

# Catechumenate Program

Course  
Information  
Packet



## For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ - *Galatians 3:27*

Dear Faithful Discerner,

Since ancient times, the Catechumenate has been a way of intentionally welcoming adult converts into the Church through a period of intentional prayer, fasting, and Christian education. Today the Episcopal Church carries on this tradition in various ways by inviting all people to find a home within its expression of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. While being Christian in the present world may feel different than the first century, our experience remains grounded in the quest for spiritual growth, and a renewed sense of belonging to the divine life of God in Christ.

The Catechumenate Program (also known as the Adult Formation Program) at St. Luke's is designed to prepare adult parishioners for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, or the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows at the Easter Vigil. The shape of this process is formed by the values and practices of the Early Church, as both a journey of initiation into Christ's Body and continued growth in the same. The Catechumenate Program is a way for people to find their way "home" to St. Luke's. Whether you are coming from another tradition, no tradition, or a life-time with the Episcopal Church, we invite you to explore a deeper life of discipleship with us.

The program consists of three parts (more details can be found within this packet). The first part, The Discovery Series is open to anyone interested in the subject matter. The latter two parts are for those who have completed the Discovery Series and wish to proceed as candidates to be presented to the Bishop at the Easter Vigil.

All candidates are paired with a sponsor who will introduce them more deeply to the life and ministries of St. Luke's. Candidates are expected to attend all four sessions of the Discovery Series and to participate in all subsequent meetings of the program. This includes full participation in the liturgies of Holy Week.

All inquiries about the program are welcome. We hope you will join us as you feel the Holy Spirit at work in your life of faith.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Andrew J. Ancona  
Senior Associate



## Who participates in the Catechumenate Program?

At St. Luke's, we offer intentional preparation for the following sacramental initiation or ritual milestones in the Christian life:

**Adult Baptism:** This sacrament is intended for adults who (at least to their knowledge) have never been Baptized, and wish to become full members of the Church.

**Adult Confirmation:** This sacrament is intended for those desiring to make a mature declaration of their faith (always proceeding Baptism, especially when administered as a child).

**Reception:** For those who have been baptized and confirmed who seek to be received or ceremonially welcomed into the communion of the Episcopal Church.

**Renewal of Baptismal Vows:** For those wishing to renew or reclaim their faith, in some cases after a time apart from the life of the Church.

Candidates participate in the program together as a cohort throughout the entire process. Sponsors are chosen for each candidate in reflection on their unique spiritual journey and needs.

All are welcome to speak to a member of the clergy to discern what step might be right for you.

**For more information about the Catechumenate program please email: [info@stlukeinthefields.org](mailto:info@stlukeinthefields.org).**





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# 2024 - 2025 Program Outline



**Part 1:  
Discovery Series**  
*Sundays, 1:15pm-3pm,  
Laughlin Hall*

- **Reading the Bible**  
*October 13th*
- **Worship and The Book of Common Prayer**  
*November 10th*
- **Christian History and The Episcopal Church**  
*December 8th*
- **Ethical Decision Making**  
*January 12th*
- **Intro to Centering Prayer**  
*\*\*Wednesday January 15th  
Vespers 6pm | Formation  
Session 6:30 - 7:30pm*



**Part 2:  
Becoming a  
Candidate**

- **Weekend Retreat at Mariandale**  
*January 17th-19th, 2025*
- **Ash Wednesday Liturgy**  
*March 5th @ 7a, 12p, 6:30p*
- **Induction of the Candidates Mass**  
*March 9th @ 11:15am*
- **Instructed Eucharist**  
*April 10 @ 6pm*
- **Formation Dinner**  
*Following the Instructed  
Eucharist*



**Part 3:  
Deeper Spiritual Life**  
*Sundays, 1:15pm-3pm,  
Laughlin Hall*

- **Made to be God's People: Creation, Sin, Redemption**  
*March 9th*
- **Touched by Jesus: Prayer & The Sacraments**  
*March 16th*
- **What is the Church: A new way of Living**  
*March 23rd*
- **Life in the Spirit: God's Kingdom**  
*March 30th*

**Additional Requirements**

Candidates are expected to participate in one of two scheduled service dates, as well as Holy Week liturgies at St. Luke's.





## Suggested Texts

*Participation in the Catechumenate Program does not assume prior knowledge of the topics or texts below. The following resources are offered as supplemental recommendations.*

### Scriptures

Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures

- *A short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, John C. Collins
- *The Hebrew Bible: Feminist and Intersectional Perspectives*, Ed. Gale Yee

New Testament

- *An Introduction to the New Testament*, Raymond Brown
- *Introducing the New Testament*, Mark Allen Powell
- *What are Biblical Values?*, John C. Collins

Bibles

- *The New Oxford Annotated Study Bible, with Apocrypha*

### Theology

Patristic and Catholic Theology

- *First Principles*, Origen
- *Confessions*, Augustine of Hippo
- *The Christian Theology Reader*, ed. McGrath
- *Christian Theology: An Introduction*, ed. McGrath and Thomas
- *Seeds of Faith*, Frank T. Griswold
- *Mysteries of Faith*, Mark McIntosh

Liberation & Womanist Theology

- *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, James Cone
- *A Theology of Liberation*, Gustavo Gutierrez
- *Jesus and the Disinherited*, Howard Thurman
- *Sisters in the Wilderness*, Dolores S. Williams

Morals & Ethics

- *The Christian Moral Life*, Timothy Sedgwick
- *On Christian Doctrine and Practice*, St. Basil the Great
- *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*, Richard Hayes

### Church History

- *The First Three Thousand Years*, Dirmaid McColluch
- *The Story of Christianity, Vol 1*, Justo L. Gonzalez
- *The Oxford Handbook of Anglican Studies*, ed. Chapman, Clarke, and Percy

### Prayer, Liturgy & Worship

- *A Commentary on the American Prayer Book*, Marion J. Hatchett
- *The Shape of the Liturgy*, Dom. Gregory Dix
- *Oxford Guide to the Book of Common Prayer*, ed. Hefling and Shattuck
- *The St. Augustine Prayer Book*
- *The Rule*, Benedict of Norcia
- *Ancient Christian Worship*, Andrew B. McGowan

Baptism

- *Of Water and the Spirit*, Alexander Schmemmann

Eucharist

- *A Holy and Living Sacrifice: The Eucharist in Christian Perspective*, Ernest R. Falardeau

### Christian Spirituality

Celtic Spirituality

- *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Reader*, J. Phillip Newell
- *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul*, J. Phillip Newell

Christian Discipleship

- *Being Christian*, Rowan Williams
- *Being Disciples*, Rowan Williams
- *Life in Christ*, Julia Gatta
- *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Prayer and Contemplation

- *Harvest of Hope*, Frank T. Griswold
- *Book of Mystical Chapters: Meditations on the Soul's Ascent by the Early Church Fathers*
- *The Practice of the Presence of God*, Br. Lawrence