

Forming Missionary Disciples Through Accompaniment

The experience of becoming Catholic is rooted in intentional accompaniment. It is not simply a program of instruction, but a sacred journey in which people encounter the living Jesus and grow in relationship with Him.

As seekers grow in faith, they are invited to:

1. **Encounter Jesus** in Sacred Scripture and the Church's living Tradition, and freely respond by embracing the truth He reveals.
2. Establish a **personal relationship** with Jesus through prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit.
3. Integrate faith into daily life, living as **missionary disciples** who love, serve, and witness to Christ in the world.

Through this process, we seek to form a new generation of Catholics who joyfully choose to follow Jesus, surrender their lives to His will, and live in communion with His Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.



The Becoming Catholic Journey

The journey unfolds within a community of seekers, sponsors, catechists, clergy, and parishioners. Together, candidates and catechumens grow in faith through two areas: **Foundations of Faith** and **Understanding Scripture**.

Foundations of the Faith

In these gatherings, participants explore the core teachings of the Catholic faith, the sacraments, prayer, moral living, and what it means to follow Jesus as His disciple. Each session seeks not only to inform the mind but also to form the heart in relationship with Christ.

Location: St. Dominic Parish from September – January and St. Peter Claver Parish from February – May.

Timeframe: The second and fourth Thursdays from September 10, 2026 – May 6, 2027 from 6 pm – 7 pm.

Understanding Scripture

Participants prayerfully engage with the Sunday readings, exploring both the literal context and spiritual meaning of Scripture. Together, we ask: What is God revealing? How is Jesus speaking to us?

Location & Time frame: St. Dominic Parish
The second and fourth Sunday from September 13 – March 14 from 9:30 am – 10:15 am.

OCIA Core Team

The Core Team is a ministry of intentional accompaniment. This is a privileged opportunity to walk closely with others who are seeking Jesus and discerning a life within His Church. Serving on the Core Team is truly a renewing experience for one's own faith, as you witness conversion, ask deeper questions, and grow alongside those you accompany.

Role #1 Group Catechist

Serve as witnesses to the faith. A catechist's credibility flows from a lived relationship with Jesus and love for His Church, helping others recognize God's presence at work in their lives.

Primary Role:

- Lead Thursday evening catechetical sessions.

Time Commitment:

- Second and fourth Thursdays from September 13 – March 14 from 6–7 pm. Catechists may serve as frequently as they feel called.

Role #2: One-on-One Accompaniment

Accompany individuals preparing for reception into the Church, offering a personalized and focused path of formation tailored to their readiness.

Primary Role:

- Provide individualized catechesis that addresses the person's formation needs and readiness for the sacraments.

Time Commitment:

- 6–8 one-on-one sessions, scheduled flexibly between the catechist and participant.

Role #3 Understanding Scripture

Help participants enter more deeply into the Sunday Gospel by exploring its context, meaning, and relevance for daily life.

Primary Role:

- Facilitate understanding of the Sunday Gospel context and spiritual meaning and application.

Time Commitment:

- Second and fourth Sunday from September 13 – March 14 from 9:30 am–10:15 am at St. Dominic.

Role #4 Sponsor Coordinator

Ensure each OCIA participant is accompanied by a faithful Catholic who offers spiritual friendship and models discipleship.

Primary Role:

- Invite and identify sponsors, and provide clear formation so they can serve as mentors and companions.

Time Commitment:

- 2–3 hours in early fall to secure sponsors, 1 hour for training, and periodic check-ins throughout the year.

Role #5 Sponsor

Serve as companions offering prayerful support, encouragement, and a living example of Catholic discipleship.

Primary Role:

- Walk with a participant through the OCIA process, participating in key moments and nurturing a relationship rooted in faith.

Time Commitment:

- Participate in the liturgical rites.
- Regular personal connection
- Attend occasional catechetical sessions.

Role #6 Hospitality Coordinator

Accompany participants through the liturgical rites and foster welcoming through community-building gatherings.

Primary Role:

- Prepare participants for each Rite, offer guidance during the celebrations.
- Coordinate social gatherings for community among participants, clergy, and sponsors.

Time Commitment:

- Approximately 1 hour of preparation before each Rite and attend Rites.
- 2–3 hours to coordinate three social gatherings.