



SAINT PETER CHANEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

12001 E. 214th Street, Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716
 Staff by the Oblates of the Virgin Mary - [Mariam cogita](#), [Mariam invoca](#)

OCIA Overview 2022-2023

Welcome to the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA formerly RCIA) at St. Peter Chanel! By the Love of God, your heart is moved to learn and discern the truths of the Catholic faith. We are here to introduce and instruct you in Catholic beliefs and practices, and to walk with you in the process toward full communion with the Catholic Church. OCIA is for adults at different places in their faith journey, including:

- those who simply want to learn more about the Catholic faith
- those who have never been baptized seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church
- those who have been baptized in a different Christian faith tradition seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church
- baptized Catholics who have not received religious instruction and have not received the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist
- baptized Catholics who have received the sacrament of Reconciliation and First Communion and are seeking the sacrament of Confirmation.

(We call a person who has never been baptized in any Christian faith tradition a “catechumen”, while a person having a valid Christian baptism is called a “candidate”.)

The following requirements must be met before you may receive the sacraments:

- you understand your faith
- you are free from irregular marriages (see [Marital Standing](#) below)
- you are properly disposed (you seek the sacraments by your own will and you are spiritually prepared for them).

Registration

The OCIA process begins with Registration where information is collected to establish your standing with the Catholic Church and the sacraments you are seeking. We are accepting Registration Forms in the month of August. You may print and fill out the Registration Form from our website and bring it to the English CCD office. The registration fee is \$50. Here are the certificates we need from you, to be submitted with your Registration Form, based on the sacraments you are seeking:

Sacrament you are seeking:	Copy of Certificate we require:
Baptism, 1st Communion, and Confirmation	Birth Certificate
1st Communion and Confirmation	Baptism
Confirmation	Baptism and 1st Communion

If you cannot find a copy of your birth certificates you can order one from <https://www.vitalchek.com/birth-certificates>



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Copies of Baptism and 1st Communion Certificates can be requested from the parish where you received the sacrament. If certificates cannot be turned in with the Registration Form, they are to be turned in no later than the end of October.

Orientation

Orientation is on **August 30th**. Attendance is mandatory. We will go over this program, hand out the Curriculum and resource material, and collect Agreement and Release forms as well as missing Registration forms and certificate copies. Receiving the sacraments of initiation are truly life changing. It is a journey that requires commitment with eternal rewards! In signing the Agreement form, you are saying yes to the requirements of this program, to this sacred journey.

Classes for Students

- See **2022-2023 Curriculum** for the schedule.
- Classes begin on Tuesday, September 6th.
- Classes are held every Tuesday at 7:00pm to 8:45pm, in the St. Joseph Building, Room 104. We ask that students be punctual and sign the sign-in sheet.
- Due to the extent of the lessons and importance of the preparation, no more than 2 absences are permitted. **Note: 3 tardies will count as 1 absence.**
- Every week the student is to bring a notebook and pencil. Facemasks may be made mandatory at any time.
- Lesson material will be emailed to students prior to class. For those individuals who do not use email, paper copies will be provided in class. Students are encouraged to read the material, jot down any questions, and bring them to class.

Sundays

Attendance at Sunday noon Mass at St. Peter Chanel Church is a requirement of all students. Beginning September 11, for 7 consecutive Sundays, the class will meet at 11:15am in the St. Joseph Building, Room 104, to watch The Search video series before Mass. Each of the seven videos is about 30 minutes. We will walk over to Mass from there. Those who have received the sacraments of Baptism and 1st Communion are aware of the serious Sunday obligation and opportunity to receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord. Please dress modestly as we are in the presence of God. No more than 3 absences are permitted. Any hardship issues are to be discussed with the OCIA Team.

Beginning November 6th, Dismissal will begin for those who are not Baptized and those who were only Baptized, but not instructed in the faith (*those requesting First Communion and Confirmation Sacraments*). This group will be dismissed with a Team Leader by the Priest Celebrating the Mass just prior to the Liturgy of the Eucharist, to meet and reflect on the Word of God heard during Mass.

Sponsors

We ask that you provide the name of your sponsor (or Godparent(s) in the case of Baptism) on your Registration form. This sponsor will be your earthly mentor and friend for Life, helping and interceding for you



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as a brother or sister in the faith. If unknown at time of registration, we need your sponsor's name by September 26. We ask that your sponsor attend class with you. We ask that you inform us if you are having trouble finding a sponsor and we will assign one to you. Sponsor (and Godparent) requirements:

- Practicing Catholics - go to Mass and Communion every Sunday, go to Confession at least once a month, strive to live a faithful Christian life.
- 18 years of age or older, and not be Catechumen/Candidate's parent, spouse, fiancé, girlfriend or boyfriend.
- He or she must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
- He or she must be single, or married in the Catholic Church.
- Help the Catechumen/Candidate with their journey. Attend Mass, class, rites, scrutinies with them.

Saint Name and Report

We ask that you provide your Confirmation Saint Name on your Registration Form. This saint will be your Heavenly mentor and friend for Life, helping and interceding for you as an older brother or sister in the faith. If unknown at time of registration, we need your Saint's name no later than the end of October. Here is a site to help you in choosing a saint: <https://www.catholic.org/saints/>. Your Saint Report is due February 7. See [Saint Report Guidelines](#) for requirements of the report.

OCIA Rites and Scrutinies

OCIA involves successive rites and liturgical celebrations. Attendance is mandatory. **See 2022-2023**

Curriculum for dates and times

OCIA Retreats

There will be two OCIA retreats. Attendance is mandatory. **See 2022-2023 Curriculum for dates and times**

Marital Standing

The Catholic Church Definition of Marriage (Canon 1055):

“The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring, has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized.”

- Man & Woman (equality & complementarity)
- Partnership of the whole of life (unity)
- For the good of the spouses (mutual benefit)
- For the procreation & education of children
- Indissolubility (lasts until death)
- Sacramental dignity (between the baptized)



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A Catholic priest or deacon is required to officiate a Catholic marriage. This applies even if only one of the two getting married is Catholic. A dispensation is possible when a Catholic is marrying a non-Catholic.

If one or both are Catholic, and they marry outside of the Catholic Church, with no dispensation from canonical form, the marriage is invalid. The marriage can be made valid by a Catholic marriage in the Church.

The Catholic Church considers all marriages between two non-Catholics, not previously married, to be valid marriages.

Previous marriages, civil or religious, require proof that they were invalid or have ended (Declaration of Invalidity, Dissolution Due to Privilege of the Faith, or Death Certificate). For the Catholic Church, divorce does not invalidate or end a marriage.

The Catholic teaching on marriage (Humanae Vitae and Theology of the Body) explains further the richness and beauty of the sacramental marriage covenant. As Catholics, we believe an unmarried couple in a sexual relationship is sinful.

If you have questions on your marital standing, or if you are free to receive the sacraments in OCIA, please call the Parish Office to set up an appointment with a Priest.

Pandemics

Due to the COVID pandemic, this activity is subject to change without notice. All participants must adhere to COVID-19 and Parish safety protocols. Wearing a face mask is required.

Sacred Journey

May the Holy Spirit guide you and prepare your heart and mind as you continue to seek the way, the truth, and the life which is found in Jesus Christ and His church. Throughout the year, please do not hesitate to ask any of us on the OCIA Team for help, a listening ear, prayers, or answers regarding any aspect of the Catholic faith. We are here to walk with you on this sacred journey.