

# Glossary of Terms for Christian Initiation

- Advent* A period of four weeks prior to Christmas. It has a twofold theme: preparing for the Second Coming of Christ, and preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.
- Candidate* One who is already baptized in another Christian faith and who now is preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. At the time of full reception, he or she will make a profession of faith, be confirmed, and receive Eucharist. In the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, "candidate" is also used for those participating in the precatechumenate (baptized and unbaptized).
- Catechumen* One who is not baptized and is preparing for full initiation at the Easter Vigil through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Catechumenate* Second period of the order of Christian initiation of adults (see below) which involves intense preparation in word, worship, community life and apostolic works.
- Children* The order of Christian initiation of adults adapted for children has as its foundation the adult rite. Adaptations of the rites have been developed for use with children of catechetical age (which usually means seven years and older).
- Cycle A, B, C* The three year cycle of liturgical reading: Cycle A: Matthew; Cycle B: Mark; Cycle C: Luke. All three cycles incorporate John.
- Easter Season* A period of seven weeks beginning with Easter Sunday and ending with the feast of Pentecost.
- Elect* The name given to catechumens who celebrate the Rite of Election on the first Sunday of Lent signifying their being chosen for the initiation sacraments.
- Evangelization* The task of the Church during the precatechumenate which involves the inviting, the welcoming, the witness, the sharing of faith and the proclamation of the gospel to inquirers/candidates.
- Inquirers* Those who participate in the precatechumenate of a parish. They are "inquiring" into Christianity in the Catholic Tradition.

<i>Lectionary</i>	The book used in liturgical celebrations that contains all the scripture readings of the liturgical year.
<i>Lent</i>	A six-week period extending from Ash Wednesday to sundown on Holy Thursday. It is a retreat time in preparation for the Easter Triduum
<i>Liturgical Year</i>	The seasons and cycles of the Christian year. It is the instrument and means for leading God's people along the way to the Lord. The readings introduce and invite us into the Paschal Mystery. It includes: Christmas Cycle (First Sunday of Advent through the Baptism of the Lord), Easter Cycle (Ash Wednesday through Pentecost) and Ordinary Time.
<i>Minor Rites</i>	Rites during the period of the catechumenate which include exorcisms, blessings, anointings.
<i>Mystagogy</i>	Final period of the order of Christian initiation of adults which is from Easter to Pentecost. The National Statutes (USA) also recommend an extended mystagogy for one year.
<i>National Statutes</i>	Particular law for the implementation of the order of Christian initiation of adults in the United States presented by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. (NCCB)
<i>Neophyte</i>	One who is initiated at the Easter Vigil. The term comes from the Greek word meaning new plant, as in a new sprout on the limb/branch.
<i>Ninety Days</i>	Occasionally used to mean the combination of the Period of Purification and Enlightenment and the Period of Mystagogy which corresponds with Lent (40 days) and the Easter Season (50 days).
<i>Order of Christian Initiation of Adults</i>	This is the official collection of rites of the Roman Catholic Church for initiation of adults (including children of catechetical age) and the reception of baptized candidates.
<i>Ordinary Time</i>	Cycle within the liturgical year that is outside the liturgical seasons (i.e., Advent, Lent, Easter). This time provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of God's gift to us in Christ, our attitudes, our prayer life and our service to others.
<i>Precatechumenate</i>	The first period of the order of Christian initiation of adults which is the initial introduction of an inquirer into the Christian way of life in the Catholic Tradition. It is also the period of evangelization on the part of the Church.

<i>Presentations</i>	During the period of purification and enlightenment, the elect are presented with the Creed and the Lord's Prayer through special rites. Both presentations can be anticipated during the period of the catechumenate when it is more convenient.
<i>Purification and Enlightenment</i>	This is the third period of the order of Christian initiation of adults which usually coincided with the Lenten season. It is the final period of preparation of initiation at the Easter Vigil
<i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i>	English title of <i>Ordo initiationis christianae adultorum</i> . The latest English-translation edition was published in 1985.

***Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens***

*The bridge between the precatechumenate and the catechumenate for the unbaptized.*

<i>Welcome</i>	The bridge between the inquiry period and the period of pastoral formation that coincides with the catechumenate. It is for those already baptized.
<i>Rite of Election</i>	Presided over by the bishop, the rite inaugurates the final period of preparation before initiation. It is the bridge between the catechumenate and purification and enlightenment.
<i>Call to Continuing Conversion</i>	Coincides with election, but is the rite for the already baptized
<i>Scrutiny</i>	Three rites of exorcism for elect during Lent.
<i>Penitential Rite</i>	Celebration for candidates, similar to rite of scrutiny.
<i>Sacraments of Initiation</i>	Usually celebrated at the Easter Vigil; includes Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

<i>Sunday</i>	The first day in the Christian liturgical week, the original feast day, the heart of the calendar, the basis and nucleus of the liturgical year.
<i>Triduum</i>	The "three days" of the celebration of Easter which begins with sundown on Holy Thursday evening and ends with evening prayer on Easter Sunday evening. Includes the liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday.