



Office for
Worship

Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

Pastor's Ritual Guide to the Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates

Pandemic Edition

First Sunday of Lent
February 21, 2021

This ritual guide is intended to be of assistance to pastors of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland who have been delegated to celebrate the 2021 Rite of Election in their parishes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please contact the Office for Worship with any questions, clarifications, or for other assistance:

216-696-6525 x4120

jmiles@dioceseofcleveland.org

Liturgical Preparation Notes

Please remember that the diocesan guidelines for liturgies during the pandemic should be followed, including physical distancing, wearing of masks, and reduced congregational singing.

The Rite of Election is celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2021. It should be celebrated during the Mass of the First Sunday of Lent, using the readings proper to the Sunday (*Lectionary for Mass, vol. 1, no. 23, First Sunday of Lent, Year B*). The orations used are found in the *Roman Missal, third typical edition: Ritual Masses I: For the Conferral of the Sacrament of Christian Initiation: 1. For the Election or Enrollment of Names, pgs. 1119-1120*.

The ritual guide presented here reflects *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* [hereafter RCIA], Appendix I: Chapter 3: The **COMBINED** Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call to Conversion of Candidates. **It is not necessary to celebrate a combined ritual.**

Indeed, depending on the number of your RCIA participants and the size of your worship space, your parish may choose to celebrate these rituals separately.

If you plan to celebrate a combined ritual within Sunday Mass, plans should be made to dismiss the elect following the Rite of Election for breaking open the Word. Candidates for full communion are not dismissed.

If you choose to celebrate the rituals separately, in addition to the *Roman Missal*, you will use the following sections of the RCIA:

- For the Rite of Election of Catechumens (those unbaptized) alone: RCIA, Second Step: Election or Enrollment of Names, nos. 118-137. This may be celebrated as a Liturgy of the Word (our typical diocesan pattern), or within the Sunday Mass; if within Mass, plans should be made to dismiss the Elect following the Rite of Election for breaking open the Word.
- For the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates (those already baptized) for Full Communion alone: RCIA, Cha 4c Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion, nos. 446-458. Candidates for full communion are not dismissed.

Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession

The catechumens and/or candidates are not normally included in the Entrance Procession.

Sign of the Cross and Greeting

**Celebrant: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

People: Amen.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

The Celebrant may briefly introduce the liturgy. With hands joined, he, then, invites the liturgical assembly to pray.

Collect

Collect from Mass for the Election or Enrollment of Names – Roman Missal, third typical edition, pg 1119

Celebrant: Let us pray.

And all pray in silence with the Celebrant for a while. Then the Celebrant, with hands extended, prays the Collect:

**Celebrant: O God,
who though you are ever the cause
of the salvation of the human race now gladden your people with
grace in still greater measure,
look mercifully, we pray, upon your chosen ones,
that your compassionate and protecting help
may defend both those yet to be born anew
and those already reborn.**

**Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

People: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15
(LECT: 23; *Lectionary for Mass* vol. I, Cycle B – First Sunday of Lent)

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
“Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.”

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22
(LECT: 23; *Lectionary for Mass* vol. I, Cycle B – First Sunday of Lent)

Gospel Acclamation: “Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ”

Verse Before the Gospel: Matthew 4:4b “One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.”

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15
(LECT: 23; *Lectionary for Mass* vol. I, Cycle B – First Sunday of Lent)

Homily: Celebrant
The homily “should be suited to the actual situation and should address not just the catechumens and the candidates, but the entire community of the faithful, so that all will be encouraged to give good example and to accompany the catechumens and candidates during the time of their Lenten

preparation for celebrating the Easter sacraments.” (RCIA, 550)

Celebration of Election

Presentation of the Catechumens (RCIA, 551)

Following the homily, the Celebrant stands. The appropriate person presents the catechumens to the Celebrant.

Presenter: Fr. N., Easter is drawing near, and so these catechumens, whom we now present to you, are completing their period of preparation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example.

Now they ask that after the celebration of the scrutinies, they be allowed to participate in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

**Celebrant: Those who are to be chosen in Christ, stand,
together with your godparents.**

One by one, the catechumens are called by name. Each catechumen, accompanied by a godparent (or godparents), comes forward and stands before the celebrant.

Affirmation by the Godparents [and the Assembly] (RCIA, 552-B)

The Celebrant, with hands joined, then addresses the godparents.

Celebrant: God's holy Church wishes to know whether these catechumens are sufficiently prepared to be enrolled among the elect for the coming celebration of Easter. And so I speak first of all to you, their godparents.

N.B. If the godparents' responses are not printed in a worship aid, prior to asking the ritual questions, the Celebrant may wish to prompt their responses (e.g., "DEAR GODPARENTS, TO EACH OF THESE QUESTIONS, PLEASE RESPOND: 'THEY HAVE.'").

The Celebrant then addresses the godparents.

Celebrant: Have they faithfully listened to God's Word proclaimed by the Church?

Godparents: They have.

Celebrant: Have they responded to that Word and begun to walk in God's presence?

Godparents: They have.

Celebrant: Have they shared in the company of their Christian brothers and sisters and joined with them in prayer?

Godparents: They have.

Celebrant: And now I speak to all of you, my brothers and sisters, in this assembly:

Are you ready to support the testimony expressed about these catechumens and include them in your prayer and affection as we move toward Easter?

N.B. If the assembly's response is not printed in a worship aid, the Celebrant may wish to prompt their response (e.g., "IF YOU ARE, PLEASE RESPOND: 'WE ARE.'").

All: We are.

Invitation and Enrollment of Names (RCIA, 553)

The Celebrant then addresses the catechumens.

Celebrant: And now, my dear catechumens, I address you.

Your own godparents and teachers have spoken in your favor. The Church in the name of Christ accepts their judgment and calls you to the Easter sacraments.

Since you have already heard the call of Christ, you must now express your response to that call clearly and in the presence of the whole Church.

Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist?

N.B. If the catechumens' responses are not printed in the worship aid, the Celebrant may wish to add a prompt for them after the question (e.g., "IF YOU DO, SAY: 'WE DO.'").

Catechumens: We do.

Celebrant: Then I ask you and your godparents now to come forward and offer your names for enrollment.

The candidates give their names, either going with their godparents to the celebrant or while

remaining in place, and the actual inscription of the names may be carried out in various ways. The candidates may inscribe their names themselves or they may call out their names, which are inscribed by the godparents or by the minister who presented the catechumens. As the enrollment takes place, an appropriate song may be sung.

Act of Admission or Election (RCIA, 554)

The Celebrant briefly explains the significance of the enrollment that has just taken place. Then, the Celebrant, turning to the catechumens, says:

Celebrant: [N. and N. (etc.)], I now declare you to be members of the elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil.

All: Thanks be to God.

Celebrant: God is always faithful to those he calls: now it is your duty, as it is ours, both to be faithful to him in return and to strive courageously to reach the fullness of truth, which your election opens up before you.

Then, the Celebrant, addresses the godparents and instructs them in these or similar words:

Celebrant: Godparents, you have spoken in favor of these elect: accept them now as chosen in the Lord and continue to sustain them through your loving care and example, until they come to share in the sacraments of God's life.

After a moment of silence, the Celebrant invites them to be seated. The Celebrant remains in place at the foot of the sanctuary.

Celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion

Presentation of the Candidates (RCIA, 555)

The appropriate person presents the candidates for full communion to the Celebrant.

Presenter: Fr. N., I now present to you the candidates who seek to complete their Christian initiation and those who are preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. They too have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example.

Now they ask that after this Lenten season, they be admitted to Confirmation and full Eucharistic sharing.

Celebrant: Those who desire to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church, please stand, together with your sponsors.

One by one, the candidates are called by name. Each candidate, accompanied by a sponsor, comes forward and stands before the celebrant.

Affirmation by the Sponsors (RCIA, 556-B)

The Celebrant, with hands joined, then addresses the assembly.

Celebrant: The Christian life and the demands that flow from the sacraments cannot be taken lightly.

Therefore, before granting these candidates their request to share fully in the Church's sacraments, it is important that the Church hear the testimony of their sponsors concerning their readiness.

N.B. If the sponsors' responses are not printed in a worship aid, prior to asking the ritual questions, the Celebrant may wish to prompt their responses (e.g., "DEAR SPONSORS, TO EACH OF THESE QUESTIONS, PLEASE RESPOND: 'THEY HAVE.'"). The Celebrant then addresses the sponsors.

Celebrant: Have they faithfully listened to the apostles' instruction proclaimed by the Church?

Sponsors: They have.

Celebrant: Have they come to a deeper appreciation of their Baptism, in which they were joined to Christ and his Church?

Sponsors: They have.

Celebrant: Have they reflected sufficiently on the tradition of the Church, which is their heritage, and joined their brothers and sisters in prayer?

Sponsors: They have.

Celebrant: Have they advanced in a life of love and service to others?

Sponsors: They have.

Celebrant: And now I speak to all of you, my brothers and sisters in this assembly:

Are you ready to support the testimony expressed about these candidates and include them in your prayer and affection as we move toward Easter?

N.B. If the assembly's response is not printed in a worship aid, the Celebrant may wish to prompt their response (e.g., "IF YOU ARE, PLEASE RESPOND: 'WE ARE.'").

All: We are.

Celebrant: My dear candidates for full communion, since your sponsors have given favorable testimony as to your readiness to share fully in the Church's sacraments, I ask you and your sponsors now to come forward as you respond to the call to continuing conversion.

Act of Recognition (RCIA, 557)

Celebrant: My dear candidates, the Church recognizes your desire to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and to have a place at Christ's Eucharistic table.

**Join with us this Lent in a spirit of repentance.
Hear the Lord's call to conversion
and be faithful to your Baptismal covenant.**

All: Thanks be to God.

Then, the Celebrant, addresses the sponsors, in these or similar words:

Celebrant: Sponsors, continue to support these candidates with your guidance and concern. May they see in you a love for the Church and a sincere desire for doing good. Lead them to the joys of the Easter mysteries.

Intercessions for the Elect and Candidates (RCIA, 558-B)

The community may use either of the formularies, options A or B (B is provided below), or a similar formulary to pray for the Elect and the candidates. The celebrant may adapt the introduction and the intentions to fit various circumstances.

The Celebrant invites the entire liturgical assembly to stand. With hands joined, the Celebrant introduces the Intercessions:

Celebrant: My brothers and sisters, in beginning this period of Lent, we look forward to celebrating at Easter the life-giving mysteries of our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection.

These elect and candidates, whom we bring with us to the Easter sacraments, will look to us for an example of Christian renewal.

Let us pray to the Lord for them and for ourselves, that we may be renewed by one another's efforts and together come to share the joys of Easter.

Then, the Deacon, Lector, or Cantor proclaims the Intercessions:

Deacon: That these elect and candidates may find joy in daily prayer,
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: That they may read your word and joyfully dwell on it in their hearts,
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: That they may humbly acknowledge their faults and work wholeheartedly to correct them,
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: That they may dedicate their daily work as a pleasing offering to you,
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: That they may grow to love and seek virtue and holiness of life,
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: That they may share with others the joy they have found in their faith,
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer over the Elect and the Candidates (RCIA, 559)

With hands outstretched over the elect and candidates, the Celebrant prays:

Celebrant: Father of love and power, it is your will to establish everything in Christ and to draw us into his all-embracing love.

Guide these chosen ones:
strengthen them in their vocation,
build them into the kingdom of your Son,
and seal them with the Spirit of your promise.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Dismissal of the Elect (RCIA, 560)

If the eucharist is to be celebrated, the elect are normally dismissed at this point by use of option A or B; if the elect are to stay for the celebration of the eucharist, option C is used. If the eucharist is not to be celebrated, the entire assembly is dismissed by use of option D.

Option A

The Celebrant dismisses the elect in these or similar words:

Celebrant: My dear children, you have set out with us on the road that leads to the glory of Easter. Christ will be your way, your truth, and your life. Until we meet again for the scrutinies, walk always in his peace.

Elect: Amen.

Option B

As an optional formulary, the Celebrant may use these or similar words:

Celebrant: My dear friends, this community now sends you forth to reflect more deeply upon the word of God which you have shared with us today. Be assured of our loving support and prayers for you. We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord's Table.

Elect: Amen.

Option C

If for serious reasons the elect cannot leave (see RCIA no. 75.3) and must remain with the rest of the assembly for eucharist, they, along with the candidates, are to be instructed that though they are present at the eucharist, they cannot take part in it as the Catholic faithful do. They may be reminded of this by the celebrant in these or similar words:

Celebrant: Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord's eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God's children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with his Spirit to re-create the face of the earth.

Elect: Amen.

Option D

If eucharist will not be celebrated, the Celebrant dismisses the entire assembly in these or similar words:

Celebrant: Go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.

All: Thanks be to God.

An appropriate song may conclude the celebration.

When the eucharist is to follow, intercessory prayer is resumed with the usual general intercessions for the needs of the Church and the whole world; then, if required, the profession of faith is said. But, for pastoral reasons these general intercessions and the profession of faith may be omitted, in which case the prayers for the world and community are added to the prayers for the elect and candidates. The liturgy of the eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of gifts.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Prayer over the Offerings

Almighty ever-living God,
who restore us by the Sacrament of Baptism
to eternal life as we confess your name,
receive, we beseech you,
the offerings and prayers of your servants
and command that those who hope in you
may have their desires fulfilled
and their sins canceled out.
Through Christ our Lord.

A Preface of Lent is said: Roman Missal, third typical edition, pgs. 546-553.

Prayer after Communion

May this Sacrament we have received
purify us, we pray, O Lord,
and grant your servants freedom from all blame,
that those bound by a guilty conscience
may glory in the fullness of heavenly remedy.
Through Christ our Lord.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

**Celebrant: May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

People: Amen.

Deacon: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

People: Thanks be to God.

Recession