

Diocese of Baker



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
Schedule Example, Explanatory Notes and Resource Recommendations

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Pre-Evangelization

*The desire for God is written in the human heart,
because man is created by God and for God;
and God never ceases to draw man to himself.
Only in God will he find the truth and happiness
he never stops searching for. (CCC, 27)*

*Although man can forget God or reject Him,
He never ceases to call every man to seek him,
so as to find life and happiness.... As St. Augustine says
“for you have made us for yourself, O Lord,
and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” (CCC, 30)*

To prepare the ground for the Gospel message a period of time should be dedicated *to pre-evangelization*. Many people have no religious affiliation; have not committed their lives to Christ and His Church, even though they are church members. Radical questioning of values, rapid social change, pluralism and the cultural effects of secularization have had the result of disconnecting large segments of our population from fundamental truths. Truths which modern Christian civilizations were built upon have been largely forgotten in our modern society: the joy of true happiness and peace of real freedom found only in God. Pre-evangelization builds on basic human needs such as security, love and happiness, and shows how our basic human needs are only satisfied in God and his word, who desires us first.¹

(Typically August / September)

Topic	Duration
1. Welcome to the Rite of Christian Initiation * a. Explanation of the R.C.I.A. b. Introduction to the Catholic faith, “The Story.”	2 hours
2. <i>Symbolon: The Journey of Faith</i> (Part 1, Session 1) (Trinity, Faith and the God Who Is Love)	2 hours
3. Destiny according to man, according to God * (<i>Fulfilling our Destiny, Finding Happiness</i>)	2 hours
4. Freedom for Excellence * (<i>Freedom from versus Freedom for</i>)	2 hours

* Lesson plan and participate handouts are available online:
<https://dioceseofbaker.org/rite-of-christian-initiation-of-adults-rcia>
or contact the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis.

¹ Cf. NDC, 17, D.

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Evangelization and Precatechumenate

The Church's evangelizing activity consists of several essential elements: proclaiming Christ, preaching Christ, bearing witness to Christ, teaching Christ, and celebrating Christ's sacraments (Cf. Evangelii Nuntiandi (EN), 17).

Evangelization aims at both the interior change of individuals and the external change of societies. It is the totality of the Church's efforts to bring "the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new" (Cf. EN, 18).

(Typically October – November)

Topic		Duration
5. <i>Symbolon: The Story of Salvation</i> (Creation, Fall and Redemption)	(Part 1, Session 4)	2 hours
6. <i>Symbolon: Divine Revelation</i> (God Seeking Us and the Compass for Our Lives)	(Part 1, Session 2)	2 hours
7. <i>Symbolon: The Bible</i> (God's Love Letter to Humanity)	(Part 1, Session 3)	2 hours
8. <i>Symbolon: Who is Jesus</i> (Just a Good Man or Lord of our Lives?)	(Part 1, Session 5)	2 hours
9. <i>Symbolon: The Paschal Mystery</i> (The Mystery of Jesus' Death and Resurrection)	(Part 1, Session 6)	2 hours
10. <i>Symbolon: The Holy Spirit and the Life of Grace</i> (God' Divine Life within us)	(Part 1, Session 7)	2 hours
11. <i>Symbolon: Why do I Need the Church</i> (The Mystery of the Catholic Church)	(Part 1, Session 8)	2 hours

Thanksgiving Social Gathering

- Schedule a social gathering and share a meal; make it a family event and incorporate some fun time! Ensure the parish pastor is included.

Day Retreat: *on prayer and the life of prayer* * **6 hrs.**

- Should be prior to Rite of Acceptance and Welcome
- Designed to introduce and model personal and public life of prayer

* The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis provides a Diocesan sponsored RCIA Retreat on prayer at the Powell Butte Retreat Center the Saturday preceding the first Sunday of Lent.

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE AND WELCOME

- Ideal to have the first Sunday of Advent

Note: dismissal and *breaking open the Word* begins

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Catechumenate

(Advent - Christmas)

Topic	Duration
12. <i>Symbolon</i> : Session 9, <i>Mary and the Saints</i> (Part 1, Session 9) (Our Spiritual Mother and the Communion of Saints)	2 hours
13. On Angels and Saints	2 hours

Resource Recommendations:

- *Angels Explained: What You Should Know About the Nine Choirs?* By Dr. Mark Miravalle; published by Light House Catholic Media explains the nine choirs of angels, their differing roles and hierarchical order, and how much angels can help us if we only ask. The **audio CD** is available via the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for **\$2.50**.
- *All About Angels – Booklet* by Dr. Andrew Sulavik. Available via the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for **\$1.00**.
- *Angels and Demons: What Do We Really Know about Them?* By Dr. Peter Kreeft; published by Ignatius Press. Drawing on the Bible, traditional Church teaching and St. Thomas Aquinas, Kreeft gives straight, clear answers to the perennial and philosophical questions asked about angels and demons throughout time. In his typical lucid, profound and sometimes humorous style, Kreeft answers such questions as "What are angels made of", "How do angels communicate with God", "How do angels communicate with us", "Do demons, or devils, or evil spirits really exist?" and many more. Includes angel art. See a preview of the book at <http://www.peterkreeft.com/topics/angels.htm>.
- *Angels and Saints: A Biblical Guide to Friendship with God's Holy Ones – Book* by Dr. Scott Hahn. Drawing deeply from Scripture, Dr. Hahn shows that the hosts of heaven surround the earthly Church as a "great cloud of witnesses." The martyrs cry out from heaven's altar begging for justice on earth. The prayers of the saints and angels rise to God, in the Book of Revelation, like the sweet aroma of incense. Available via the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for **\$25.00** or check for better price at <http://www.amazon.com>.

Christmas – New Year Break

- A two-week break should be incorporated into the RCIA schedule

Note: encourage participants to attend The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) and New Year (Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God) liturgy celebrations.

Recommendation: during the Christmas break provide a service opportunity for the RCIA participants to serve at a local homeless shelter or parish outreach ministry (e.g. homebound).

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Catechumenate

(January – Ash Wednesday)

Topic	Duration
14. Reason and Faith: <i>two wings of the same bird...</i>	2 hours
a. Why science, when ordered to Faith and Revelation, can enhance our faith and understanding of God.	
b. What guidance the Church provides regarding Creation and Evolution.	

Resource Recommendations:

- *Relativism: do you know how it is affecting you?* By Chris Stefanick; published by Light House Catholic Media this engaging **audio CD** is available via the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for **\$2.50**.
- *Science, the Origin of the Universe, and God* by Fr. Robert Spitzer;; published by Light House Catholic Media. Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ – expert in physics, philosophy, and theology – debunks this powerful myth as he discusses the Big Bang and the Origin of the Universe with sound reason, credible science, and faithful theology. This talk is a must-listen for anyone wrestling with the biggest questions regarding Science and Faith. This **audio CD** is available via the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for **\$2.50**. Visit Fr. Spitzer's website for more information and material on this subject at www.magisreasonfaith.org.
- Catholic Truth Society:
 - *Galileo: Science and Faith - Booklet* by Dr. William Carroll. This booklet explains the facts of the Galileo case and traces the subsequent development of the myth that the Catholic Church has always been the enemy of science. This history proves that even in the Galileo case, the Church remained true to its belief that faith and reason belong together. Available via the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for **\$2.00**.
 - *Creation and Science- Booklet* by Dr. William Carroll. Who created the Universe? Is a creator even necessary? Can science explain how the Universe came into being without reference to a creator God? This booklet explores these ideas and the arguments that have been brought into sharp focus by Stephen Hawking's claim that his cosmological model 'left nothing for a creator to do'. Dr Carroll examines the Church's teaching on creation from Augustine and Aquinas to the present and explains why, without a creator God, science itself would not exist. Available via the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for **\$2.00**.

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Catechumenate

(January – Ash Wednesday)

Topic		Duration
15. <i>Symbolon: The Last Things</i> (What happens after we die?)	(Part 1, Session 10)	2 hours
16. <i>Symbolon: The Sacraments</i> (Baptism & Confirmation)	(Part 2, Session 1)	2 hours
17. <i>Symbolon: Eucharist</i> (Source & Summit of Christian Life)	(Part 2, Session 2)	2 hours
18. <i>Symbolon: Walk Through Mass</i> (Exploring the Sacred Liturgy)	(Part 2, Session 3)	2 hours
19. <i>Symbolon: Penance and Anointing of the Sick</i> (God's Mercy Revealed)	(Part 2, Session 4)	2 hours

RITE OF ANOINTING OF CATECHUMENS

- One week prior to first Sunday of Lent

RITE OF SENDING AT PARISH / RITE OF ELECTION WITH BISHOP

- First or Second Weekend of Lent depending on Rite of Election Diocesan Schedule

Purification and Enlightenment

(Lenten Season)

Topic		Duration
20. <i>Symbolon: Matrimony and Holy Orders</i> (Sacraments of Service & Communion)	(Part 2, Session 5)	2 hours
21. <i>Symbolon: A Catholic Moral Vision</i> (Virtue, Grace & Path to Happiness)	(Part 2, Session 6)	2 hours
22. <i>Symbolon: A Love that Lasts</i> (Discovering Authentic Love)	(Part 2, Session 7)	2 hours
23. <i>Symbolon: A Love that Lasts</i> (God's Plan for Sexuality)	(Part 2, Session 8)	2 hours
24. <i>Symbolon: Catholic Social Teaching</i> (Building a Civilization of Love)	(Part 2, Session 9)	2 hours
25. <i>Symbolon: Catholic Social Teaching</i> (Protecting the Dignity of the Human Person)	(Part 2, Session 10)	2 hours

PENITENTIAL RITES (SCRUTINIES)

- 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent

PRESENTATION OF THE CREED

- During the 3rd week of Lent (after 1st Scrutiny)

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

- During the 5th week of Lent (after the 3rd Scrutiny)

Day Retreat: *living Holy Week and preparing to join in the Banquet* * 6 hrs.

- Should be the Saturday prior to Palm Sunday and Holy Week
- Designed to assist RCIA participants in preparing to enter into Holy Week

* The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis provides a Diocesan sponsored RCIA Retreat at the Powell Butte Retreat Center the Saturday preceding Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

HOLY SATURDAY RITES

- Recitation of the Creed and Ephphetha Rite

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION AT EASTER VIGIL

- Celebrated at the Vigil of Easter

Mystagogy

*This mystery is a profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church...
(Ephesians 5:32)*

This a time for the community and the neophytes together to grow in deepening their grasp of the paschal mystery and in making it part of their lives through meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the eucharist, and doing the works of charity (RCIA, 244).

The period of Mystagogy has two parts and **spans a full year**.

- **Part one** is the “immediate Mystagogy or postbaptismal catechesis during the Easter season” (NS, 24).
- **Part two** continues until “the anniversary of Christian initiation” and should meet at least monthly with the goals of “[deepening] the neophytes’ Christian formation and incorporation into the full life of the Christian community” (NS, 24).

Resource Recommendations:

- *Living the Easter Call: Discipleship & Mission*. USCCB Communications Publication, No. 7-520. The lesson plans are available for free online at http://www.dioceseofbaker.org/re_RCIA.htm or contact the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis at 541-388-4004.
 - The book *Call and Mission: The Adventure of the Twelve Continues* is **required** to facilitate the lesson plans. The book is available to purchase via the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for **\$13.00**.
 - The book *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* is **suggested** for opening prayers cited in lesson plans.

Part I: weekly through Pentecost

Topic	Duration
1. The Empty Tomb	75-90 minutes
2. Mary Magdalene: The First Herald of the Gospel	75-90 minutes
3. Recognizing Jesus	75-90 minutes
4. The Calling of Paul	75-90 minutes
5. The <i>Kerygma</i>	75-90 minutes
6. Life in Community	75-90 minutes
7. Pentecost	75-90 minutes

Part II: monthly for one year

Contact the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for ideas or resource recommendations.