

RCIA Instructional Topics (Baptized Candidates) — 2007 to 2008

Tentatively, we will have orientation sessions for candidates on Sunday, August 19th and 26th. RCIA proper begins on September 9th.

<u>Session Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Themes, Topics</u>	<u>Week's Feasts</u>
9/9/07 23 rd Sunday C—Green	Wis 9:13-18b Phlm 9-17 Lk 14:25-33	Themes: Who can comprehend God's ways? True discipleship calls us to forgive those who wrong us; call to take up Jesus' cross. Topics: What is the Gospel; Holiness of God; what God wants of us; the universal call to holiness of life; conversion; holiness and grace; holiness and virtue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Claver • John Chrysostom • Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
9/16/07 24 th Sunday C—green	Ex 32:7-14 1 Tm 1:12-17 Lk 15:1-32	Themes: Moses intercedes for God's people; Paul glorifies God for receiving mercy despite his persecution of the Church; Jesus tells parable of Father's forgiveness Topics: Revelation (written and oral) and its relation to the Church's teaching office (Magisterium); Catholic canon of Scripture; use of Scripture in Church life; interpretation (literal, spiritual); how the Church interprets Scripture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornelius, Cyprian, popes and martyrs • Robert Bellarmine • Andrew Kim and companions, martyrs • Matthew Apostle
9/23/07 25 th Sunday C—green	Amos 8:4-7 1 Tm 2:1-8 Lk 16:1-13	Themes: Amos prophesies against those who cheat the poor; Paul is a servant of the one mediator between God and Man; the parable of the crafty steward. Topics: The Church and the mystery of Christ in it; the four marks of the Church (emphasis on <i>catholic</i>); sacred space; if possible, a tour of the church building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosmas & Damian • Vincent de Paul • Wenceslaus • Michael, Gabriel, Raphael (angels)

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9/30/07 26 th Sunday C—green	Amos 6:1-7 1 Tm 6:11-16 Lk 16:19-31	Themes: Amos prophesies against the rich and comfortable; Paul charges Timothy to live a righteous life; parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Topics: How the Church worships — Liturgy and private prayer; “the rule of prayer is the rule of faith”, or how the liturgy teaches; the liturgical year. Sunday obligation. Demonstration of the Liturgy of the Hours (if not done up to now)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerome • Guardian Angels • Francis of Assisi
10/7/07 27 th Sunday C—green	Hab 1:2-3, 2:2-4 2 Tm 1:6-14 Lk 17:5-10	Themes: The just man lives by faith, but the rash person has no integrity; Timothy must not be afraid of the Gospel since he has a Spirit of power, love, and self-control; the servant of God reminds himself that he is unprofitable, only doing his duty. Topics: How the Church teaches — what doctrine is and how it develops; where the authority to teach comes from; ordinary and extraordinary magisterium; Councils and papal actions; infallibility of the pope and bishops Women's Retreat next weekend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaac Jogues & Companions
10/14/07 28 th Sunday C—green	2 Kg 5:14-17 2 Tm 2:8-13 Lk 17:11-19	Women's retreat 10/12-14 Themes: Naaman is healed, vows to serve God; God is faithful, whether we are or not; healing of 10 lepers, only one returns to give thanks. Topics: Creed—Origin and structure of the Creed; the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed; God, one and three; the work of the Father (creation), of the Son (salvation), of the Spirit (the Church and holiness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Callistus I, pope & martyr • Theresa of the Child Jesus • Margaret Mary Alacoque • Ignatius of Antioch • Luke, evangelist

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10/21/07 29 th Sunday C—Green	Ex 17:8-13 2 Tm 3:14-4:2 Lk 18:1-8	Themes: Aaron and Hur support Moses in prayer during battle against Amalek; since Timothy knows Scripture, Paul charges him to preach it in season and out; parable of the unjust Judge illustrates need for perseverance in prayer. Topics: Creed—The Father creates things unseen (the spiritual universe; angels and demons; immortal destiny of mankind; life after death in the Greek, Jewish, and Christian minds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Capistran • Anthony Claret
10/28/07 30 th Sunday C—green	Sir 35:12-18 2 Tm 4:6-18 Lk 18:9-14	Rites: Acceptance & Welcoming, Anointing of Catechumens Themes: The prayer of the faithful is always heard; Paul completes his proclamation of the Gospel, expects his reward; parable of the tax collector who humbles himself and the Pharisee who boasts of his goodness. Topics: Creed—Communion of Saints; doctrine of Purgatory; Christian meaning of suffering; martyrdom; canonization of saints, prayer to saints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon and Jude, Apostles • All Saints • All Souls • Martin de Porres •
11/4/07 31 st Sunday C—green	Wis 11:22-12:1 2 Thes 1:11-2:2 Lk 19:1-10	Themes: God loves the creation he has made and keeps it in being; Paul urges the Thessalonians not to be alarmed at reports that the end of the world is at hand; Jesus announces that salvation has come to Zacchaeus because of his repentance. Topics: The Son — The human descent of Jesus; Messiah and Lord; the humanity and divinity of Jesus; the challenge of Jesus to us; what kind of personal relationship we should cultivate with Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Borromeo • Leo the Great, pope, doctor

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11/11/00 32 nd Sunday C—Green	2 Mc 7:1-14 2 Thes 2:16-3:5 Lk 20:27-38	Themes: Martyrdom of the seven brothers who die for their belief in the Law of God and the resurrection from the dead; Paul encourages the Thessalonians to hope in God's faithfulness; Sadducees who deny the resurrection are reminded from the Torah that God is God of the living, not the dead. Topics: Creed — The Son saves; Justification by faith; "what matters is a new creation"; eternal security vs. confidence in God ; <i>grace</i> as Catholics understand it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin of Tours • Frances Cabrini • Albert the Great • Margaret of Scotland • Elizabeth of Hungary
11/18/07 33 rd Sunday C—Green	Mal 3:19-20 2 Thes 3:7-12 Lk 21:5-19	Themes: The Day of the Lord will destroy evildoers and liberate the righteous; people who don't work shouldn't eat; Jesus foretells the coming of persecution and the need to trust the Spirit for one's defense. Topics: Creed — The Father creates the human person; human nature and the Catholic understanding of original sin; man's need for salvation; temptation, sin. Introduction to the concept of the moral conscience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cecelia • Miguel Pro • Clement I, pope & martyr • Columban • Andrew Dung-Lac and companions, martyrs
11/25/07 Christ the King C—white	2 Sam 5:1-3 Col 1:12-20 Lk 23:35-43	Themes: The Israelites anoint David king; Jesus is the eternal Son of God, firstborn of all creation; Jesus' kingship is mocked, but the good thief defends it and asks to be remembered in the kingdom. Topics: Creed—The Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life, who speaks through the prophets	

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12/2/07 1 st of Advent A—violet	Is 2:1-5 Rm 13:11-14 Mt 24:37-44	Themes: All nations shall stream to the house of the Lord to learn his ways; the hour of salvation is close, so we should be awake; the coming of the Son of Man will take place when no one expects it. Topics: Creed—"Born of a woman": the person and role of Mary in the economy of salvation; Marian doctrines (virgin birth; immaculate conception, assumption), other Marian issues; the mystery of the Incarnation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Apostle • Francis Xavier • John Damascene • Nicholas • Ambrose • Immaculate Conception
12/9/07 2 nd of Advent A—violet	Is 11:1-10 Rm 15:4-9 Mt. 3:1-12	Themes: The root of Jesse will have the Spirit of the Lord and be set up as a signal for all nations; Christ is the fulfillment of the promise to Jews and the mercy of God to gentiles; John announces the coming of One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. Topics: Creed— The Son will come again, the Resurrection of the body, judgment of the living and the dead, the Last Judgment (Book of Revelation and the Kingdom of God)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damasus I, pope • Our Lady of Guadalupe • Jane Frances de Chantal • Lucy • John of Cross
12/16/07 3 rd of Advent A—violet	Is 35:1-10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11	Themes: The blind will see, the deaf hear, and the lame leap with joy when the Lord comes; James exhorts us to patience as we wait for the Lord's coming; Jesus commends John as the herald of the Messiah. Topics: Structure of the Catholic Church—rites, hierarchy, laity, religious; apostolic succession of bishops; the role of the pope; councils and their authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Canisius • John of Kanty
12/23/07 4 th of Advent A—violet	Is 7:10-14 Rm 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24	Christmas holiday: No RCIA Themes: Isaiah's prophecy about the birth of Emmanuel; Paul is commissioned to preach the obedience of faith to the gentiles; the birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen • John Evangelist • Holy Innocents, martyrs • Thomas Becket

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12/30/07 Holy Family A—white	Sir 3:2-14 Col 3:12-21 Mt 2:13-23	New Year's: No RCIA Themes: The Lord sets a father in honor over his children and confirms a mother's authority; Paul exhorts wives to be submissive to husbands and husbands to love their wives; the Holy Family returns from Egypt to reside in Nazareth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sylvester I, Pope • Mary, Mother of God • Basil Great • Gregory Nazienzen • Elizabeth Seton •
1/6/08 Epiphany A—white	Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-6 Mt 2:1-12	Themes: Gentile caravans will come to Zion with gifts of gold and frankincense; the gentiles are coheirs with the Jews of the mystery of salvation; the Magi come from the East with gifts for the infant Jesus. Topics: The moral life; Catholic moral teaching authority (assent vs. dissent, moral judgment vs. moral decision); Catholic teaching on the moral law and the nature, role, and formation of conscience; the 10 Commandments Men's Retreat next weekend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Neumann • Raymond of Penyafort
1/13/08 Baptism of the Lord A—white	Is 42:1-7 Acts 10:34-38 Mt 3:13-17	Men's Retreat 1/11-13 Themes: The Lord's servant is established as a covenant to the nations to bring justice to all; God is impartial and brings to himself anyone who has faith in him; at his baptism, Jesus is revealed as the Father's beloved Son. Topics: Commandments pertaining to God (1-3); the Sabbath obligation and worship (including holy days of obligation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hilary of Poitiers • Anthony of the Desert • Fabian, pope & martyr •
1/20/08 2 nd Sunday A—green	Is 49:3-6 1 Cor 1:1-3 Jn 1:29-34	Themes: The Lord makes his servant a light to the nations, to make his salvation known; the Corinthians are called with everyone else to be holy; John testifies that the one on whom the Spirit rests will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Topics: Commandments related to neighbor; respect for authority, for human life, for sexuality in both deed and thought; for personal goods in both deed and thought, for the truth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sebastian • Agnes • Francis de Sales • Conversion of Paul • Timothy, Titus

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1/27/08 3 rd Sunday A—green	Is 8:23-9:3 1 Cor 1:10-17 Mt 4:12-23	Themes: Those (in the Galilee vicinity) who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Paul is sent to preach the Gospel plainly, without rhetorical eloquence; Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee with a call to repentance and an invitation to his first disciples to join him. Topics: Sacraments and sacramentals — What sacraments are, how they work, their necessity, their number; sacramentals (esp. holy water); blessings of objects & people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angela Merici • Thomas Aquinas • John Bosco •
2/3/08 4 th Sunday A—green	Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13 1 Cor 1:26-31 Mt 5:1-12	Themes: A small, humble, and holy remnant will serve the Lord; God chooses what is foolish to confound the wise; the poor in spirit, the humble, and the meek are blessed. Topics: Sacraments of initiation — <u>Baptism</u> : permanent nature of, baptism of adults & infants, effects of baptism (being “born again”, forgiveness of sin, the life of Christ. <u>Confirmation</u> : relation to baptism, relation to the Church, permanent nature of; celebration in Latin and Eastern Churches Confirmation and charisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blase, martyr • Agatha, martyr • Paul Miki & Companions • Jerome Emiliani •
2/6/08	Joel 2:12-18 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Mt 6:1-18	Ash Wednesday — Period of Purification & Enlightenment begins Themes: The Lord calls for fasting in the heart, not merely on the outside; now is the acceptable time to claim salvation; our fasting is to be done in secret	
2/9/08 (Saturday - tentative date)		Combined Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion	

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2/10/08 1 st Sunday of Lent A—Violet	Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7 Rm 5:12-19 Mt 4:1-11	Rite: Anointing of Catechumens Themes: The first humans sin and learn their nakedness before each other and before God; through one man comes death to all, and through one Man comes life for all; Jesus rejects Satan's temptations to temporal power and glory. Topics: Sacraments of initiation — Eucharist (Part 1) Catholic worship, introduction to the Mass (history and structure), a walk through the Missal Lent and preparation for Easter (fast, abstinence laws). Scheduling of First Penance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholastica • Cyril, Methodius
2/17/08 2 nd Sunday of Lent A—Violet	Gn 12:1-4 2 Tm 1:8-10 Mt 17:1-9	Rites: Penitential (Candidates), Presentation of Creed (Both) Themes: God tells Abram to go to a strange land, where he will be a blessing for all nations; God saved us and called us to holiness according to an eternal plan; Jesus tells the disciples not to speak of the Transfiguration until after his resurrection from the dead. Topics: Sacraments of initiation— Eucharist (Part 2): Transubstantiation, Eucharistic adoration, other practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Damian • Chair of Peter • Polycarp
2/24/08 3 rd Sunday of Lent A—Violet	Ex 17:3-7 Rm 5:1-8 Jn 4:5-42	Rite: First Scrutiny (catechumens) Themes: In response to the people's grumbling, God has Moses produce water from the rock; God proves his love for us because Jesus dies for us when we are still sinners; Jesus offers the water of life for the woman at the well. Topics: Sacraments of Penance (role of the priest, going to confession, types of sin, what must be confessed, when confession is necessary), Anointing of the Sick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katherine Drexel • John of God

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3/2/08 4 th Sunday of Lent A—violet	1 Sm 16:1-13 Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41	Rite: Second Scrutiny (catechumens) Themes: Samuel anoints David king of Israel at God's direction; we are to live in the light of Christ, not take part in works of darkness; the man born blind, healed by Jesus, recognizes him as his savior Topics: Sacraments—Marriage as a sacrament; God's intention for marriage: a vocation and way of holiness; purposes (conjugal love, procreation; contraception), indissolubility, annulment vs. divorce; mixed and inter-cult marriages; family as a "domestic Church"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casimir • Perpetua, Felicity •
3/9/08 5 th of Lent A—violet	Ez 37:12-14 Rm 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45	Rite: Third Scrutiny (catechumens) Themes: God promises to bring Israel back to life through the Spirit; If the Spirit can raise Jesus from the dead, he can raise our mortal bodies also; by raising Lazarus from death, Jesus reveals himself as the Resurrection and the Life. Topics: Sacraments—Holy Orders: its institution by Christ; permanence of, levels (ministerial, priesthood of faithful); difference between a priest and a minister; discipline of celibacy, ordination of men only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frances of Rome
3/16/08 Palm Sunday A—Red	Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Mt 26:14-27:66	Themes: The Servant of the Lord does not hide himself from buffets and spitting; Jesus is exalted because he emptied himself and accepted death on a cross; Matthew recounts the suffering, condemnation, torture, and crucifixion of Jesus. Topics: Immediate preparation for reception into the Church at the Vigil. The Triduum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick of Ireland • Cyril of Jerusalem • Joseph , husband of Mary

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3/22/08 - Saturday	Gn 1:1-2:2 Gn 22:1-18 Ex 14:15-15:1 Is 54:5-14 Is 55:1-11 Bar 3:9-4:4 Ez 36:16-28 Rm 6:3-11 Mt 28:1-10	Morning of Reflection Preparation Rites: Recitation of the Creed (both), Ephphetha (Elect) Time & Location TBA Easter Vigil Completion of Sacraments and reception into the Church.	
3/23/08 Easter A—White	Ac 10:34-43 Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9	Themes: Peter witnesses to the household of Cornelius about Jesus' resurrection; through baptism, we have died and our lives are hidden with Christ in God; Peter and John see the empty tomb, but do not understand what it means. No RCIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanislaus • Martin I, pope, martyr • Annunciation
3/30/08 2 nd of Easter A—White	Acts 2:42-47 1 Pt 1:3-9 Jn 20:19-31	Themes: Signs and wonders accompany the apostles; John's vision of Jesus and the two-edged sword; appearances to the apostles and to Thomas, and their reason. Topics: Ignatian discernment of spirits and true and false spirituality; the tradition of Catholic spirituality Period of Mystagogy begins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isidore of Seville • Vincent Ferrer
4/6/08 3 rd of Easter A—White	Acts 2:14-28 1 Pt 1:17-21 Lk 24:13-25	Themes: Gamaliel's advice to the Sanhedrin and its result; Jesus was known from eternity but revealed in our day so that our faith and hope are in God; Jesus opens the disciples' hearts to the Scriptures on the road to Emmaus Topics: Getting a solid grounding—Christian virtues and their practice; Catholic prayer and Bible study; cultivating an active prayer life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean Baptiste de la Salle • Stanislaus

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4/13/08 4 th of Easter A—White	Acts 2:14, 36-41 1 Pt 2:20-25 Jn 10:1-10	Themes: Through Peter's proclamation, people are urged to repent and be baptized to receive the promise of the Spirit; by Jesus' wounds, we have been healed; Jesus is the only gateway who opens the door to abundant life. Topics: Catholic devotions; how to say the rosary; chaplet of Divine Mercy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin I, pope • Joseph the Worker • Charles Lwanga & Companions • Boniface • Philip Neri • Augustine of Canterbury
4/20/08 5 th of Easter A—White	Acts 6:1-7 1 Pt 2:4-9 Jn 14:1-12	Themes: The apostles appoint seven Spirit-filled men to care for Hellenic Christians; we are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, called to proclaim God's praises; Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Topics: Religious movements and associations; Charismatic spirituality and the Pauline charismatic gifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anselm, doctor • George • Mark, Apostle
4/27/08 6 th of Easter A—White	Acts 8:5-17 1 Pt 3:15-18 Jn 14:15-21	Themes: .Peter and John pray over the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit; Christ, the righteous one, suffered for the unrighteous to bring them new life in the Spirit; the one who loves Jesus keeps his commandments. Topics: Charismatic spirituality (continued); institutes of religious life and the Evangelical Counsels (poverty, chastity, obedience) ; third orders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isidore of Seville • Bernardine of Siena • Anthony of Padua • Catherine of Siena, doctor • Pius V, pope • Athanasius • Philip & James, apostles
5/4/08 7 th of Easter, Solemnity of Ascension A—White	Acts 1:1-11 1 Pt 4:13-16 Jn 17:1-11	Themes: After the ascension, the disciples devote themselves to prayer; whoever has the chance to suffer for God should glorify him for this grace; Jesus prays for his disciples who remain in the world, that they not be of the world Topics: The neophyte year; introduction to Catholic social teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bede, doctor • Gregory VII, pope • Philip Neri • Augustine of Canterbury

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5/11/08 Pentecost A—Red	Ac 2:1-11 1 Cor 12:3-13 Jn 20:19-23	Themes: The descent of the Holy Spirit; all spiritual gifts come from the same Holy Spirit; Jesus breathes on the apostles, gives the Spirit. Topics: Open forum, prayer Mystagogy ends, Neophyte Year begins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justin Martyr • Aloysius Gonzaga • John Fisher • Thomas More • Cyril of Alexandria • Irenaeus • Matthias, apostle • John 1, pope, martyr • Peter and Paul