

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – The Baptized Uncatechized (includes children of catechetical age)

Period	Name	Goal/Intent	Content	Duration	Rites
Period of the Precatechumenate # 36 – 40	Candidates	Awakening of faith	Introduce the God revealed by Jesus: help connect personal stories to the Christian story through focus on the Scripture especially the Gospels: surface questions: embrace a lifestyle as God intends: meet the Christian community already doing this.	Must be determined individually, based upon what level of faith and knowledge the candidate brings to the community.  See "Discerning the Appropriate Path" chart.	None specified

The Rite of Welcoming the candidates is celebrated after prayerful discernment among pastor, catechists and candidate, resulting in the determination that the candidate is ready to move into a period of deeper formation (see US 400 – 415 / CAN 376 – 386).

Period of the Catechumenate # 75 – 80	Candidate	Deepening awareness of the rights and responsibilities of Baptism as lived out in the Catholic community	Introduce the uniquely Catholic ways of approaching the Word and of Catholic teaching, accommodated to the liturgical year.  Apprentice with the community, paying particular attention to the uniquely Catholic expressions such as the Mass, other prayer forms, and devotional practices.  Engage the Catholic community through parish involvement, Catholic organizations (local and national), and smaller circles of communion in the parish such as committees.  Engage in the works of charity and justice within the Catholic community.	Cannot be determined ahead of time. Each candidate's journey must be discerned individually.  See "Discerning the Appropriate Path" chart.	US: Celebrations of the word of God.  Rite of Sending for Recognition by the Bishop and for the Call to Continuing Conversion (US 434)  CAN: Celebration of God's Word (CAN 488) Prayers for Strength (CAN 490) Prayers of Blessing (CAN 492)  Already baptized candidates should not take part in rites intended for catechumens (US – NS 31).
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The Rite of Calling the Candidates for Continuing Conversion/ To Lenten Renewal is celebrated after prayerful discernment, resulting in the determination that the candidate is ready to be received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. In communities where there are no catechumens, the Call to Continuing Conversion stands alone (US 447). In the United States, it can be combined with the Rite of Election where there are both catechumens and candidates (US 547). In Canada, there are no combined rites.

Period of Purification and Enlightenment US 138 – 140 CAN 125 – 127	Candidate	To join with the faith community in its Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparing to renew baptismal promises.	Interior reflection, examination of conscience, communal Lenten prayer, joining in the faith community's fasts, sharing intentionally in the community's almsgiving.	Six weeks: usually coinciding with Lent.	Penitential Rite US 291 / CAN 522 Other possible rites: US 407 / CAN 510ff
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Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church is celebrated when it has been discerned that doctrinal and spiritual preparation is complete. (US 473, 477 / CAN 387, 391)

Period of Postbaptismal Catechesis or Mystagogia US 244 – 251 CAN 234 – 241	Catholic Christian	Growing with the community by meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the Eucharist and doing the work of charity and justice.	Reflection on the celebration of the sacraments, breaking open the Easter gospels, and continuing the works of charity and justice.	From reception into full communion to Pentecost (or for 50 days after reception).	Sunday Eucharist
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*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – The Unbaptized*  
(includes children of catechetical age)

Period	Name	Goal /Intent	Content	Duration	Rites
Period of the Precatechumenate # 36 – 40	Inquirer	Awakening of faith	Introduce the God revealed by Jesus (evangelization); help connect personal stories to the Christian story through focus on the Scripture especially the Gospels (conversion); surface questions; embrace a lifestyle as God intends; meet the Christian community already doing this.	Unspecified. See "Discerning the Appropriate Path" chart to help in discernment.	No specific rites. # 39 offers the option of a preliminary manner of receiving inquirers into this period. US – NS 1: any service or prayer must be informal.
The Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens is celebrated after prayerful discernment among pastor, catechists and inquirer, resulting in the determination that the inquirer is ready to move into a period of deeper formation (41 –47).					
Period of the Catechumenate # 75 – 80. US – NS 6	Catechumen	Apprenticeship/ Training in the Christian life	Sharing a gradual and complete catechesis which includes celebrations of the word and presentation of teaching, accommodated to the liturgical year.  Apprenticing with the community in prayer, witness, hope and love of neighbor.  Celebrating a variety of liturgical rites including Liturgy of the Word with kindly dismissal from the Sunday assembly.  Engaging with the faith community in apostolic witness and works of charity and justice.	A minimum of one full liturgical year, but up to three years may be needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrations of the Word</li> <li>• Dismissals</li> <li>• Blessings</li> <li>• Anointings</li> <li>• Minor Exorcisms</li> <li>• Sending of the Catechumens for Election (USA adaptation)</li> </ul> <p>(May anticipate the Presentations of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer).</p>
The Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names is celebrated after prayerful discernment resulting in the determination that the catechumen is ready to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. (US 118 – 123 / CAN 105 – 110 )					
Period of Purification and Enlightenment US 138 – 140 CAN 125 – 127	Elect	Intense spiritual preparation focusing on what needs to be changed, or is weak or sinful; and simultaneous strengthening and celebrating of what is holy.	Interior reflection: more like a retreat. Penitential services, examinations of conscience, retelling of God's action in their lives, and a deepening relationship with the merciful and compassionate Christ.	Six weeks, usually coinciding with Lent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrutinies</li> <li>• Presentations of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer</li> <li>• Preparation Rites on Holy Saturday</li> </ul>
Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Easter Vigil) US 206 / CAN 198					
Period of Postbaptismal Catechesis or Mystagogia US 244 – 251 CAN 234 – 241 US – NS 24	Neophyte	Deepening the grasp of the Paschal Mystery by meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the Eucharist and doing the work of charity and justice.	Attending the Eucharist with the community, reflecting on the celebration of the sacraments and on the works of charity and justice, breaking open the Easter Gospels, engaging more fully with the faith community.	From celebration of Easter until Pentecost  US Adaptation: extended for one full year until the anniversary of initiation.	No specific rites. The Sunday Eucharist and the neophytes' celebration of the Eucharist with the bishop are the occasions marking this period.