



**Order of Christian Initiation – Catechumen/Elect
Unbaptized person who desires the 3 Sacraments of Initiation
St. Martin of Tours Catholic Community**

OCIC – Order of Christian Initiation of Children (7 – 12 years old)

OCIT – Order of Christian Initiation of Teens (13 – 18 years old)

OCIA – Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (19 years old and older)

Catechumen – One who has not been baptized but is committed to and actively preparing to become Catholic by receiving the 3 Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation)

Candidate – One who has received a Christian Baptism and is preparing for Reception into Full Communion in the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation.

If the Baptized Christian has been Baptized in the Catholic Faith, the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation will be celebrated with a Catholic Bishop during the Confirmation Mass.

If the Baptized Christian has been Baptized in a recognized Christian Faith, the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation will be celebrated during the Easter Vigil Mass.

Rite of Acceptance in the Order of Catechumens – The Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (Rite of Acceptance) is the first of the “threshold rites” of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), and the first public ritual. In the Rite of Acceptance, a change of identity takes place: those previously known as inquirers become catechumens.

Rite of Sending – At the Rite of Sending, the sponsors testify to the catechumens’ and candidates’ intention of joining the Catholic Church. This Rite offers the parish community an opportunity to acknowledge the spiritual progress the catechumens and candidates have made, express approval of their election or recognition, and send them forth to the bishop with assurance of the parish’s care and support. To send a catechumen or candidate to the bishop means that a parish has discerned that the person is ready to enter the Catholic Church.

Rite of Election – The Rite of Election (or Enrollment of Names) is the second step in Christian initiation. It closes the period of the catechumenate proper, that is, the lengthy period of formation of the catechumens’ minds and hearts, and it marks the beginning of the final period of more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation. At this liturgy, the Church, acting on behalf of God’s choice, makes its “election” of catechumens based on their disposition and

readiness to advance towards the sacraments of initiation. The candidates inscribe their names in a book that lists those who have been chosen for initiation. This Rite is typically celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent.

The Scrutinies – The Scrutinies are Rites celebrated on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent during Mass, by those people who are preparing to be baptized at Easter, known as "The Elect." Each Sunday the Word of God is proclaimed, prayers are said for the Catechumen by the Community.

The Presentations – The presentations of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer take place during the week following the First and Third Scrutiny.

Easter Vigil Preparation – The Catechumen as well as servers, readers, & EMHCs all meet in the morning (exact time TBD) with the Priest to prepare for Easter Vigil. The Catechumen profess the Creed and receive the Rite of Ephphetha ("Be Open") where their hearts are open to share in the resurrected glory of Christ Jesus.

Reconciliation – The Sacrament of Reconciliation (commonly called Confession or Penance) is the method given by Christ to the Church by which individuals are freed from sins committed after receiving Baptism.

Catholics believe that no priest, however pious or learned, has the power to forgive sins *apart from Christ*. However, God can and does accomplish the forgiveness of sins through the Catholic priesthood in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In the Catholic tradition, after making an examination of conscience that often involves review of the Ten Commandments and/or the Seven Deadly Sins, the penitent confesses his/her sins to receive the fullness of God's grace. The intent of this sacrament is to provide healing for the soul as well as to restore one's relationship to God, lost by sin.

The confidentiality of all statements made by penitents during the course of confession is absolute. This strict confidentiality is known as the Seal of the Confessional. Priests may not reveal what they have learned during confession to anyone, even under the threat of their own death or that of others.

Catholics are required to receive the Sacrament at least once per year. However, if you are aware of having committed any mortal (serious) sin, you should receive the Sacrament prior to receiving Holy Communion. That being said, all are encouraged to take advantage of the Sacrament on a regular and frequent basis. Frequent reception helps us keep aware of our spiritual progress and provides the grace to overcome our sins.

Sacraments of Initiation - The Elect will receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation during the Easter Vigil Mass. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be received at a later date, following the Easter Vigil.