

OCIA:
PERIOD OF
PURIFICATION &
ENLIGHTENMENT

Workshop Series, Part 3

Thursday, 6 NOV 2025

Questions? Contact us!

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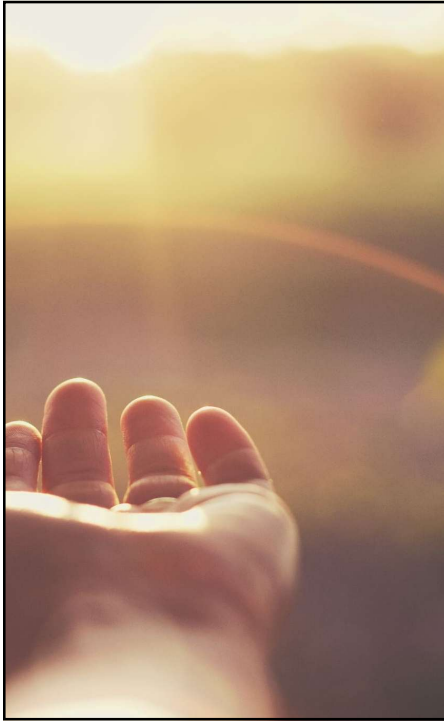
WE REMEMBER

Marty Haugen

We re - mem - ber how you loved us to your death,
and still we cel - e - brate, for you are with us here;
and we be - lieve that we will see you when you come
in your glo - ry, Lord. We re - mem - ber, we
cel - e - brate, we be - lieve.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. © 1980; GIA Publications, Inc.
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OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, at your own baptism the heavens were opened
and you received the Holy Spirit
to proclaim the Good News to the poor
and restore sight to the blind.
Pour out that same Holy Spirit
on those who long for your Sacraments,
and on those who journey with them.
Guide us along the paths of right faith,
safe from the contagion of error, doubt, and unbelief,
so that with eyes unsealed we may come to see you face to face.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen!

(Adapted from OCIA Second Scrutiny Exorcism, #168-B)

3

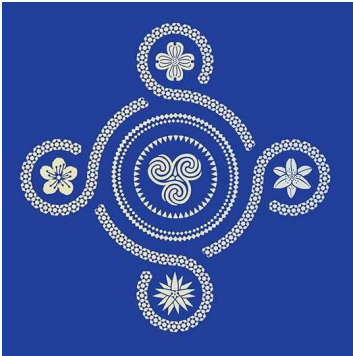
SOME REMINDERS



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INTENT OF THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION & ENLIGHTENMENT



“In this period, the elect together with the local community give themselves to spiritual recollection, so that they may prepare themselves for the Paschal Feasts and for Initiation by the Sacraments. To this end the Scrutinies, the Rites of Handing On, and the Rites of Immediate Preparation are provided for them.”

OCIA #138

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ACCOMPLISHING THE INTENT OF THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION & ENLIGHTENMENT

- More intense preparation of spirit and heart
- Character of recollection rather than catechesis
- Purify hearts and minds by examination of conscience and penitence
- Lasts the entirety of Lent, from Rite of Election through the rites of immediate preparation on Holy Saturday

Changed by Christ

Purification & Enlightenment

“Elect”

+ during Lent

+ more discernment

+ participate in Liturgy of the Word

+ scrutinies

RITE of INITIATION

8



INTENT OF THE THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION & ENLIGHTENMENT

For Children and Youth:

- Same as for adults: spiritual recollection and preparation for the celebration of Initiation
 - Some of the Scrutinies and Rites of this period may be celebrated with the Adult Elect
-

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Changed by Christ

Purification & Enlightenment

"Elect"

- + during Lent
- + more discernment
- + participate in Liturgy of the Word
- + scrutinies

RITE of INITIATION

BUILD THE TEAM

- Less focus on catechesis and more on prayer: need good pray-ers (in presence and in creativity/range)
 - Detail-oriented – there are lots of details! i.e., gown sizes, where do they go throughout the ritual, who builds the fire, city ordinances?, seating arrangements, etc.
 - Engage the musicians!
 - Connection to the liturgist
 - Priest/deacon more present
 - Folks good with discussion/exploring/helping draw out
 - Youth specialists
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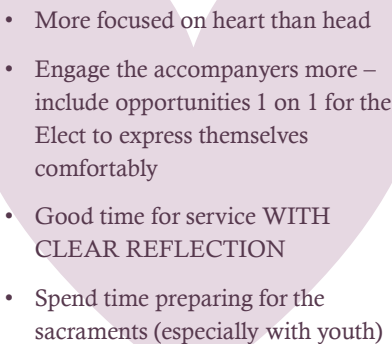
BUILD THE TEAM

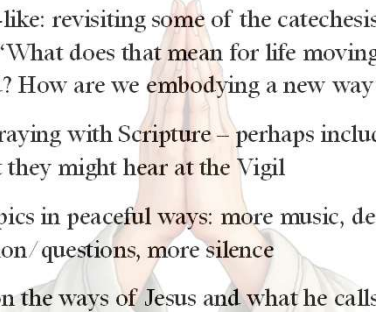
For Children and Youth:

- Many of the same qualities as for adults...
 - Definitely members who are comfortable with children and have some understanding of development (parent, teacher, catechist, etc.)
 - Creative, utilize a variety of approaches and prayer methods
 - Gentle and patient
 - Sense of humor
 - Sense of RITUAL – beyond just the rites
-

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WHAT DO FORMATION SESSIONS LOOK LIKE?


- 
- More focused on heart than head
 - Engage the accompaniers more – include opportunities 1 on 1 for the Elect to express themselves comfortably
 - Good time for service WITH CLEAR REFLECTION
 - Spend time preparing for the sacraments (especially with youth)

- 
- Retreat-like: revisiting some of the catechesis and asking “What does that mean for life moving forward? How are we embodying a new way of life?”
 - More praying with Scripture – perhaps include some of what they might hear at the Vigil
 - Visit topics in peaceful ways: more music, deeper discussion/ questions, more silence
 - Focus on the ways of Jesus and what he calls us to
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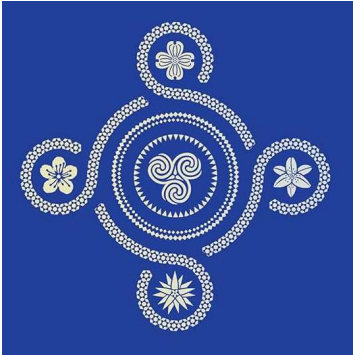
FORMATION SESSIONS WITH YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Similar pattern but content/direction of questions adapted
- More focused on the spiritual growth
- Spend time preparing for the sacraments
- Look back – look ahead
- Move away from “teaching” and take them BEYOND
- Dig deeper at their level: What do you think about ...? Draw a picture of what you hope to do more of...
- Engage Scripture in imaginative ways
- Focus on how service is like being like Jesus
- Focus on friendship with Jesus in a reflective way (that’s spiritual for youth)
- Utilize the Examen or some other form of examination of conscience



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SCRUTINIES



“The Scrutinies should be celebrated by a Priest or Deacon presiding over the community, so that the faithful may also benefit from the liturgy of the Scrutinies and intercede for the elect in the Intercessions.”

OCIA #145

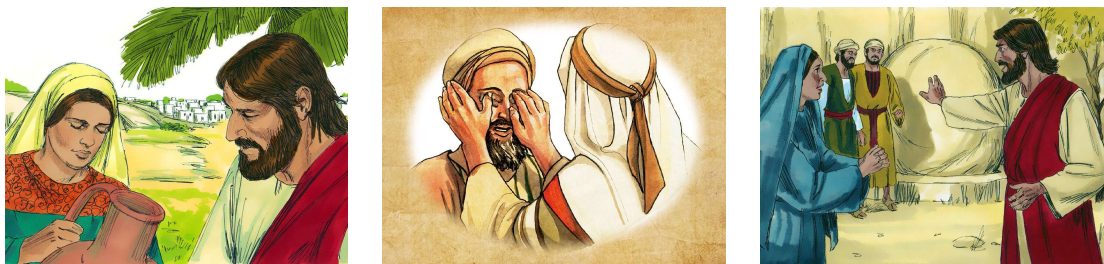
Community is important, especially in this period – Lent is a time of reflection for all of us! There is a lot of meaning to the Scrutinies for all: Elect adults, Elect young, and assembly); these rituals blend us all together.

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SCRUTINIES

The Scrutinies are tied to the three Sundays of Lent using Cycle A readings:

- 3rd Sunday of Lent – 1st Scrutiny: Woman at the Well
- 4th Sunday of Lent – 2nd Scrutiny: Healing of the Man Born Blind
- 5th Sunday of Lent – 3rd Scrutiny: Raising of Lazarus



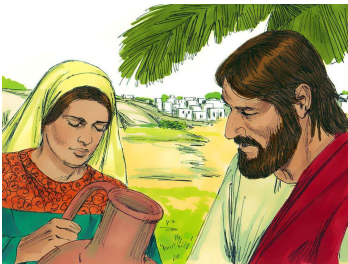
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TRANSFORMATION OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

John 4:5-42

“Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; But whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’”

- Samaritan woman presents herself to Jesus as a skeptic but becomes a true believer by the end of the reading. Transformed from one who is known to be sinful, who slinks to the well in the heat of the day to avoid the crowds → one whose testimony is so powerfully true that the same townspeople who would have judged her are transformed, too. She ultimately exhibited the actions of an apostle, preaching the gospel to everyone she could and calling them to Jesus. She left her water jug behind – her way of life – just as the Elect are asked to leave their former way of life behind – we are asked to leave our sinful ways behind.
- Remember John’s symbolism: The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman is not about clock time (noon – or the brightest point of the day) but about coming into the full light of faith in Jesus Christ. Precursor to the next week where the blind man sees with the light of faith
- Water evokes a response from the recipient - her eyes are opened (there is also a thirst that longs to be quenched.) The assembly examines how they live out the promises of Baptism as the Elect examine what holds them back from receiving living water.



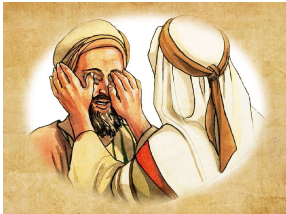
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HEALING OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

John 9:1-41

“His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him... While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’”

- As in last week’s Gospel about Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman, today’s reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man’s encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.
- God does not always operate in ways that are easy for us to perceive. Pharisees choose blindness. Having their eyes opened will challenge a system that keeps them comfortably in power. What God reveals is not always comfortable or easy. God’s light reveals truth that is uncomfortable – do we remain in ignorance?
- This is the work of Lent: all the prayer and fasting and almsgiving are meant to illumine places where our lives are keeping us from God, and to aid us in turning away from them, uncomfortable though it may be.
- Jesus has seen the non-entities of the world. Restoring the blind man’s sight brings him back to life (a foreshadow of Lazarus) The Elect are actively drawn into faith by Christ, and the assembly is asked to consider their own blind spots.



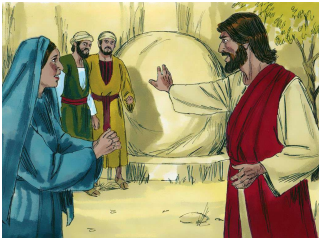
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RAISING OF LAZARUS

John 11:1-45

“Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.’ Jesus said to her, ‘your brother will rise.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus told her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’”

- Jarring miracle, wrought with deep emotion. People who have been dead for 4 days do not come back to life. Why wait so long to go to Bethany? That’s the point of the story. Jesus could raise the dead even after the act of resuscitating Lazarus will lead directly to Jesus’ own death. This demonstration of Jesus’ power over death was a sign of his own coming resurrection, and of Lazarus’s and ours, as well.
- Jesus is here to bring life, but he brings it in ways that disrupt the order of things to which we have grown accustomed.
- When Jesus calls us to fuller life in him, it is not always comfortable or easy. There are often demands and sacrifices we would not have expected and would not have chosen for ourselves.
- The raising of Lazarus is profoundly personal, showing also the depth of grief. Lazarus only emerges from death at an invitation - Jesus calls him by name. Christ calls the Elect by name!



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SCRUTINIES WITH YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- It may be harder to separate the youth from the adults (Scrutinies are celebrated in liturgy by Priest/deacon) – being with the adults at Mass builds in solemnity and sense of the journey moving into regular participation at Mass with adults – this is a transition time (they have been formed separately but are moving into community)
 - Provide plenty of prep (before) and mystagogy (after): share the gospel stories in advance from Children’s lectionary or the Catholic Children’s Bible, read the readings ahead (even with teens)
 - Talk about imposition of hands and pray over each other at the sessions – they may not understand “exorcism” but they get that Father is praying over them
 - Teach the why of both the readings and the rite
-

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LET’S TAKE A BREAK!

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OCIA #147

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Nicene Creed

I believe in one God and Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten,
not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation,
he came down from heaven;
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day,
in accordance with the scriptures.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one God, Father, Creator and sustainer of the

Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come;
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil

Amen.

22



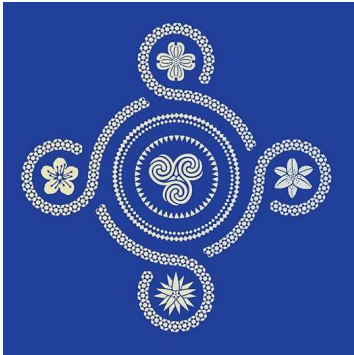
RITES OF HANDING ON

- Invite families
- Make it nice (parchment/graphics/make it feel important)
- Follow the ritual - can use the Children's Lectionary
- Note – Loyola has Our Father (and Sacraments) kits for special needs – the person can point to images rather than read/speak



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RITES OF IMMEDIATE PREPARATION



“For immediate preparation for the Sacraments:

The elect are to be reminded to keep themselves free on Holy Saturday as far as possible from their usual tasks, and to give time to prayer and recollection and to fast insofar as they are able.

Whenever the elect can be gathered on Holy Saturday to prepare themselves, by recollection and prayer, to receive the Sacraments, the following rites are set forth. As circumstances suggest, all or some of the rites may be used: the Recitation of the Creed, ‘Ephphatha’, and the Choosing of a Christian Name.”

OCIA #185

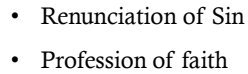
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- Make Holy Saturday a day of retreat
- Have sponsors and OCIA team present (intimate gathering)
- Have the team stay for rehearsal – dismiss the Elect – and walk through the ritual IN DETAIL so all know their jobs

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What does the transitional ritual ask?



- Participation in a more intense preparation of spirit and heart, intended to purify heart and mind with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior
- Resolve to achieve an intimate sense of Christ and the Church
- Progress in genuine self-knowledge through a serious examination of their lives and true penitence

Heart knowledge, not just head knowledge

- 
- A simple line drawing of a man with brown hair, wearing an orange sweater. He is in a thinking pose, with his right hand resting on his chin and his left hand on his hip. He has a thoughtful expression on his face.

14



DISCERNING READINESS TO MOVE ON

- Can they authentically renounce sin and profess our faith in an age-appropriate way?
- Do they understand sin, right/wrong? Do they know Jesus?
- Young people express their understanding in their way: art, body language, responses/participation
- Remember **INITIATION IS NOT GRADUATION!** God is working in this!!

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Changed by Christ

Purification & Enlightenment

"Elect"

- + during Lent
- + more discernment
- + participate in Liturgy of the Word
- + scrutinies

RITE of INITIATION

TRANSITIONAL RITUAL

Sacraments of Initiation

- What does this Rite look like? – see handout
- When & Where is it celebrated? – Easter Vigil

Some additional thoughts:


- Remember that “big numbers” is not the goal! We are helping with the transformation of lives
- “Confirmation only” is the role of the Bishop (or seek permission)
- Remember OCIA has the option of baptism of a baby
- Use the proper oils!
- Encourage participation in all of Triduum – save them seats!
- **Chrism Mass at St. Sebastian 31 MAR 2026 at 5pm**

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CELEBRATING INITIATION

Be attentive to the logistics.

- Neophytes light the candles of the assembly and then go change while the assembly professes their faith
- Sprinkling is a natural “stretch break” with music
- Make sure the newly baptized are back for Chrismation
- Think about having a reception/party all night!
- Invite the newly initiated to attend Mass on Easter Sunday wearing their white robe and still smelling of Chrism – what a witness to the rest of the community!




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CELEBRATING INITIATION


Extra preparation is essential!

- Accompanyers might help along the way (whisper in their ear as the ritual progresses so they know what’s coming next)
- Remember this is a lot to take in, especially for young people
- Consider who goes first
- Some adaptations are provided in the OCIA – follow the ritual



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REMEMBER TO
CELEBRATE IN THE PARISH!







Photos

Bulletins & Newsletters


Social Media





Celebrate as a parish family!

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QUESTIONS?

Changed by Christ

Purification & Enlightenment

"Elect"

+ during Lent

+ more discernment

+ participate in Liturgy of the Word

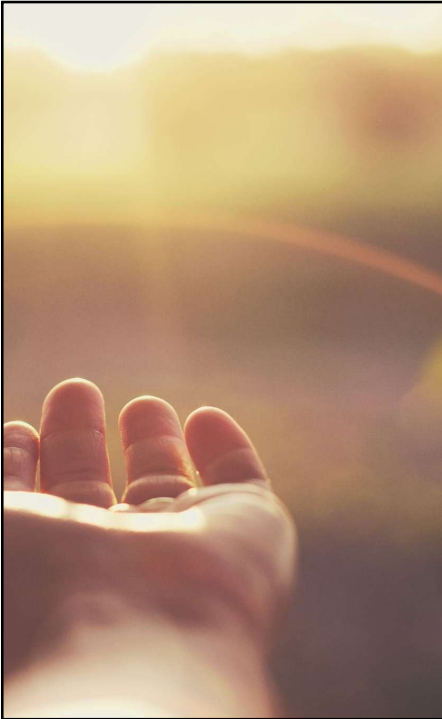
+ scrutinies

RITE of INITIATION

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Center for Pastoral Leadership and St. Christopher Parish

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CLOSING PRAYER

O God of unchanging power and eternal light,
look with favor on the wondrous mystery
of the whole Church
and serenely accomplish the work of human salvation,
which you planned from all eternity;
may the whole world know and see
that what was cast down is raised up,
what had become old is made new,
and all things are restored to integrity through Christ,
just as by him they came in to being.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen!

(Prayer after the seventh reading at the Great Vigil)

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE YOU

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry,
Lord of love; Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore you,
O - p'ning to the sun a - bove. Melt the clouds of
sin and sad - ness; Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt.
Tune: HYMN TO JOY, 8 7 8 7 D; arr. from Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, by Edward Hodges, 1796–1867
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