

Pathways in Faith

How to Become Fully Initiated in the Catholic Church at
Most Holy Trinity Parish and the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit



WE ARE HERE TO WALK WITH YOU

Dear Friend,

Peace be with you!

Whether you are just beginning to explore the Catholic faith or have been feeling a quiet tug on your heart for some time, please know that you are welcome here. It is with great joy that I write to you on behalf of both the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit and Most Holy Trinity Parish—two communities rooted in faith, history, and a deep love for Christ and His Church.

The journey into the Catholic Church is not only about learning doctrines and traditions—it's about coming to know Jesus Christ more deeply and allowing His love to transform your life. We believe that every person, young or old, is created by God and called into a relationship with Him. That is why the Church has always opened her doors wide to welcome those seeking truth, purpose, and communion.

Whether you (or your child) are seeking baptism for the first time, are a Christian from another denomination drawn to the Catholic Church, or are a baptized Catholic looking to receive the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation, we are here to accompany you every step of the way. This includes the families and students of Most Holy Trinity Catholic Academy, whom we are especially blessed to support in their spiritual growth and formation.

This brochure outlines the process for becoming Catholic in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), which includes paths for children and teens. Through prayer, reflection, study and community life, you will have the opportunity to discover more fully what it means to follow Christ as a member of His Church.

You are not alone on this journey. Our parishes are united in our desire to walk with you, answer your questions, and support you in whatever stage of faith you find yourself. We believe that when one soul turns toward God, the whole Church rejoices—and we would be honored to share in that joy with you.

May you feel God's nearness as you take this next step, and may His Spirit guide you in all things.

In Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Msgr. Chuck Kosanke".

Msgr. Chuck Kosanke
Pastor
Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit
Most Holy Trinity Parish



THREE DIFFERENT PATHWAYS

Becoming a fully initiated Catholic is a meaningful, transformative journey, and we are here to walk with you every step of the way. Our process is designed to help adults and children over 7 years of age grow in understanding, discernment and commitment to the Catholic faith. It begins with gathering information and registering in August and September, and continues through the key phases of discernment, learning, and spiritual preparation. Throughout the year, adults and children over 7 years of ages will engage in prayer, reflection, and community life, culminating in the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. This schedule provides an overview of each phase, offering a clear path toward full initiation into the Church, and opportunities for candidates to deepen their relationship with God and the Catholic community.

Please read about each of the three pathways and determine which one is right for you or your child.

PATHWAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN BAPTIZED

August/September: Information Gathering

- Contact the Basilica of Ste. Anne, Most Holy Trinity Parish or Most Holy Trinity Catholic Academy (MHTCA) for preliminary information and register to begin the process. (MHTCA families will receive information at Curriculum Night.)

October: Inquiry Phase - Do I Want to become Catholic?

- During this phase, pre-catechumens will be introduced to Catholicism.

November/December: Discernment Phase - Learning the Christian Way of Life

- During this phase, pre-catechumens will learn more about Catholicism.

January: Rite of Entrance - Publicly Becoming a Catechumen

- This rite takes place during a Sunday Mass or a school Mass.

First Sunday of Lent: Rite of Election

- This rite takes place at the Cathedral with sponsors and parents.
- This is when the Catechumen is called Elect.

Lent: Period of Spiritual Preparation

- During this phase, elects will continue to deepen their spiritual lives, learn more about the faith and prayerfully prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation.

Before Easter: Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation)

- Adults and children over 7 years of age will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass.
- Children under 7 years of age will be baptized at their parish church and then receive First Communion and Confirmation later with their catechism peers or school classmates.

Easter - Pentecost (50 days after Easter): Integrating New Catholics into the Life of the Community

- This is the time for newly baptized members to reflect on their experiences and discern how they can be involved in parish life. Information about parish life will be provided and there will be opportunities for discussion.



PATHWAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE BAPTIZED IN THE PROTESTANT FAITH AND WOULD LIKE TO BECOME CATHOLIC

August/September - Information Gathering

- Contact the Basilica of Ste. Anne, Most Holy Trinity Parish or Most Holy Trinity Catholic Academy (MHTCA) for preliminary information and register to begin the process. (MHTCA families will receive information at Curriculum Night.)

October: Inquiry Phase - Do I Want to Become Catholic?

- During this phase, candidates will be introduced to Catholicism.

November/December: Discernment Phase - Learning the Christian Way of Life

- During this phase, candidates will learn more about Catholicism.

January: Rite of Welcoming - Publicly Becoming a Candidate

- This rite takes place during a Sunday or school Mass.

First Sunday of Lent: Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion

- This rite takes place at the Cathedral with sponsors and parents.

Lent: Period of Spiritual Preparation

- During this phase, candidates will continue to learn about the faith and prayerfully prepare for the sacraments.

Before Easter: Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (First Communion, Confirmation)

- Adults and children not attending MHTCA will participate in the Rite of Reception. They will make the Profession of Faith and receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass. Children enrolled in Religious Education classes may also receive First Communion and Confirmation with their Religious Education peers.
- MHTCA students will make a Profession of Faith at a school Mass and receive First Communion and Confirmation later with their schoolmates.

Easter - Pentecost (50 days after Easter): Integrating New Catholics into the Life of the Community

- This is the time for candidates to reflect on their experiences and discern how they can be involved in parish life. Information about parish life will be provided and there will be opportunities for discussion.



PATHWAY FOR BAPTIZED CATHOLICS WHO DESIRE THE SACRAMENTS OF FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

August/September: Information Gathering

- Contact the Basilica of Ste. Anne, Most Holy Trinity Parish or Most Holy Trinity Catholic Academy (MHTCA) for preliminary information and register to begin the process. (MHTCA families will receive information at Curriculum Night.)

October: Discernment Phase: Do I Want to Complete My Initiation in the Catholic Church?

- During this phase, candidates will learn more about Catholicism.

November - December: Learning the Catholic Way of Life

- During this phase, candidates will deepen their understanding of the Catholic way of life.

First Sunday of Lent: Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion

- This rite takes place at the Cathedral with sponsors and parents.

Lent: Period of Spiritual Preparation

- During this phase, candidates will continue to learn about the Catholic faith and prayerfully prepare for the Sacraments.

Before Easter: Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (First Communion, Confirmation)

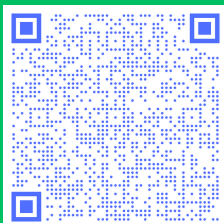
- Adults and children not enrolled at MHTCA will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass. Children enrolled in Religious Education classes may also receive First Communion and Confirmation with their Religious Education peers.
- MHTCA students will receive First Communion and Confirmation with their schoolmates.

Easter - Pentecost (50 days after Easter): Integrating Fully Initiated Catholics into the Life of the Community

- This is the time for candidates to reflect on their experiences and discern how they can be involved in parish life. Information about parish life will be provided and there will be opportunities for discussion.

LEARN MORE AND START YOUR PATHWAY

MHTCA Students:
Contact Karina Lepkowski at
klepkowski@mostholytrinityschool.org



Adults and Children not at MHTCA:
Contact Juanita Vargas at
juanita.vargas@steannedetroit.org

