation into the Catholic Church by making a profession of faith and receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion.	Will complete their initiation into the Catholic Church by receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Throughout the program, participants will have opportunities to reflect upon their spiritual journey and discern whether they are ready to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. Committing to join the program does not mean committing to becoming Catholic – each participant has the freedom to pause their journey or leave the program. All that is required is a willingness to attend the weekly sessions and an openness to learning more about the Catholic faith.

Participants must live within the parish boundaries of St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica or intend to become a practising member of the parish community.

**The following pages are a detailed outline of the schedule for the 8-month program. For all questions and inquiries please email [torregosa@stmichaelscathedral.com](mailto:torregosa@stmichaelscathedral.com)**

## RCIA 2023 – 2024 Calendar of Events

### Pre-Catechumenate/Inquiry Period

**Saturday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Atrium)**

Date	Topic/Activity
Saturday, September 16	Introduction to RCIA What do you seek?
Saturday, September 23	Who are you?
Saturday, September 30	Why a God?
Saturday, October 7	What's our story?
Saturday, October 14	Who is Jesus?
Saturday, October 21	Am I saved?
Saturday, October 28	Why a Church?
Saturday, November 4	The Last Things and the Second Coming of Christ (Death, Judgement, Hell, Purgatory, Heaven)
Saturday, November 11	Intro to Sacraments & Liturgical Calendar
Saturday, November 18	Foundations of Christian Morality
Saturday, November 25	Mary, the Mother of Christ and our Spiritual Mother
Saturday, December 2 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Exercise on Discernment (How to Use the Bible & Lectio Divina) Preparation for the Rite of Acceptance

<b>Sunday, December 3 10:00 AM Mass</b>	<b>Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumenate</b> Breaking Open the Word of God
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### Catechumenate Period

**Saturday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Atrium) and Sunday, 10:00 AM Mass (Cathedral/Crypt Chapel)**

Date	Topic/Activity
Saturday, December 9	The Holy Trinity
Sunday, December 10	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, December 16	The Ten Commandments: Specifics
Sunday, December 17	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, December 23	No Meeting (Christmas)
Sunday, December 24	No Meeting (Christmas)
Saturday, December 30	No Meeting
Sunday, December 31	No Meeting
Saturday, January 6	Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, January 7	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, January 13	Sacrament of Confirmation The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Sunday, January 14	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, January 20	Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist
Sunday, January 21	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, January 27	Forgiveness and Sacraments of Healing

Sunday, January 28	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, February 3	Vocation and Sacraments of Holy Matrimony & Holy Orders
Sunday, February 4	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, February 10	Human Suffering and Lenten Season
Sunday, February 11	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, February 17 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Lenten Retreat Preparation for the Rite of Election

<b>Sunday, February 18 2:00 PM</b>	<b>Rite of Election</b>
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**Enlightenment Period**  
**Saturday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Atrium) and Sunday, 10:00 AM Mass (Cathedral/Crypt Chapel)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Activity</b>
Saturday, February 24	Reflection and Prayer
Sunday, February 25	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i> The Transfiguration of the Lord
Saturday, March 2	Reflection and Prayer
Sunday, March 3	<b>First Scrutiny</b> <i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i> The Woman at the Well
Saturday, March 9	Reflection and Prayer <b>Presentation of the Apostles' Creed</b>
Sunday, March 10	<b>Second Scrutiny</b> <i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i> Bartimaeus, the Man Born Blind
Saturday, March 16	Reflection and Prayer
Sunday, March 17	<b>Third Scrutiny</b> <i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i> The Raising of Lazarus
Saturday, March 23	Reflection and Prayer <b>Presentation of the Lord's Prayer</b>
Sunday, March 24	Palm Sunday <i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>

## Holy Week

You are encouraged to attend all the Masses and services in the Cathedral during this week.

Date/Time	Topic/Activity
Tuesday, March 26 11:00 AM	Chrism Mass (optional)
Wednesday, March 27 7:00 PM	Tenebrae (optional)
Thursday, March 28 5:30 PM	Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper (optional)
Friday, March 29 12:30 PM 3:00 PM	<b>Good Friday</b> Final Retreat Good Friday Service (Cathedral)
Saturday, March 30 TBD 9:00 PM	Rehearsal (Cathedral) <b>Easter Vigil – SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (Cathedral)</b>
Sunday, March 31	<b>Easter Sunday</b>

**Mystagogy Period****Saturday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Atrium) and Sunday, 10:00 AM Mass (Cathedral)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Activity</b>
<b>Saturday, April 6</b>	Frans Celebration Brunch
<b>Sunday, April 7 9:00 -10:00 AM</b>	Sunday Mass Coffee Sunday
<b>Saturday, April 13</b>	Living the Mystery – Discussion & Prayer
<b>Sunday, April 14</b>	Sunday Mass
<b>Saturday, April 20</b>	Living the Mystery – Discussion & Prayer
<b>Sunday, April 21</b>	Sunday Mass
<b>Saturday, April 27</b>	Living the Mystery – Discussion & Prayer
<b>Sunday, April 28</b>	Sunday Mass
<b>Saturday, May 4</b>	Living the Mystery – Discussion & Prayer
<b>Sunday, May 5</b>	Sunday Mass
<b>Saturday, May 11</b>	Living the Mystery – Discussion & Prayer Lunch Celebration
<b>Sunday, May 12</b>	Sunday Mass
<b>Sunday, May 19</b>	Sunday Mass



# ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA

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THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF HIS GRACE FRANCIS LEO  
ARCHBISHOP OF TORONTO