

OCIA Inquiry Sessions

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2. If new, click “sign up,” then “sign up as a parishioner,” and type in “St. Patrick Yorkville” or our code: 9de382.
3. After that, just enter your name and email address, and you are all set.

Dates and Topics

Thursday, May: Introductions and video, Episode 1: **What do You Seek?**

In Episode 1, we open hearts with a look at the question “what do you seek?” What is that deep longing in our hearts all about? We’re all living for something, and we all strive for that something out there that is ultimately going to make us happy. But what is it? For some, this question is on their minds every day. For others, life goes by in a flash without even asking the question.

Wednesday, May 20; Episode 2: **Who are You?**

To find clues as to the meaning of life, we first look at ourselves. Who am I? Is there more to me than matter? Is there more to us than meets the eye? We talk with neuroscientists, psychologists, composers, and artists to examine the mystery of you. If you’re just a body, then satisfaction in life should come from tending to simple bodily needs. Fill your stomach, be comfortable. But there’s more to you than that. You are material and immaterial. And that unseen part of you craves for so much more. As C.S. Lewis once said, “If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.”

Thursday, June 11: Episode 3: **Why a God?**

Today we seem to think we’ve moved beyond the idea of God, but this secular view of life is a very new and unusual idea to humanity. All through human history man has looked to something outside himself for the answers to life. Why have we given up on God? Do we think science has disproven Him? Do we think society is better off without him? We talk with astrophysicists, chemists, Harvard professors, and more to make the case that it’s not only reasonable to believe in God, it’s essential if you want to have a truly amazing life. Our souls seek their creator, and we’ll never be truly happy

Wednesday, June 24: Episode 4: **What’s Our Story?**

Your life is a story. And it’s caught up in the great story of humanity. This great story, as we see it in the Scriptures, shows us the amazing love story that is God’s pursuit of man. The God that is love created so we can ultimately be with his love. We were made to be with God. Union with God is so central to the purpose of life, we even see the afterlife in these terms. Our definition of Heaven is union with God, and hell is the absence of Him. Your life has a plot. Your life has a purpose. Your life has value. We need to see how we fit into this big love story to begin to know why we exist. And that love of God isn’t abstract. It has a face and name: Jesus.

Thursday, July 9: Episode 5: **Who is Jesus?**

The most beautiful part of this story is this: we can know God’s love, personally. This is the person of Jesus. But how did this seemingly insignificant carpenter born into poverty in a dusty corner of the Roman Empire become the most pivotal figure in all of history? Christianity isn’t simply a philosophy for life – the center of Christianity is a person. We look at the life of Jesus and what he came to do. Ultimately, we need to decide if Jesus really was who he said he was. We can’t sit on the fence. Because if Jesus really was who he said he was, we need to make him the Lord of our lives, and everything changes.

Wednesday, July 22: Episode 6: **Am I Saved?**

What Jesus did for us through his life, death and resurrection was the greatest act of love in history. He saved us. He did this for each one of us. Personally. But some might feel unworthy of this gift of love. We may feel we have too much baggage. We may feel unlovable. But God didn’t come to reveal himself to us on a pedestal, he came to enter into our messy human condition. To fix us from within. To transform us from the inside out. Some might be surprised by how generous the love of God

really is. We don't deserve God's love, but that's the amazing reality of God's mercy. This relationship with God isn't all about our love for Him. It's about His love for us that changes our lives forever.

Wednesday, August 12: Episode 7: **Why a Church?**

How do I access this man who lived 2000 years ago? How do I live this call of love? We uniquely encounter the love of God in His Church. But really? The Church? There are so many negative views of the Church. It's out of touch. It's full of bad people. It's just too boring. Maybe when we say "The Church" we mean a little more. The church is the family of God that's been lovingly gathered through our entire story. It's the place we were meant to encounter His grace that prepares us for every step of life. The God that is love knows how we're made – material and spiritual – we need tangible ways to live our faith. We can't be spiritual but not religious. This is where we'll find ultimate happiness in life. This is where the God that has been seeking humanity, who wrote the deepest desires onto our human hearts, encounters us. Jesus' first words to humanity in the Gospel of John are "what do you seek?" The one that asked the question not only knows the answer, He is the answer. The answers to everything. And you find him most profoundly here in His Church.

Wednesday, August 26th: **What Faith IS, What Faith ISN'T, and How to Grow in Faith**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RW8vPfaDARw&t=55s>

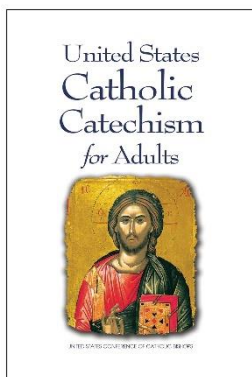
Other Resources:

- Chris Stefanick/Real Life Catholic on YouTube
- Father Mike Schmitz
- The Bible in 10 Minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jm3b4Q98Vx8>
- Busted Halo
- Breaking the Habit on YouTube "Catholicism in Focus"
- Why Do Catholics Have a Different Bible than Protestants?
<https://youtu.be/Vem8Jz9ggYs?si=LwvjbnSynt2p56pT>
- Bible in a Year
- How to Read the bible by the Bible Project
<https://youtu.be/pISNIwhAn5o?si=p8M5NtvEOi0CSAQ>
- The Story of the Bible – What it's about from Beginning to End.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_CGP-12AE0

Commonly Used Catholic Bible Translations

Several English translations are widely approved and used by Catholics:

- **New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE)** – the most widely used in the United States and the official translation for Mass readings
- **Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition (RSV-CE)** – a formal equivalence translation valued for study and liturgy
- **English Standard Version, Catholic Edition (ESV-CE)** – a newer, precise translation gaining popularity in some regions



Beginning in September

Text for our OCIA Sessions: United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

You can find it on Amazon or other publishers.

Publication Date is March 2024