

# Doctrinal Formation from the Liturgical Year

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** calls us to offer the catechumens:

“A suitable catechesis, provided by priests or deacons, or by catechists and others of the faithful, planned to be gradual and complete in its coverage, accommodated to the liturgical year, and solidly supported by celebrations of the word. This catechesis leads the catechumens not only to an appropriate acquaintance with dogmas and precepts but also to a profound sense of the mystery of salvation in which they desire to participate.” RCIA # 75

Consider the following overview of possible doctrinal material through the Cycle of the seasons and feasts of the liturgical year:

## **ADVENT / CHRISTMAS:**

Fall and Redemption; Eschatology: Prophets;  
Incarnation, Jesus fully Divine and Human  
Mary, Mother of God, Model of Discipleship  
Holy Family; Jesus' Mission to all People;  
Repentance, Social Justice

## **LENT / EASTER:**

Covenant; Paschal Mystery; Sin & Grace;  
Conversion; Moral Life;  
Penance: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving;  
Baptism; Eucharist; Forgiveness  
Priesthood; Jesus' Resurrection and Ours;  
Ascension; Spirit; Church's Foundation and Mission;  
Reconciliation; Evangelization: God's Humility/Power

## **ORDINARY TIME:**

Trinity; Eucharist; Jesus' Miracles; Commandments;  
Discipleship; Witness to Faith; Personal and Social Ministry;  
Heaven and Hell; Suffering; Sacraments and Sacramental Life;  
Creed; End of Time; Last Judgment

## **FEASTDAYS:**

Virtues; God's Mercy and Justice; Beatitudes;  
Vocation; Witness; Justice and Peacemaking;  
Sacrificial Living; Martyrdom; Communion of Saints

The possibilities are rich and breathtaking in scope. The Rite reminds us that: “As they become familiar with the Christian way of life and are helped by the example and support of sponsors, godparents, and the entire Christian community, the catechumens learn to turn more readily to God in prayer, to bear witness to the faith, in all things to keep their hopes set on Christ, to follow supernatural inspiration in their deeds, and to practice love of neighbor, even at the cost of self renunciation” RCIA # 75