



St. Anthony
of Padua
CATHOLIC CHURCH

RCIA CHILDREN CALENDAR 2021-2022

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

10:15 AM Orientation Class & Rite of Welcome/Acceptance Rehearsal (PLB Room 204)
– **Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate (If Applicable) Due.**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021

9:00 AM Mass – Rite of Acceptance for *Catechumens* & Rite of Welcoming for *Candidates*
9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021

9:00 AM Mass
9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021

9:00 AM Mass
9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2021

9:00 AM Mass
9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021

9:00 AM Mass
9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021

9:00 AM Mass
9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021

9:00 AM Mass
9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204) – **Sponsor Forms Due**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2021

OFF – FOR THANKSGIVING BREAK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

9:00 AM Mass
9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

9:00 AM Mass

9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

9:00 AM Mass

9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

OFF – FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

OFF – FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022

OFF – FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022

9:00 AM Mass

9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022

OFF – FOR MLK DAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022

9:00 AM Mass

9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022

9:00 AM Mass

9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022

9:00 AM Mass

9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

9:00 AM Mass

9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022

9:00 AM Mass

9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022

9:00 AM Mass

9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204) – **Saint Names Due**

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022

9:00 AM * Mass – Rite of Sending for *Catechumens & Candidates*

9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

PM (TBD) * Mass - Rite of Election for *Catechumens* & Rite of Calling the *Candidates* to Continuing Conversion (Location TBD – at a Catholic Church in the northern Houston area)

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022

9:00 AM * Mass – Penitential Rite for *Candidates*

OFF - FOR SPRING BREAK - No Breaking Open the Word or Class

WEEK OF MARCH 14-18, 2022

TBD *Candidates* should make an appointment for the Sacrament of Penance

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022

9:00 AM * Mass – First Scrutiny for *Catechumens*

9:30 AM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022

5:00 PM * Mass – Second Scrutiny for *Catechumens*

5:30 PM Breaking Open the Word & Class/Church Tour (PLB Room 202/204 and Church)

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022

6:00 PM * Mass – Third Scrutiny for *Catechumens*

6:30 PM Breaking Open the Word & Class (PLB Room 202 & 204)

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022

10:00 AM * Rehearsal and Preparation Rites for *Catechumens* (Main Church)

8:30 PM * Easter Vigil Mass – Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation for *Catechumens*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022

6:00 PM * Rehearsal for *Candidates* (Main Church)

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022

11:00 AM * Divine Mercy Mass – Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation for *Candidates*

*** Godparents/Sponsors should be present for these celebrations (if unavailable, a proxy may stand in for them)**

Catechumens have not been baptized. *Catechumens* choose a godparent.

Candidates have been baptized. *Candidates* choose a sponsor.

THE 4 STAGES OF RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

1. Inquiry (Pre-Catechumenate): *Discover and Learn*

In this first period of the RCIA journey, many who come are discerning whether they truly want to enter into communion with the Catholic Church. How someone comes to consider joining the Church is unique to each individual. Everyone is given the opportunity and time to tell their own stories. There is never any pressure put on anyone to continue; rather, all are simply invited to "Come and see." Foundational instruction about the Catholic faith is given at the weekly sessions and there is always opportunity for all participants to ask questions.

RITUAL: The Pre-catechumenate concludes with the Rite of Acceptance for the Catechumens and the Rite of Welcoming for the Candidates.

2. Catechumenate: *Formation and Learning*

Catechumenate means "time of serious study". This period is the first step in commitment leading to full membership in the Catholic Church and is the longest of the four stages. This is an apprenticeship in Christian discipleship through learning the doctrines of the Church, service, liturgical worship, prayer, and community life. Each catechumen chooses a godparent and each candidate chooses a sponsor who accompanies him/her during the RCIA process. Godparents/sponsors can be someone you have chosen, or someone from our parish that we can find for you. During the Catechumenate period, all catechumens and candidates attend the 9:00am Mass on Sundays for the Liturgy of the Word. Halfway through the Mass, before the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins, catechumens and candidates will be "dismissed" with a priestly blessing for Breaking Open the Word (BOW). This is a time of prayer, study and personal application of God's Word, led by members of the RCIA team.

RITUAL: The Catechumenate concludes with the Rite of Sending from St. Anthony's and the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at an Archdiocesan site with the Archbishop.

3. Purification & Enlightenment: *Preparing the Heart*

This final period of preparation, which encompasses six weeks of Lent, is an intense time of prayer, fasting and reflection. The Elect (formerly Catechumens) undertake a series of self-examinations called the Scrutinies and they participate in special purification rites or Exorcisms. These self-examinations and rites strengthen them in grace and open their hearts to receive God's unconditional love. Included in this phase are spiritual retreats and smaller rituals intended to support and assist both the Elect and the Candidates. Breaking Open the Word (BOW) continues during this period.

RITUAL: For those who are not Baptized, they will receive all three Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist- on Easter Vigil. For those baptized outside of the Catholic faith, they will make a Profession of Faith and receive Confirmation and the Eucharist. For those who were baptized Catholic but never received the other sacraments, they will receive Confirmation and the Eucharist.

4. Mystagogy: *The Journey of the Neophyte*

The Mystagogy phase is meant to bring the neophyte into the life of the parish community. It is a time of reflection, celebration, and active participation in the life and mission of the Church.