

# OLMC RCIA

Believe | Worship | Live

## September

**9/1** Welcome, **9/8** Faith, **9/13** Mass/Dismissal, **9/15** Scripture & Tradition, **9/19** Day Retreat, **9/20** Mass/Dismissal, **9/22** Holy Catholic Church, **9/27** Mass/Dismissal, **9/29** Sin and Forgiveness

## October

**10/4** Mass/Dismissal, **10/6** The Last Things, **10/11** Mass/Dismissal, **10/13** Liturgy I, **10/18** Mass/Dismissal, **10/20** Sacraments, **10/25** Mass/Dismissal, **10/27** Baptism & Confirmation

## November

**11/1** Mass/Dismissal, **11/3** Eucharist, **11/8** Mass/Dismissal, **11/10** Sacrament of Penance, **11/15** Mass/Dismissal, **11/17** Holy Orders, **11/22** OFF, **11/24** OFF

## December

**12/1** Lectio Divina, **12/6** Mass/Dismissal, **12/8** Theotokos, **12/13** Mass/Dismissal, **12/15** Liturgy II, **12/20** Mass/Dismissal, **12/22 - 1/3** OFF

## “Come further up, come further in!”

-*The Last Battle, C.S. Lewis*

On behalf of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Fr. John Bonavitacola, and the RCIA Team, welcome! We are eager to start the 2015-16 process. First, a quick tour of this document. To your left in the gray box you'll find our calendar in detail with dates and agenda. Tuesday nights take place 7-9pm in McCready Hall North (north side of the building located directly behind the church). Sundays consist of 9am Mass and Dismissal. The only prerequisite for RCIA is commitment; commitment to attendance and commitment to participation. Please carefully note each date and make it your aim to stay committed.

Next you'll find the sub-headings *Preparation* and *Rites*. *Preparation* explains the expectations of a committed participant and what it takes to get the most out of the process. *Rites* discusses the purpose of momentous observances during the RCIA process.

### *Preparation*

Few things discourage commitment like poor communication regarding expectations. How can we thrive in a new endeavor if the expectations are unclear? To get the most out of RCIA, the best compliment to regular attendance is “coming prepared”. You may have heard that *we read* or *we read a lot* during RCIA. Most would confirm the former and smile when asked the latter.

Our main text for Tuesday nights is *Catholic Christianity* by Peter Kreeft. Each participant will receive a copy on September 1. The assigned readings are emailed weekly and those who don't read rob themselves of an opportunity to grow spiritually, intellectually, and communally (with others). Our main text for

## January

1/5 Marriage, 1/10 Mass/Dismissal, 1/12 Culture of Life, 1/17 Mass/Dismissal, 1/19 Contraception, 1/24 Mass/Dismissal, 1/26 OFF, 1/29-1/31 Retreat

## February

2/2 Lent, 2/7 Mass/Dismissal, 2/9 The Desert, 2/10 Ash Wednesday, 2/14 Rite of Sending/Dismissal, 2/16 Transfiguration, 2/21 Penitential Rite/Dismissal, 2/23 Samaritan Woman, 2/28 First Scrutiny/Dismissal

## March

3/1 Blind Man, 3/6 Second Scrutiny/Dismissal, 3/8 Raising of Lazarus, 3/13 Third Scrutiny, 3/15 Communal Penance, 3/20 Palm Sunday/No Dismissal, 3/24 Holy Thursday, 3/25 Good Friday, 3/26 Easter Vigil, 3/29 OFF

## April

4/3 Mass, 4/5 Agape, 4/10 Mass, 4/12 Discipleship, 4/17 Mass, 4/19 Moral Conscience, 4/24 Mass, 4/26 Virtue

## May

5/1 Mass, 5/3 Community, 5/8 Mass, 5/10 Mission, 5/15 Pentecost

Sundays is the Holy Bible (New American Revised version) and the same risk applies when one does not read the Sunday readings before Mass. To be clear, we are **not** saying “read or don’t come”. We’re saying you’ll get the most out of coming if you read.

We understand that life’s circumstances make it difficult to follow through sometimes, in which case we do not scrutinize you or your level of commitment. We assume you’re doing your best and if you’re not that you’ll ask for help and/or accountability.

## Rites

OLMC does not limit the RCIA process to only those wishing to become Catholic. In fact, many participate without the intention of becoming Catholic and are merely interested in learning what the Church teaches, practices, and proclaims. In turn, many who initially intend to become Catholic realize through the process that they’re not ready or that they can’t proceed with full integrity. Neither scenarios are problematic. As our pastor, Fr. John, says, “Come as you are”.

With that in mind, throughout the process there are momentous occasions, *Rites*, during which RCIA participants receive grace, prayer, and support as they continue their journey with Christ. The best way to understand the significance of *Rites* is to first liken the RCIA process to a relationship. RCIA is like “getting to know someone” or “dating”. It is not engagement or marriage. By entering RCIA, you are not obligated to become Catholic, although that could be your intention just like one in a relationship could intend to marry the other. Tuesdays and Sundays are like “dates”; time set apart to get to know Jesus and the Catholic Church. *Rites* represent those critical moments that mark progress and better define the relationship. Lent, the 40-day liturgical season marked by Ash Wednesday, is like serious courtship and/or engagement, whereas receiving Sacraments on Easter is like marriage; permanent and no turning back. The analogy is imperfect but helpful.

## Conclusion

We’ll see you September 1. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact [todd@olmctempe.com](mailto:todd@olmctempe.com). Thanks for reading.

-OLMC RCIA Team