

**Children's Catechumenate – Christian Initiation of Children  
who have reached Catechetical Age (7 years old or older)**



- This is a two year program for children who were not baptized as infants, who have attained the age of reason, are of catechetical age, and who will participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil.
- Children will attend weekly age-appropriate classes and special monthly family preparations sessions.
- Children will celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil of their second year.
- First year participants will attend age-appropriate classes with children who are already baptized, and have celebrated First Eucharist, or are preparing to celebrate Confirmation.
- The second year classes emphasize the child's relationship with God, and their life within the body of Christ, the Church. The child is accompanied on their journey by a sponsor. All sponsors must fulfill diocesan requirements.
- During the two years, special sessions are held to help children, families and sponsors prepare for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation.  
Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation takes place during the Easter Vigil of the second year. The children then begin a period of reflection on the initiation process called mystagogy where they reflect on the sacraments celebrated and continue to grow in their faith.