

**Suggested outline for the  
parish celebration of the  
Rite of Election  
on the First Sunday of Lent.**

**RCIA # 129 - 137**

# Rite of Election

## Parish Celebration on the First Sunday of Lent

This Rite may be celebrated within a Mass or within a Liturgy of Word only.  
The Rite begins after the homily. See RCIA # 129 - 137

### The Presentation of the Catechumens (RCIA # 130)

After the homily, a representative from the community (e.g. Coordinator of the Catechumenate / RCIA), presents the catechumens to the priest and assembly, using the following words:

**Parish Representative:** Reverend Father, Easter is drawing near, and so these catechumens, whom I 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.

**Priest:** **Those who are to be chosen in Christ, come forward, together with your godparents.**

One by one, the catechumens are called by name.

**Each catechumen, accompanied by a godparent, comes forward and stands before the priest and assembly.**

## The Affirmation by the Godparents and the Assembly (**RCIA # 131**)

After the presentation of the catechumens, the priest addresses the godparents, using the following words:

**Priest:** 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.

Have they faithfully listened to God's word proclaimed by the Church?

**Godparents:** They have.

**Priest:** Have they responded to that word and begun to walk in God's presence?

**Godparents:** They have.

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

**Godparents:** They have.

After the affirmation of the godparents, the priest addresses the assembly, using the following words:

**Priest:** And now I speak to 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?

**All:** We are.

## Invitation and Enrollment of Names (RCIA # 132)

After the affirmation, the priest addresses the catechumens, using the following words:

**Priest:**                                   **And now, my dear catechumens, I address you. Your own godparents, teachers and this entire community 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 whole Church.**

**Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the eucharist?**

**Catechumens:**                           **We do.**

**Priest:**                                   **Then offer your names for enrollment.**

The catechumens inscribe their names themselves in the parish Book of the Elect. Each catechumen is accompanied by a godparent. As the enrollments of names is taking place, an appropriate song may be sung.

After the catechumens have signed their names, the parish Book of the Elect is presented to the priest celebrant, then placed in an appropriate place in the church for all to see during the season of Lent.

## Act of Election (RCIA # 133)

After the enrollment of names, the priest celebrant addresses the catechumens (elect):

**Priest:** **N. and N., (My dear catechumens),  
I now declare you to be members of the elect,  
to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the  
next Easter Vigil.**

**Catechumens (Elect):** Thanks be to God.

**Priest:** **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 priest turns to the godparents and instructs them in the following words:

**Priest:** **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.**

Then the priest invites the godparents to place their hand on the shoulder of the catechumen (elect) whom they are receiving into their care.

The catechumens (elect) and the godparents remain standing in front of the assembly.

The Prayer of the Faithful (The Creed) is omitted.

## Intercessions for the Elect (RCIA # 134)

The community may adapt the introduction and the intentions to fit various circumstances. Intentions for the Church and the whole world may be added to the following intentions for the elect.

**Priest:** My brothers and sisters, in the beginning of 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, 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 they may be renewed by one another's efforts and together come to share the joys of Easter.

**Assistant:** That these elect may find joy in daily prayer. That, by praying to you often, they may grow ever closer to you, we pray:

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Assistant:** That these elect may read your word and joyfully dwell on it in their hearts, we pray:

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Assistant:** That these elect may humbly acknowledge their faults and work wholeheartedly to correct them. That they may dedicate their daily work as a pleasing offering to you, we pray:

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Assistant:** That each day of Lent, these elect may do something in your honor. That they may abstain with courage from everything that defiles the heart, we pray:

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Assistant:** That these elect may grow to love and seek virtue and holiness, renouncing self and putting others first, we pray:

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

## Prayer over the Elect (RCIA # 135)

After the intercessions, the priest celebrant, with hands stretched over the elect, says the following prayer:

**Priest:**

**Lord God,  
you created the human race  
and are the author of its renewal.  
Bless all your adopted children  
and add these chosen ones  
to the harvest of your new covenant.**

**As true children of the promise,  
may they rejoice in eternal life,  
won, not by the power of nature,  
but through the mystery of your grace.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**All:**

**Amen.**

## Dismissal of the Elect (RCIA # 136)

If the Liturgy of the Eucharist is to be celebrated, the elect are normally dismissed at this point by use of the dismissal words in **option A**. The godparents return to their seats. The Liturgy of the Eucharist then begins with the preparations of the gifts.

If, for practical reasons, the elect will not be dismissed at this point, the elect and the godparents return to their seats by use of the words in **option B**. The Liturgy of the Eucharist then begins with the preparations of the gifts.

If the Liturgy of the Eucharist is not to be celebrated, the entire assembly is dismissed by the use of the dismissal words in **option C**.

### Option A.

**Priest:** My dear elect, 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.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### Option B.

**Priest:** My dear elect, 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.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### Option C.

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** May Almighty God bless you:  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** Go in the peace of Christ to love and serve the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

An appropriate song may conclude the celebration.