



St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica
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2025-2026

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:

The Non-Baptized	Baptized Non-Catholics	Baptized Catholics who did not complete the Sacraments of Initiation
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 and in some cases Holy Eucharist.
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 and in some cases Holy Eucharist.

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

RCIA 2025 – 2026

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 2025

Pre-Catechumenate/Inquiry Period	
Saturday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Atrium)	
Date	Topic/Activity
Saturday, September 20	Introduction to RCIA & What do you seek?
Saturday, September 27	Who are you?
Saturday, October 4	Why a God?
Saturday, October 11	What's our story?
Saturday, October 18	Who is Jesus?
Saturday, October 25	Am I saved?
Saturday, November 1	Why a Church?
Saturday, November 8	The Holy Trinity
Saturday, November 15	Revelation
Saturday, November 22	The Last Things and the Second Coming of Christ (Death, Judgement, Hell, Purgatory, Heaven)
Saturday, November 29 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Exercise on Discernment (How to Use the Bible & Lectio Divina) Preparation for the Rite of Acceptance
Sunday, November 30 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumenate Breaking Open the Word of God

Winter 2025-26

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 6	Foundations of Christian Morality
Sunday, December 7	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, December 13	The Ten Commandments: Specifics
Sunday, December 14	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, December 20	Mary, the Mother of Christ and our Spiritual Mother
Sunday, December 21	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, December 27	No Meeting
Sunday, December 28	No Meeting
Saturday, January 3	Intro to Sacraments & Liturgical Calendar
Sunday, January 4	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, January 10	Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, January 11	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, January 17	Sacrament of Confirmation: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Sunday, January 18	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, January 24	Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist
Sunday, January 25	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, January 31	Forgiveness and Sacraments of Healing
Sunday, February 1	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, February 7	Vocation and Sacraments of Holy Matrimony & Holy Orders
Sunday, February 8	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, February 14	Human Suffering and Lenten Season
Sunday, February 15	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
Saturday, February 21 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lenten Retreat Preparation for the Rite of Election
Sunday, February 22 2:00 p.m.	Rite of Election St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica

Spring 2026

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, February 28	Signs & Symbols: The Altar Prayer: Examine of Conscience & the Daily Examen
Sunday, March 1	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God: The Transfiguration of the Lord</i>
Saturday, March 7	Signs & Symbols: Materials & Colours Prayer: Intercessory Prayer
Sunday, March 8	First Scrutiny <i>Breaking Open the Word of God: The Woman at the Well</i>
Saturday, March 14	Signs & Symbols: Water & Oil Prayers: The Credo (Formative-Memorized-Repetitive prayers) Presentation of the Apostles' Creed
Sunday, March 15	Second Scrutiny <i>Breaking Open the Word of God: Bartimaeus, the Man Born Blind</i>
Saturday, March 21	Signs & Symbols: Paschal Candle + Fire Prayer: Sacred Art
Sunday, March 22	Third Scrutiny <i>Breaking Open the Word of God: The Raising of Lazarus</i>
Saturday, March 28	Signs & Symbols: The Cross / Crucifix Prayer: Prayer Postures Presentation of the Lord's Prayer
Sunday, March 29	Palm Sunday <i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>

Holy Week 2026

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

Date/Time	Topic/Activity
Tuesday, May 31 11:00 a.m.	Chrism Mass (optional)
Wednesday, April 1 7:00 p.m.	Tenebrae (optional)
Thursday, April 2 5:30 p.m.	Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper (optional)
Friday, April 3 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Good Friday Final Retreat Good Friday Service (Cathedral)
Saturday, April 4	Rehearsal (Cathedral) @ 10 a.m. Easter Vigil – SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (Cathedral) @8:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 5	Easter Sunday

Easter 2026

Mystagogy Period

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

Date	Topic/Activity
Saturday, April 11	Celebration Brunch Potluck
Saturday, April 18	"Prayerfest" – background of certain prayers & then pray them Living the Mystery – Discussion & Prayer
Saturday, April 25 All Day (8 a.m. – 6 p.m.)	Mystagogy Retreat Location TBD
TBD (Sunday in April or May) 2:00 p.m.	Neophyte Mass St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica

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