

Tentative Schedule for **2024-2025 Exploring Catholicism**  
and the Order of Christian Initiation at Saint Michael, Hastings

**Wednesdays** at 7:00 p.m. beginning in early September and continuing through mid- April. Lessons will last no more than 1 hour.

Along with the Wednesday night sessions, there will be an additional study about once a month study (weekly when we get to the season of Lent) for the catechumen/candidate and sponsor. (Meetings arranged with your own pastor.) Each meeting typically will include reading and discussion of *Foundations for Discipleship*. This meeting is to help us to not only “know about Jesus”, but to “know Jesus”. There also will be ceremonies in which catechumens/candidates may participate in anticipation of being received into the Church.

Fr. Jeremy Hazuka

Father Craig Clinch

Ryan Hall

**Resources – either in preparation for or in response to the weekly presentation:**

- Weekly video {Episode #} to watch on your own from *Symbolon*, Parts I & II (Available on FORMED.org for free – Search for Saint Michael, Hastings)
- Weekly reading [*Paragraph #s*] from *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* – While there will be no quiz, you are encouraged to keep up with the reading.
- “CCC” stands for Catechism of the Catholic Church. Instead of pages, the numbers listed are paragraph numbers. You can find the Catechism online at: [www.scborromeo.org/ccc.htm](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc.htm).
- A highly recommended resources is *The Action Bible*. It gives the basic story of salvation from Genesis to Revelation in a way that is understandable.
- Question box – Please place your questions about the faith in the provide box, and Father Hazuka will try to answer your questions on a weekly basis (depending upon how many questions he gets.)

September 11 – **Introductions and *Something More***

September 18 – **God’s Plan and our plan** {I Symbolon 1: The Journey of Faith} [*1-5, 25-32*]

September 25 – **God’s Existence and the Mystery of the Trinity** [*33-58*]

October 2 – **Divine Revelation and its two wellsprings** {I Symbolon 2: Divine Revelation} [*6-17*]

October 9 – **Sacred Scripture** {I Symbolon 3: The Bible} [*18-24*]

October 16 – **The Old Testament and the Covenant** {I Symbolon 4: The Story of Salvation} [*59-78*]

October 23 – **The New Testament and the Life of Jesus** {I Symbolon 5: Who Is Jesus?} [*79-109*]

October 30 – **The Paschal Mystery** {I Symbolon 6: The Paschal Mystery} [*110-135*]

November 6 – **The Holy Spirit – Gifts, Charisms, Fruits** {I Symbolon 7: The Holy Spirit and the Life of Grace} [*136-146*]

November 13 – **The Church – The People of God, the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Spirit** {I Symbolon 8: Why Do I Need a Church?} [*147-193*]

November 20 – **The Church – Mary and the Saints** (and choosing a patron saint for Confirmation) {I Symbolon 9: Mary and the Saints} [*194-199*]

November 27 – ***NO LESSON (Thanksgiving)***

***Sunday, December 1 – Rite of Acceptance at the beginning of Advent***

December 4 – **Excursus: Prayer #1** (What is Prayer and Prayer in Revelation & Prayer in the Christian Life) [*534-566*; also see CCC 2558-2643; CCC 2650-2691]

December 11 – **Liturgy and the Sacraments** (The Liturgical Year, Liturgical Prayer, Saints and Seasons) [*218-250*]

December 18 – **Baptism and Confirmation** {II Symbolon 1. The Sacraments: Baptism & Confirmation} [251-270]

December 25 – **NO LESSON (Christmas Break)**

January 1 – **NO LESSON (Christmas Break)**

January 8 – **The Eucharist** {II Symbolon 2. The Eucharist: Source & Summit of the Christian Life} [271-294]

January 15 – **The Mass** {II Symbolon 3. Walk Through the Mass: Exploring the Liturgy} [351-356]

January 22 – **Confession and Anointing of the Sick** {II Symbolon 4. Penance & Anointing of the Sick: God's Mercy Revealed} [200-201; 295-320]

January 29 – **Matrimony and Holy Orders** {II Symbolon 5. Matrimony & Holy Orders: The Sacraments of Service & Communion} [321-350]

February 5 – **Morality, Virtue and the first three Commandments** {II Symbolon 6. A Catholic Moral Vision: Virtue, Grace & the Path to Happiness} [357-454]

February 12 – **Commandments 4 and 5** [455-486]

February 19 – **Commandments 6 and 9** {II Symbolon 7 & 8. A Love that Lasts: Discovering Authentic Love/A Love that Lasts: God's Plan for Sexuality} [487-502; 527-530]

February 26 – **Excursus: Lent, the Easter Triduum, and the Celebration of the Paschal Mystery**

**March 5 – NO LESSON (Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent: Throughout Lent will be the Scrutinies and Presentations)**

March 12 – **Commandments 7, 8 and 10** {II Symbolon 9 & 10: Catholic Social Teaching: Building a Civilization of Love/Protecting the Dignity of the Human Person} [503-526; 531-533]

March 19 – **The Last Things** {I Symbolon 10. The Last Things} [202-217]

March 26 – **Excursus: Prayer #2** (The Life of Prayer and The Lord's Prayer and Questions about Prayer) [567-598; Also see CCC 2697-2751; CCC 2759-2856]

April 2 – **Snow Day Make-up or "Are You Smarter than a 5<sup>th</sup> Grader?"** – Question and Answer Session

April 9 – **Snow Day Make-up or Catholic Potpourri (or, if necessary, a Snow Day Make-up)**

- The Precepts of the Church
- How to go to Confession
- "Catholic Calisthenics"
- "Church Speak"

April 16 – **Preparation and Practice for Reception into the Church at your respective parish**

**Saturday Night, April 19 – Easter Vigil**

April 23 – **"Mystagogy – Where do we go from here?"**

- "Stewardship" and "Discipleship"
- **Recommended individual meetings on a monthly basis for next six months (more informal).**

### **Addendum for those interested in becoming Catholic:**

1. You will need a practicing Catholic to be your sponsor. That person should attend the classes with you, if at all possible. If you do not have someone in mind, we can find a sponsor for you.

2. If you were baptized in another faith, either as a child or adult, we will need a copy of the certificate which was issued at your baptism or a new one. This can be obtained by contacting the church of your baptism and asking them for a copy of your baptismal certificate or a letter verifying that you had been baptized. This should include your name, the date of your birth, the names of your parents and godparents, the date of your baptism and the name of the minister who baptized you.

3. When appropriate, catechumen (those to be baptized) are led through the steps of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults:

- ***Period Of Evangelization and Precatechumenate:*** This is a time, of no fixed duration or structure, for inquiry and introduction to Gospel values, an opportunity for the beginnings of faith.
- ***First Step: Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens:*** This is the liturgical rite, usually celebrated on some annual date or dates, marking the beginning of the catechumenate proper, as the candidates express, and the Church accepts, their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ. (This may take place at the beginning of Advent.)
- ***Period of the Catechumenate:*** This is the time, in duration corresponding to the progress of the individual, for the nurturing and growth of the catechumens' faith and conversion to God; celebrations of the word and prayers of exorcism and blessing are meant to assist the process.
- ***Second Step: Election or Enrollment of Names:*** This is the liturgical rite, usually celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent (with the Bishop at the Cathedral in Lincoln), by which the Church formally ratifies the catechumens' readiness for the sacraments of initiation and the catechumens, now the elect, express the will to receive these sacraments.
- ***Period Of Purification and Enlightenment:*** This is the time immediately preceding the elects' initiation, usually the Lenten season preceding the celebration of this initiation at the Easter Vigil; it is a time of reflection, intensely centered on conversion, marked by celebration of the scrutinies and presentations and of the preparation rites on Holy Saturday.
- ***Third Step: Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation:*** This is the liturgical rite, usually integrated into the Easter Vigil, by which the elect are initiated through baptism, confirmation, and the eucharist.
- ***Period Of Postbaptismal Catechesis or Mystagogy:*** This is the time, usually the Easter season, following the celebration of initiation, during which the newly initiated experience being fully a part of the Christian community by means of pertinent catechesis and particularly by participation with all the faithful in the Sunday eucharistic celebration.

Candidates (those already baptized) are invited to be led through a simplified process of reception into the Church.

4. We will expect you to attend every class unless, of course, illness or some other unavoidable circumstance prevents your attendance. Classes missed can be made up on an individual basis with Father Hazuka.

5. Feel free to ask questions and use the weekly "question box". This is the best way to learn. If we don't have the answers immediately, we know where we can find them!

6. There are some prayers which we encourage you to gradually memorize. You will find them in Appendix A of ***Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church***. Among them are the Sign of the Cross, the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, Glory to the Father, the Apostles' Creed, Act of Contrition, and Grace before and after Meals.