



# SCHEDULE



## The RCIA Adapted for Children

December 4, 2021

8:30am	<b>Morning Hospitality / Exhibits Open</b>
9:00	<b>Welcome and Opening Bilingual Prayer</b>
9:30	<b>Break</b>
9:45	<p><b>General Session #1: Christian Initiation of Children: A Hopeful Vision and Models of Implementation</b></p> <p>Participants will be guided to consider how the parish's adult and children's catechesis will take on the vision of the baptismal catechumenate. Such catechesis would have a "catechumenal style" that would seek to help people arrive at a mature faith so that they would become evangelizers. The catechesis would be integral formation and not just provide information (see <i>General Directory for Catechesis</i>, 29, 58, and 59). Through such catechesis, parishioners would be formed in the community model Acts 2:42 portrays: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."</p>
10:30	<p><b>General Session #2: Forming Parents as Primary Catechists</b></p> <p>When presented with child catechumens, we often face the reality that the parents (or guardians) are also in need of faith formation. The spiritual journey of children can inspire the adults in their lives to explore their relationship with Christ and the Church and learn more about their faith. <i>Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us</i>, 40, states that "the witness of adults actively continuing their own formation shows children and youth that growth in faith is lifelong and does not end upon reaching adulthood." This session explores practical ways to form parents so that they may gain the confidence to assist in their duties of raising their child in the faith.</p>
11:00	<b>Break</b>
11:15	<p><b>Breakout Session #3</b></p> <p><b>Parish Leaders: Five Models of Implementation</b> In this session, participants will examine five models of implementation that can be used in a parish setting. The pros and cons for each model will be considered.</p> <p><b>Catechists: The Role of the Catechist (part 1): Providing Suitable Catechesis</b> Participants will explore the catechist's role in preparing and offering catechesis that is "gradual and complete [and] accommodated to the liturgical year" (RCIA 75.1).</p>
12:15pm	<b>Angelus</b>
12:30	<b>Lunch</b>
1:15	<p><b>Breakout Session #4</b></p> <p><b>Parish Leaders: Structuring a Parish Approach or "Program"</b> There will always be questions: How am I supposed to do this? What are my policies and guidelines? How do I form a team? What skills do team members need? Who will support me? With whom can I collaborate? How long is it? When should discernment occur?</p> <p><b>Catechists: The Role of the Catechist (part 2): Incorporating the Christian Way of Life, Suitable Liturgical Rites, and Apostolic Witness</b> Continuing from the previous session, participants will work together to brainstorm ways in which children are formed "to turn more readily to God in prayer," formed through liturgical rites, and formed to take part in apostolic works (RCIA, 75.2-4).</p>
2:15	<b>Break (and visiting exhibits)</b>
2:45	<p><b>General Session #5: Involving Companions and Sponsors in the Initiation Process</b></p> <p>Baptized children who act as companions, parish sponsors, and godparents all have a part in the formation of children in the catechumenate. This session will present the roles of each of these figures and ways to integrate them into the spiritual journey of the children.</p>
3:15	<p><b>General Session #6: Training Exercise: Planning for Whole Family Catechesis</b></p> <p>Participants in this training exercise will show ways to involve children in parish life that provide catechesis accommodated to the liturgical year, help them become familiar with the Christian way of life, pray in community, and participate in apostolic works. (See RCIA, 75.)</p>
4:30	<b>Stretch Break</b>
4:35	<b>Forum Panel Discussion</b>
4:50	<b>Closing Prayer</b>
5:00	<b>Departure</b>