Mater Ecclesiae
The Downtown Family of Parishes

2026-2027 OCIA PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

OCIA classes run all year and individuals are welcome to join the program at any time; however, for individuals to be ready to make their Catholic Sacraments, we have some program deadlines:
Catechumen: For an individual to learn about the Catholic Religion and be ready to receive all of their Catholic Sacraments in spring 2027, the individual must be registered by November 1, 2026.
Candidates: For an individual who has already been baptized and has already received a significant amount of Catholic catechesis, individuals must be registered by December 15, 2026.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete & submit the "OCIA Registration" form

2. Complete & submit the "Confirmation Name & Sponsor" form

3. If you've received sacraments at a church other than a family #22 church, submit a copy of your sacramental certificates to CRE

4. Attend Mass weekly

5. Find a sponsor - a faith mentor to support, encourage, & pray with and for the candidate
    a. Your sponsor needs to be a practicing Roman Catholic and be in good standing in his/her church. He or she must be a baptized and confirmed Catholic, as well as attend Mass regularly. Sponsors must submit a letter from their parish stating this information.
    b. Parents of confirmation candidates can't serve as their child's sponsor.
    c. St. Louis parishioners serving as sponsors must contact the CRE to ensure eligibility.
    d. Submit sponsor letter by January 1, 2027

6. Complete all 19 OCIA Lessons - We offer a mixed-format OCIA program that consists of a combination of Catholic videos on Formed, as well as hard-copy reading materials from Liguori to provide a solid understanding of the Catholic faith. Students will also meet virtually and/or in person with the DRE 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.

7. Attend virtual and/or in-person monthly meetings with the CRE to answer questions, discuss concepts addressed in the lessons/videos, and ensure all program requirements are met. 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.

8. At the conclusion of the program (no later than 2 weeks before you make your sacraments at the Vigil or Pentecost), you will submit a 2-page paper reflecting what you have learned throughout the OCIA process.

9. Attend the 11:00 Rite of Sending Mass at St. Louis/Blessed Sacrament and Rite of Election ceremony at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral, on Sunday, February 14th, 2027 (first Sunday of Lent)

10. Attend Confirmation Mass, either:
    (1) Catechumen: Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 27th, 2027, at St. Louis, at 7 p.m.
    (2) Candidate: Pentecost, Sunday, May 16th, 2027, at St. Joseph's Cathedral, at 3 p.m.

Submit completed forms and contact the CRE, Ashlee Campbell, with questions:
ReligiousEd@stlouisrcchurch.org / 443.744.0354