



In your journey towards becoming Catholic, please plan to participate in these important church and diocesan events. Please mark your calendar for the following events:

2025-2026 OCIA Check-in Meetings:

OCIA students will meet virtually and/or in person monthly with the CRE while they are enrolled in the OCIA program to answer questions, discuss concepts addressed in the lessons/videos, and ensure all program requirements are met. **Meetings are set to occur on the first or second Sunday of the month**, unless otherwise noted. The meetings will take place between the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses at St. Louis. If you are not able to attend every meeting, that is OK, but please plan to attend a few of these meetings.

Rite of Sending & Rite of Election - February 22, 2026 (First Sunday of Lent)

For Catechumen & Candidates

(1) Rite of Sending- 11 a.m. - *Catechumen for election and candidates for recognition will be announced at the 11:00 Rite of Sending Mass at St. Louis. Please plan to attend this Mass with your sponsor. You and your sponsor will be called to come to the altar during the Mass.*

(2) Rite of Election- 3 p.m. at St. Joseph's Cathedral (downtown). *The Rite of Election ceremony is a formal recognition by the Buffalo Diocese of individuals planning on full initiation into the Catholic Church.*

Holy Week: Thursday, April 2nd, 2026 – Foot Washing Ceremony

For Catechumen & Candidates

Foot Washing Ceremony- *Evening ceremony beginning at 7 p.m. (please arrive by 6:45). Volunteers are needed to help with this ceremony. We do this to remember how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.*

Easter Vigil - Saturday, April 4, 2026

For Catechumen

(1) Rehearsal- 5:00 p.m. - *Catechumen and sponsors attend a 30- to 45- minute rehearsal at St. Louis before the ceremony.*

(2) Easter Vigil Mass- *Catechumen and sponsors attend this Mass at St. Louis before. The catechumen will receive all three sacraments (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation) at this Mass.*

Pentecost - Sunday, May 24, 2026

For Candidates

Confirmation Mass/Ceremony – 3:00 p.m. *(plan at least to arrive 30 minutes early) at St. Joseph's Cathedral (downtown). This 2-hour Confirmation and Mass is for candidates who only need to make their Confirmation.*

Questions? - contact the CRE, Ashlee Campbell, via phone or email
(443-744-0354 / religioused@stlouisrcchurch.org)