

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS
CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
AND SHRINE OF SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
2025-2026

COORDINATING TEAM

COORDINATOR

Father Dennis Gill, Rector

fr.dgill@archphila.org

Lauren Schartz, Dismissal Catechists

laurenschartz0@gmail.com

PAROCHIAL MINISTER FOR (UNBAPTIZED) INQUIRERS

Mary Ann Leigh, Inquirers

maryannleigh98@gmail.com

CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

Sarah Contrucci, Records

sccontrucci@gmail.com

SPONSORS

Aaron Pisacane, IT

aaronpisacane@gmail.com

Father Matthew Carroll, OP, Parochial Vicar

fr.mcarroll@archphila.org

CATECHETICAL SESSIONS

Charlotte Lopacki Pisacane, Hospitality and Attendance

cjlr8@aol.com

Dan Heenan, Opening Prayer and Night Prayer (Compline)

dan.heenan@live.com

Coordinating Team Meetings at 6:30 PM in the Neumann Room as indicated below.

PLEASE NOTE

Catechetical Sessions take place in the Neumann Room behind the Basilica.

*Catechumens assemble year-round
with informal sessions from June through September each year.*

*If you cannot make a Catechetical Session, please alert Charlotte Lopacki Pisacane,
cjlr8@aol.com, and/or your Parish Sponsor.*

GUIDING TEXTS

The Holy Bible and Lectionary for Mass

Catechism of the Catholic Church
<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/>

The Biblical Readings for the Celebration of Mass for each day can be found at:
<https://bible.usccb.org/readings/calendar>

Believing in Jesus, Leonard Foley, OFM
Franciscan Media, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2009

Please regularly check formed.org for excellent resources.
The parish code is 07854f.

PLAN FOR CATECHETICAL SESSIONS

Plan is modified for the Mystagogy Period

7:00 PM

Opening Prayer/Celebration of the Word of God

7:15 to 8:00 PM

Catechesis

8:00 to 8:15 PM

Questions and Answers

8:15 PM to 8:35 PM

Discussion Groups

8:35 PM

Announcements

Night Prayer (Compline)

Assignments for the leaders for the Opening Prayer/Celebrations of the Word of God and leaders and readers for Night Prayer (Compline) are coordinated by Dan Heenan.

LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

Saturday, August 9, 2025

Saturday, September 6, 2025

Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate

At the 5:15 PM Anticipated Mass

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Rite of Welcoming the Candidates

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Conditional Baptisms at 4:15 PM in the Baptistery, if needed

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Rite for Sending Catechumens for Election

and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Rite of Election of Catechumens

and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion

Cathedral Basilica at 3:00 PM

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Penitential Rite for Candidates

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation for Candidates

At 4:15 PM in the Cathedral Basilica

Saturday, March 7, 2026

First Scrutiny at the 5:15 PM Anticipated Mass

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Handing on of the Creed

Saturday, March 14, 2026

Second Scrutiny at the 5:15 PM Anticipated Mass

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Third Scrutiny at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass

Thursday, March 26, 2026
Handing on of the Lord's Prayer

Thursday through Sunday, April 2 through April 5, 2026
The Sacred Paschal Triduum

Rites of Immediate Preparation on Holy Saturday at 9:00 AM
(Saturday, April 4, 2026, in the Cathedral Chapel)

Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil at 8:00 PM
(separate schedule will be provided for the Sacred Paschal Triduum)

Sunday, April 12, 2026
Conferral of Confirmation at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass
In the Cathedral Basilica

Any Sunday of Easter Time at Any Sunday Mass
Order of Reception of Those Already Validly Baptized
into the Full Communion of The Catholic Church

Saturday, May 9, 2026
Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate
At the 5:15 PM Anticipated Mass

Saturday, May 23, 2026
Vigil of Pentecost
Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation for Neophytes
At 4:15 PM in the basilica

Sunday, May 24, 2026
Solemnity of Pentecost
Conferral of Confirmation at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass in the Cathedral Basilica

2025

**CONCLUSION OF THE PERIOD OF EVANGELIZATION
AND PRECATECHUMENATE**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025

**RITE FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE CATECHUMENATE
AT THE 5:15 PM ANTICIPATED MASS**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

6:30 PM Coordinating Team Meeting

Catechetical Topic

What is Christian Initiation?

What is Faith?

Catechist

Father Dennis Gill

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

**RITE FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE CATECHUMENATE
AT THE 5:15 PM ANTICIPATED MASS**

PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE AND ITS RITES

*The Dismissal of Catechumens takes place at the Anticipated Mass for Sunday
at 5:15 PM in the Basilica on Saturday evening.*

Dismissal Sessions take place in the Neumann Room behind the Basilica.

Assignments for Dismissal Catechists are coordinated by Lauren Schartz.

*The Minor Exorcisms, Blessings of the Catechumens and Anointing of Catechumens
will take place occasionally throughout the Catechumenate
during the Celebrations of the Word of God.*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Distribution of the Believing in Jesus books

Catechetical Topic

The Blessed Trinity:

God the Father

Catechist

Father Matthew Carroll, OP

Pages 113-119 in *Believing in Jesus*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

RITE OF WELCOMING THE CANDIDATES

Catechetical Topic

The Blessed Trinity:

God the Son

Catechist

Father Matthew Carroll, OP

Pages 37-91 in *Believing in Jesus*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Catechetical Sunday

*All catechists are expected to attend the 5:15 PM Anticipated Mass
(Saturday, September 20, 2025)
for the annual blessing of Parish Catechists.*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Catechetical Topic

The Blessed Trinity:

God the Holy Spirit

Catechist

Father Matthew Carroll, OP

Pages 105-112 in *Believing in Jesus*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

6:30 PM Coordinating Team Meeting

Distribution of the Holy Bibles

Catechetical Topic

Revelation and Tradition

The Holy Bible:

The Old Testament

Monsignor John Savinski

Catechist

Pages 3-22 in *Believing in Jesus*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Catechetical Topic

The Holy Bible:

The New Testament

Monsignor John Savinski

Catechist

Pages 23-34; 93-103 in *Believing in Jesus*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

Distribution of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Catechetical Topic

Living a Sacramental Life

The Paschal Mystery

Father Dennis Gill

Catechist

Pages 153-171 in *Believing in Jesus*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

Catechetical Topic

The Sacrament of Baptism

Father Dennis Gill

Catechist

Pages 173-182 in *Believing in Jesus*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

Catechetical Topic

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Father Matthew Carroll, OP

Catechist

Pages 183-188 in *Believing in Jesus*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

6:30 PM Coordinating Team Meeting

Catechetical Topic

The Sacrament of the Eucharist

Father Dennis Gill

Catechist

Pages 153-162 in *Believing in Jesus*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 153-171 in *Believing in Jesus*

The Celebration of Mass

Manner of Reception of Holy Communion

Father Dennis Gill

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 189-197; 227-237 in *Believing in Jesus*

The Sacrament of Penance

and Reconciliation

Sin, Mortal and Venial

Father Dennis Gill

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

6:30 PM Coordinating Team Meeting

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 199-204 in *Believing in Jesus*

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Holy Viaticum

Father Jordan Kelly, OP

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 217-223 in *Believing in Jesus*

The Sacrament of Holy Orders

Father Matthew Carroll, OP

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 205-215 in *Believing in Jesus*

The Sacrament of Matrimony

Deacon Jesus Burgos

2026

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

6:30 PM Coordinating Team Meeting

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 227-247 in *Believing in Jesus*

Living a Moral Life

The First Commandment

Father Dennis Gill

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 239-247 in *Believing in Jesus*

The Second Commandment

Monsignor John Savinski

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

CONDITIONAL BAPTISMS AT 4:15 PM IN THE BAPTISTERY, if needed

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 239-247 in *Believing in Jesus*

The Third Commandment

Monsignor John Savinski

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 249-273 in *Believing in Jesus*

The Fourth Commandment

Monsignor John Savinski

THURSDAY, February 5

6:30 PM Coordinating Team Meeting

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 249-273 in *Believing in Jesus*

The Fifth Commandment

The Seventh Commandment

Father Dennis Gill

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Catechetical Topic

The Sixth Commandment
The Ninth Commandment
Preparing for Lent

Catechist

Father Philip Bochanski

Pages 249-273 in *Believing in Jesus*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

**RITE FOR SENDING CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION
AND CANDIDATES FOR RECOGNITION BY THE BISHOP**

Catechetical Topic

The Eighth Commandment
The Tenth Commandment

Catechist

Father Matthew Carroll, OP

Pages 249-273 in *Believing in Jesus*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS
AND OF CALLING THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION
CATHEDRAL BASILICA AT 3:00 PM**

PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT AND ITS RITES

*Prepare the White Garments and Candles for the Easter Vigil
Stations of the Cross on Thursdays at 6:30 PM in the Cathedral Chapel*

THURSDAY, February 26

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 227-237 in *Believing in Jesus*

The Ongoing Call to Conversion

Father Dennis Gill

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

6:30 PM Coordinating Team Meeting

PENITENTIAL RITE FOR CANDIDATES

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 131-152 in *Believing in Jesus*

The Call to Holiness

Father Jordan Kelly, OP

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION FOR CANDIDATES

AT 4:15 PM IN THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA

FIRST SCRUTINY AT THE 5:15 PM ANTICIPATED MASS

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

HANDING ON OF THE CREED

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 121-128 in *Believing in Jesus*

The Creed and the Lord's Prayer

Monsignor John Savinski

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

SECOND SCRUTINY AT THE 5:15 PM ANTICIPATED MASS

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 61-74 in *Believing in Jesus*

The Way of the Cross

Father Philip Bochanski

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

THIRD SCRUTINY AT THE 11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

HANDING ON OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

Catechetical Topic

*Preparation for Holy Week
and the Sacred Paschal Triduum*

Catechist

Father Dennis Gill

Pages 61-82 in *Believing in Jesus*

**THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, APRIL 2 THROUGH 5
THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM**

**rites of immediate preparation
on Holy Saturday at 9:00 AM**

(Saturday, April 4, 2026, in the Cathedral Chapel)

**celebration of the sacraments of initiation
at the Easter Vigil at 8:00 PM**

(Saturday, April 4, 2026, in the Cathedral Basilica)

Separate schedule will be provided for the Sacred Paschal Triduum

PERIOD OF MYSTAGOGY

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

6:30 PM Coordinating Team Meeting

Recently baptized adults of the Cathedral Parish are invited to this session to celebrate the anniversary of their Baptism.

Catechetical Topic

Living a Christian Life

The Beatitudes

Grace and Heaven

Catechist

Father Dennis Gill

Pages 227-237, 285-294 in *Believing in Jesus*

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Neophytes and their godparents assemble as a group for the 5:15 PM Mass.

Neophytes wear their baptismal garments to Mass.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

**CONFERRAL OF CONFIRMATION AT THE 11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS
IN THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA**

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

Catechetical Topic

The Church, the Body of Christ

Precepts of the Church

Catechist

Monsignor John Savinski

Pages 131-152 in *Believing in Jesus*

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Neophytes and their godparents assemble as a group for the 5:15 Mass.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Catechetical Topic

The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints

The Holy Rosary

Catechist

Father Matthew Carroll, OP

Pages 277-283 in *Believing in Jesus*

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Neophytes and their godparents assemble as a group for the 5:15 Mass.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 249-273 in *Believing in Jesus*

Human Life Issues

Father Philip Bochanski

SATURDAY, MAY 2

Neophytes and their godparents assemble as a group for the 5:15 Mass.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

6:30 PM Coordinating Team Meeting

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 249-273 in *Believing in Jesus*

Social Justice and the Gospel

The Works of Mercy

Father Philip Bochanski

SATURDAY, MAY 9

Neophytes and their godparents assemble as a group for the 5:15 PM Mass.

RITE OF ENTRANCE INTO THE CATECHUMENATE

THURSDAY, MAY 14

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Holy Mass at 5:15 PM followed by a Light Supper and an Easter Reflection

Completion of Parish Registration Forms

SATURDAY, MAY 16

Neophytes and their godparents assemble as a group for the 5:15 Mass.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

Catechetical Topic

Catechist

Pages 121-128; 277-283 in *Believing in Jesus*

Catholic Practices and Devotions

Father Dennis Gill

SATURDAY, MAY 23

VIGIL OF PENTECOST

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION FOR NEOPHYTES

AT 4:15 PM IN THE BASILICA

Neophytes and their godparents assemble as a group for the 5:15 PM Mass.

SUNDAY, MAY 24
SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST
**CONFERRAL OF CONFIRMATION AT THE 11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS
IN THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA**

*The Dismissal Sessions continue, if needed,
at the Sunday Anticipated Mass at 5:15 PM in the Basilica.
They take place in the Neumann Room behind the Basilica.*

NOTES

Name: _____

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