

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

OCIA Themes, Goals, & Objectives

Session

Session	Date	Time	Teaching
			INQUIRY PERIOD/PRECATACHUMENATE
1	9/18/2025	7-9pm MPR	WHAT IS THE OCIA? Goal: To describe the process by which adults are welcomed and received in the Catholic Church Objectives: 1. Explain the scriptural, theological, historical, and liturgical aspects of the Sacraments of Initiation 2. Explain the stages of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults and their accompanying rites 3. Review Our Lady of Guadalupe OCIA requirements Overview of the Mass
	9/25/2025		Last Thursday
	10/2/2025	7-9pm MPR	IMAGES OF GOD Goal: To teach God's ongoing self-revelation and the nature of our response. Objectives: 1. Give examples of how God communicates with us from Scriptures, tradition and lived experience, and explain how God's plan of salvation came to fullness through Jesus Christ. 2. Identify faith as our response to God's revelation, and give an example of how we work with God's grace to respond in faith to life situations.
3	10/9/2025	7-9pm CHURCH	TOUR OF THE CHURCH Goal: To provide a hands-on experience by introducing the catechumens and candidates with the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and the sacred space used in Catholic worship. Objectives: 1. Acquaint the catechumens and candidates with the objects symbols, and sacramentals 2. Invite them to develop their Catholic liturgical vocabulary.
	10/16/2025	7-9pm MPR	LITURGY, THE LITURGICAL YEAR & ADVENT SEASON Goal: To teach that the liturgy involves conscious, active and fruitful participation on the part of the faithful. Objectives: 1. Define liturgy and the essential elements of the liturgy. 2. Identify the four ways Christ is present in the liturgy. 3. Explain the liturgical year and the meaning of Advent (to include an activity for Advent)
4			

5

10/23/2025	7-9pm MPR	THE SAINTS & THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS Goal: To teach why and how the Church commemorates the heroic example of the lives of the Saints and the Catholic understanding of “The Communion of Saints”. Objectives: 1. Explain why the saints are models of holiness and discipleship for all believers, the proper devotion to the saints, and how they serve as models and intercessors for us. 2. Highlight the heroic examples of particular saints, and explain how the Church understands the Communion of Saints.
10/30/2025		Last Thursday

6

11/6/2025	7-9pm MPR	Overviews of Sacraments: Signs & Symbols of God’s Grace Goal: To articulate that Christ is mediated through the Church’s sacramental life. 1. Give a basic understanding of the concepts of Sign, Symbol, and Sacrament. 2. Explain how we participate in Christ’s Paschal Mystery through the Sacraments. 3. Describe the communal nature of the Sacraments.
11/8/2025	5-6pm MPR	SATURDAY. Rite of ACCEPTANCE. Entrance into the catechumenate.
		PERIOD OF CATECHUMENATE

7

11/13/2025	7-9pm MPR	Life of Christ Goal: To go through the life and ministry of Christ. Objectives: 1. Understand Jesus as described in the Gospels. 2. Encourage people to develop a personal relationship with Jesus. 3. Understand that Jesus wants to have a personal relationship with us
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8

11/20/2025	6:00pm to 9:00pm HALL	Thanksgiving Potluck THE SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST Goal: To articulate that the Eucharist is the center of the Church’s life and worship. Objectives: 1. Explain that the mode of Christ’s presence in the Eucharist is unique and raises the Eucharist above all other sacraments. 2. Explain the meaning of the Eucharist as the Real Presence of Christ which calls for a response of commitment to justice.
11/27/2025		Last Thursday

9

12/4/2025	7-9pm MPR	THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: Baptism + Confirmation Goal: To teach that the Sacraments of Initiation-Baptism are the foundations of Christian life. 1. Explain the importance of Baptism for new life in Christ, and 2. Explain the meaning of sharing in the priesthood of Christ. Goal: To teach that the Sacrament of Initiation-Confirmation are the foundations of Christian life. 1. Explain the person of the Holy Spirit 2. Explain how Confirmation completes Baptismal grace 3. Name the gifts of the Holy Spirit and describe how they are lived 4. Name the fruits of the Holy Spirit and describe how they are lived
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10

12/11/2025	7-9pm MPR	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH Goal: To teach the role of Mary and the honor given to her by the Church. Objectives: 1. Explain the meaning of the Immaculate Conception, Mary's obedience of faith ("fiat") at the Annunciation, her Perpetual Virginity, the Assumption, and her inseparable union with Christ. 2. Present the honor given to Mary as the patroness of the Americas – Our Lady of Guadalupe.
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11

12/18/2025	7-9pm MPR	THE INFANCY NARRATIVES Goal: To present the infancy narratives as related in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Objectives: 1. Describe the common elements in both elements in both infancy narratives. 2. Explain the many significant differences between the Matthean and Lukan accounts.
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12/25/2025		Last Thursday
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1/1/2026		NEW YEARS BREAK
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12

1/8/2026	7-9pm MPR	A CATHOLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE - Part I Goal: To articulate that the Sacred Scriptures are the Word of God. Objectives: 1. Explain authorship and inspiration of Sacred Scriptures, and outline the process of the formation of Scripture. 2. Name several literary forms found in the Bible, and describe the themes of covenant and exodus. 3. Explain the relationship between the Old and New Testaments, and describe the unique form of the four Gospels, their formation and central place in our Church.
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13

1/15/2026	7-9pm MPR	A CATHOLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE - Part II Goal: To articulate that the Sacred Scriptures are the Word of God. Objectives: 1. Explain authorship and inspiration of Sacred Scriptures, and outline the process of the formation of Scripture. 2. Name several literary forms found in the Bible, and describe the themes of covenant and exodus. 3. Explain the relationship between the Old and New Testaments, and describe the unique form of the four Gospels, their formation and central place in our Church.
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14

1/22/2026	7-9pm MPR	THE SACRAMENT OF SERVICE: HOLY ORDERS Goal: To present the Sacrament of Holy Orders as the Sacrament at the Service of Communion and how it serves to build up the people of God. Objectives: 1. Explain the unique service to the community given by bishops priests, and deacons in the name and person of Christ.
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1/29/2026		Last Thursday
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15

2/5/2026	7-9pm MPR	THE SACRAMENTS OF HEALING: RECONCILIATION & ANNOINTING OF THE SICK Goal: To teach that the Sacraments of Healing: Penance and Anointing of the Sick continue Christ's work of Healing and Reconciliation Objectives: 1. Explain the importance of the Sacrament of Penance in one's personal life and in the life of the Church. 2. Describe the communal and individual celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. 3. Describe the communal and individual celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing and some of the spiritual effects of the Sacraments of Healing.
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16

2/12/2026	7-9pm MPR	THE SACRAMENT OF SERVICE: MATRIMONY Goal: To teach that the Sacrament of Matrimony serves to build up the people of God. Objectives: 1. Describe the relationship between the Sacrament of Matrimony and Christ's love for the Church (covenant). 2. Explain the role of the couple, the priest, the deacon, and the community in the Sacrament of Matrimony
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2/18/2026		ASH Wednesday
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17

2/19/2026	7-9pm MPR	THE SEASON OF LENT Goal: To teach that Lent is the perfect time to reconcile oneself with God and the Church. Objectives: 1. Describe what the Lenten season means to Catholics and what almsgiving, fasting and abstinence really means. 2. Give some ideas for creating Lenten memories. 3. Share our Lenten prayers and devotions.
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2/22/2026	10-11am MPR	SUNDAY. CATHEDRAL. Rite of SENDING/ELECTION
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2/26/2026		Last Thursday
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18

3/5/2026	7-9pm MPR	SIN & GRACE Goal: To share the good news of the Gospel concerning the fulfillment of God's saving plan in the person of Jesus Christ. Our moral choices are our response to this gift of God's grace. Objectives: 1. Understand the gift of God's loving presence, communicated through grace freely given (sanctifying and habitual). 2. Define sin, its degrees of gravity (mortal/venial,) and its affects on our relationship with God, others and all of creation. 3. Reflect on the continual need for ongoing conversion and "growth in holiness".
3/8/2026	10:15 to 11:15 am at the MPR	SUNDAY. 1st Scrutiny

19

3/12/2026	7-9pm MPR	PRAYER Goal: To teach that prayer is essential to the Christian life and a "personal relationship with the living and true God" (Catechism 2558). Objectives: 1. Highlight the four basic elements of prayer: (1) Blessing & Adoration; (2) Petition; (3) Intercession; (4) Thanksgiving 2. Share the nature and value of both personal and communal prayer, i.e., liturgical, vocal, contemplative and meditative prayer, Lectio Divina, etc
3/15/2026	12:15 pm to 1:15 pm MPR	SUNDAY. 2nd Scrutiny

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3/19/2026	7-9pm MPR	Innocent Suffering & THE 7 LAST WORDS OF JESUS Goal: To present the seven last words of Jesus on the Cross. Objectives: 1. To explain why GOD allows innocent suffering Innocent Suffering & THE 7 LAST WORDS OF JESUS 2. To explain how and why these short phrases make an excellent meditation during Holy Week.
3/21/2026	12pm to 6pm HALL	SATURDAY. OCIA Retreat and Mass
3/26/2026		Last Thursday
4/2/2026		HOLY THURSDAY
4/3/2026		GOOD FRIDAY
4/4/2026	9am to 11 am CHURCH	SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL
4/5/2026		EASTER SUNDAY. RESURRECTION OF THE LORD.

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		PERIOD OF MYSTAGOGIA
4/9/2026	7-9pm MPR	Easter reflection. Acts 2:42-47. Conversion as a permanent process. Hills and valleys in our journey.

22

4/16/2026	7-9pm MPR	THE OUR FATHER & Forgiving Others Goal: Identify the Our Father as a model for prayer and the synthesis of prayer contained in scripture and in the life of the church. 1. Explain the 7 Petitions of the Our Father. 2. Explain how forgiving others is important 3. Why Jesus places a premium on Forgiving others
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4/23/2026	7-9pm MPR	THE CREED Goal: To teach the central beliefs of the Catholic faith as articulated in the Creed. Objectives: 1. Define the term “creed” and give a brief history on the development of the Nicene Creed. 2. Distinguish between the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed.
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4/30/2026		Last Thursday
5/7/2026	7-9pm MPR	THE TEN COMMANDMENTS & BEATITUDES Goals: Demonstrate the relationship between the 10 Commandments and the Beatitudes for committed Christian discipleship. 1. Show how Christ’s example of love for God and neighbor is the standard that we are to imitate and follow in all of our thoughts, words, and actions. 2. Understand the call of the Beatitudes to spiritual growth and discipleship. 3. Help others to inform their conscience through a contemporary understanding of each of the Ten Commandments.

25

5/14/2026	7-9pm MPR	MORALITY & CONSCIENCE FORMATION Goal: Describe key principles of Catholic Morality, and articulate the need for formation on the primacy of conscience and the role of conscience in moral decision making. Objectives: 1. Understand the sources for arriving at moral truth: the life and teaching of Jesus, the teachings of the Church and human reason guided by the action and gifts of the Holy Spirit. 2. Understand conscience as our most secret core and sanctuary in which consists our human dignity, a judgment of reason that enables a person to judge the moral quality of an action. 3. Show how an upright conscience requires accepting full responsibility of one’s actions CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING Goal: Articulate key principles of Catholic Social Teaching and illustrate how to apply them to our lives in a global society. 1. Understand the foundational principles of human dignity and the common good. 2. Identify current social issues that relate to each of the seven major themes of Catholic social teaching. 3. Describe the difference between personal and social sin, between sins of commission and sins of omission.
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5/21/2026	7-9pm HALL	Meet the Parish Evangelization Council & Ministries Invite various ministries to talk about their ministry and invite people to join.
5/28/2026		Last Thursday

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6/4/2026	7-9pm MPR	Question and Answer Session Goal: To answer questions about the Catholic faith posed by the catechumens and candidates which have not been discussed in previous meetings. Objectives: 1. Respond to questions in a casual setting.
6/11/2026	7-9pm MPR	POTLUCK CELEBRATION!!! + Certificate Ceremony

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