



St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica
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2026-2027

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 8-month program. For all questions and inquiries please email torregosa@stmichaelscathedral.com

RCIA 2026 – 2027

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 2026

Pre-Catechumenate/Inquiry Period		
Saturday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Atrium)		
Week	Date	Topic/Activity
1	September 12	Introduction to RCIA & What do you seek?
2	September 19	Who are you?
	SEPTEMBER 26	NO SESSION DUE TO CATHEDRAL EVENT
3	October 3	Why a God?
4	October 10	What's our story?
5	October 17	Who is Jesus?
6	October 24	Am I saved?
7	October 31	Why a Church?
8	November 7	The Holy Trinity & Divine Revelation
9	November 14	The Last Things (Death, Judgement, Hell, Purgatory, Heaven)
10	November 21	Mary, the Mother of Christ and our Spiritual Mother
11	November 28 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Exercise on Discernment (Lectio Divina) Preparation for the Rite of Acceptance
Sunday, November 29, 2026 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.		Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumenate Breaking Open the Word of God

Winter 2026-27

Catechumenate Period		
Saturday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Atrium) and Sunday, 10:00 AM Mass (Cathedral/Crypt Chapel)		
Week	Date	Topic/Activity
12	December 5	Foundations of Christian Morality & The Ten Commandments
12	<i>December 6</i>	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
13	December 12	Introduction to Sacraments & Sacred Liturgy
13	<i>December 13</i>	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
14	December 19	Sacrament of Baptism
14	<i>December 20</i>	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
December 26, 2026		No Meeting
December 27, 2026		No Meeting
January 2, 2027		No Meeting
January 3, 2027		No Meeting
15	January 9	Sacrament of Confirmation: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
15	<i>January 10</i>	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
16	January 16	Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist
16	<i>January 17</i>	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
17	January 23	Forgiveness and Sacraments of Healing
17	<i>January 24</i>	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
18	January 30	Vocation and Sacraments at the Service of Communion
18	<i>January 31</i>	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
19	February 6	The Christian Understanding of Suffering
19	<i>February 7</i>	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>
20	February 13 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Lenten Retreat Preparation for the Rite of Election

Sunday, February 14, 2027 2:00 p.m.	Rite of Election St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica
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Spring 2027

Enlightenment Period Saturday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Atrium) and Sunday, 10:00 AM Mass (Cathedral/Crypt Chapel)		
Week	Date	Topic/Activity
21	February 20	Signs & Symbols: The Altar Prayer: Examine of Conscience & the Daily Examen
21	February 21	<i>Breaking Open the Word of God: The Transfiguration of the Lord</i>
22	February 27	Signs & Symbols: Materials & Colours Prayer: Intercessory Prayer
22	February 28	First Scrutiny <i>Breaking Open the Word of God: The Woman at the Well</i>
23	March 6	Signs & Symbols: Water & Oil Prayers: The Credo (Formative-Memorized-Repetitive prayers) Presentation of the Apostles' Creed
23	March 7	Second Scrutiny <i>Breaking Open the Word of God: Bartimaeus, the Man Born Blind</i>
24	March 13	Signs & Symbols: Paschal Candle + Fire Prayer: Sacred Art
24	March 14	Third Scrutiny <i>Breaking Open the Word of God: The Raising of Lazarus</i>
25	March 20	Signs & Symbols: The Cross / Crucifix Prayer: Prayer Postures Presentation of the Lord's Prayer
25	March 21	Palm Sunday <i>Breaking Open the Word of God</i>

Holy Week 2027

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

Week	Date/Time	Topic/Activity
26	Tuesday, March 23	Chrism Mass (optional)
26	Wednesday, March 24	Tenebrae (optional)
26	Thursday, March 25	Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper (optional)
26	Friday, March 26	Good Friday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. (Joining the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service) Good Friday Service (Cathedral)
26	Saturday, March 27	Rehearsal (Cathedral) @ 10 a.m. Easter Vigil – SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (Cathedral) @9:00 p.m.*
26	Sunday, March 28	Easter Sunday

Easter 2027

Mystagogy Period

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

Week	Date	Topic/Activity
27	April 3	Celebration Brunch Potluck
28	April 10	Sacramentals Living the Mystery – Discussion & Prayer
29	April 17	Discipleship Living the Mystery – Discussion & Prayer
30	April 24	Mystagogy Retreat Location TBD
Sunday, May 9, 2027 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