



St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica  
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**2024-2025**

## **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 (make an informed decision) whether they are ready to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (which include Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation). 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 9-month program. For all questions and inquiries please email [torregosa@stmichaelscathedral.com](mailto:torregosa@stmichaelscathedral.com)

## RCIA 2024 – 2025 Calendar of Events

*Please note that any changes to location, dates, or time, that occur throughout the year will be communicated via email or during session announcements.*

### Fall 2024

Pre-Catechumenate/Inquiry Period	
Saturday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Atrium)	
Date	Topic/Activity
Saturday, September 21	Introduction to RCIA & Social
Saturday, September 28	What do you seek?
Saturday, October 5	Who are you?
Saturday, October 12	Why a God?
Saturday, October 19	What's our story?
Saturday, October 26	Who is Jesus?
Saturday, November 2	Am I saved?
Saturday, November 9	Why a Church?
Saturday, November 16	The Holy Trinity
Saturday, November 23	Revelation
Saturday, November 30 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Exercise on Discernment (How to Use the Bible & Lectio Divina) Preparation for the Rite of Acceptance
Sunday, December 1 10:00 AM Mass	Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumenate Breaking Open the Word of God

## Winter 2024-25

Catechumenate Period	
Saturday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Atrium) and Sunday, 10:00 AM Mass (Cathedral/St. John's Chapel)	
Date	Topic/Activity
Saturday, December 7	The Last Things and the Second Coming of Christ (Death, Judgement, Hell, Purgatory, Heaven)
Sunday, December 8	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, December 14	Mary, the Mother of Christ and our Spiritual Mother
Sunday, December 15	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, December 21	No Meeting (Christmas)
Sunday, December 22	No Meeting (Christmas)
Saturday, December 28	No Meeting
Sunday, December 29	No Meeting
Saturday, January 4	Foundations of Christian Morality
Sunday, January 5	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, January 11	The Ten Commandments: Specifics
Sunday, January 12	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, January 28	Intro to Sacraments & Liturgical Calendar
Sunday, January 19	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, January 25	Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, January 26	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, February 1	Sacrament of Confirmation The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Sunday, February 2	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, February 8	Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist
Sunday, February 9	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, February 15	Forgiveness and Sacraments of Healing
Sunday, February 16	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, February 22	Vocation and Sacraments of Holy Matrimony & Holy Orders
Sunday, February 23	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, March 1	Human Suffering and Lenten Season
Sunday, March 2	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, March 8 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Lenten Retreat Preparation for the Rite of Election
Sunday, March 9 2:00 PM	Rite of Election

## Spring 2025

Enlightenment Period Saturday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Atrium) and Sunday, 10:00 AM Mass (Cathedral/St. John's Chapel)	
Date	Topic/Activity
Saturday, March 15	Signs & Symbols: The Altar Prayer: Examine of Conscience & the Daily Examen
Sunday, March 16	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God: The Transfiguration of the Lord</i>
Saturday, March 22	Signs & Symbols: Materials & Colours Prayer: Intercessory Prayer
Sunday, March 23	<b>First Scrutiny</b> <i>Breaking Open the Word of God: The Woman at the Well</i>
Saturday, March 29	Signs & Symbols: Water & Oil Prayers: The Credo (Formative-Memorized-Repetitive prayers) <b>Presentation of the Apostles' Creed</b>
Sunday, March 30	<b>Second Scrutiny</b> <i>Breaking Open the Word of God: Bartimaeus, the Man Born Blind</i>
Saturday, April 5	Signs & Symbols: Paschal Candle + Fire Prayer: Sacred Art
Sunday, April 6	<b>Third Scrutiny</b> <i>Breaking Open the Word of God: The Raising of Lazarus</i>
Saturday, April 12	Signs & Symbols: The Cross / Crucifix Prayer: Prayer Postures <b>Presentation of the Lord's Prayer</b>
Sunday, April 13	Palm Sunday <i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>

## Holy Week 2025

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

Date/Time	Topic/Activity
Tuesday, April 15 11:00 AM	Chrism Mass (optional)
Wednesday, April 16 7:00 PM	Tenebrae (optional)
Thursday, April 17 5:30 PM	Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper (optional)
Friday, April 18 12:30 PM 3:00 PM	<b>Good Friday</b> Final Retreat Good Friday Service (Cathedral)
Saturday, April 19	Rehearsal (Cathedral) @ 10 a.m. <b>Easter Vigil – SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (Cathedral) @8:00 p.m.</b>
Sunday, April 20	<b>Easter Sunday</b>

## Easter 2025

### Mystagogy Period

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

Date	Topic/Activity
Saturday, April 26	<b>Celebration Brunch Potluck</b>
Sunday, April 27	Sunday Mass Coffee Sunday - 9:00 -10:00 AM
Saturday, May 3	<b>"Prayerfest" – background of certain prayers &amp; then pray them</b> Living the Mystery – Discussion & Prayer
Sunday, May 4	Sunday Mass Coffee Sunday
*Saturday, May 17* All Day (8 a.m. – 6 p.m.)	Mystagogy Retreat Location TBD

*\*The specific date and time of the retreat is subject to change.\**

During the Mystagogy Period, there is an opportunity to end our time together in fellowship and prayer at the Mystagogy Retreat. This retreat will be held at a location external to the Cathedral and will be announced where at a later date. Since the location will be outside of the Cathedral, there will be an additional cost for anyone who chooses to go. Although this retreat is not mandatory, we highly recommend marking the date in your calendar and consider attending this event as a conclusion to this 9-month journey of discernment, discovery, and preparation.



# ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF HIS GRACE FRANCIS LEO  
ARCHBISHOP OF TORONTO