



**COMBINED RCIA RITES IN 2024**  
*Celebration of the Rites of Election of Catechumens  
and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates  
within a Liturgy of the Word*

**Sunday, February 18, 2024 – 3:00 p.m.**  
(First Sunday of Lent)

**The Cathedral of Mary Our Queen**  
5200 N. Charles Street; Baltimore, MD 21210  
*Archbishop William E. Lori, celebrant*  
*Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, concelebrant*

Dear Pastors and RCIA Coordinators:

Archbishop Lori will celebrate the 2024 *Rites of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates* on the First Sunday of Lent (February 18, 2024) at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. The liturgy will be bi-lingual in English/Spanish. This will be the only location for the rites this year. Online registration is now open and can be accessed in one of three ways:

1. Click [HERE](#).
2. Copy and paste this link into your browser:  
<https://archbalt.regfox.com/2024-combined-rcia-rites>

**OR**

3. Go to <http://www.archbalt.org>
  - from the horizontal menu at the top, click on **MINISTRIES**
  - click on **DIVINE WORSHIP** from the drop-down menu

*This will take you to the OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP webpage.*

- You can click on either the text **or** picture labeled **2024 Combined RCIA Rites**
- Click on **REGISTRATION for 2024 Combined RCIA Rites**

We look forward to celebrating this step in the initiation process with you. Informational Zoom meetings to go over the rites and answer questions will be held in January. You'll find information about this on the next page. For additional information or assistance with registration, please contact Kathi Schissler, Administrative Assistant, at [worship@archbalt.org](mailto:worship@archbalt.org) or call 410-547-5403.

Together in Christ,

Julie Grace Males, Director  
Office of Divine Worship,  
Archdiocesan and Cathedral Music Ministries  
Archdiocese of Baltimore



### **INFORMATIONAL ZOOM MEETINGS IN PREPARATION FOR THE RITES**

In preparation for the rites, please join us for a no cost informational session on either of the following dates:

- Tuesday, January 23 at 2:00 p.m
- Tuesday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

### **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Registration for the *Rites of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates* is to be completed by all parishes that plan to participate. Please note the following:

1. The deadline for registration is **Wednesday, February 7, 2024.**
2. All parish RCIA Coordinators who register for the Combined RCIA Rites online will receive an automatic email notification if registration has been successful. If you do not receive this notification within three business days of submitting your registration, or if you are unable to register online for any reason, please contact Kathi Schissler, Administrative Assistant, at [worship@archbalt.org](mailto:worship@archbalt.org) or call 410-547-5403.
3. Due to capacity limits, we can only provide reserved seating for catechumens, candidates, their godparents/sponsors, and three team members per parish. Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate family or friends this year. However, the liturgy will be livestreamed on the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen website (<https://www.youtube.com/@cathedralofmary/streams>). Thank you in advance for your assistance in communicating this information to your catechumens and candidates!

### **ON THE DAY OF THE RITES OF ELECTION AND THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION**

1. If you have catechumens for the Rite of Election, bring your parish's signed **Book of the Elect** with you to the RCIA Rites. (If your parish only has candidates for the Call to Continuing Conversion, you will not have a Book of the Elect.)
2. We ask parish representatives who will "call" the names of the catechumens and candidates during the liturgy to arrive at least **45 minutes in advance.** Please sign in at the Registration Table near the main entrance. **Only the parish representative (usually the RCIA Coordinator) needs to sign in at the Registration Table.** You will receive additional directions at the Registration Table.

**Catechumens and candidates need not check in at the Registration Table.**

3. Parish seating assignments will be available the day of the rites. They will be clearly designated when you arrive.



**Additional Information:**

**COMBINED RITES OF ELECTION AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION**

The details of the celebration of this Combined Rite can be found in [RCIA 547-560]. **This celebration is NOT a Mass.** The liturgy will be bi-lingual in English/Spanish. Following the Liturgy of the Word the celebration of the rites will continue in this manner:

**1. Celebration of the Rite of Election [RCIA 551-554]**

Unbaptized children (older than 7 years of age), youth, or adults preparing for Christian initiation through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are called **catechumens**. As they begin the next step on the journey, they are called forth to celebrate the ***Rite of Election***.

- a. At the appropriate time, you will be directed to the microphone. Please bring the ***Book of the Elect*** with you as you approach the microphone. You will receive further instructions about this at the Registration Table.
- b. The parish representative announces the name of the parish and then reads each catechumen's name. As each parish name is announced, all catechumens, with their godparents, enter the aisle and proceed toward the sanctuary.
- c. After reading the names in ***The Book of the Elect***, the parish representative presents the book to the Archbishop to sign. When the book is signed, the parish representative returns to their seat as directed.
- d. The Archbishop will then address the godparents and catechumens. Although the questions and responses appear in both the ritual text and the worship aid, please review this material with the catechumens and godparents in preparation. (Godparents [RCIA 552]; Catechumens [RCIA 553-554].)
- e. After the ***Rite of Election***, the catechumens--now called ***the Elect***--and their godparents are seated.

**2. Celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion [RCIA 555-557]**

Baptized adults and youth who are preparing to complete their Christian initiation and/or be received into full communion with the Catholic Church are called **candidates**. As they transition to the next part of the journey, they will be called forth to celebrate the ***Call to Continuing Conversion***.

- a. As the parish representative announces the name of the parish, the candidates (with their sponsors) stand and enter the sanctuary. Candidates names are not called individually during this section. Only the name of the parish is announced.
- b. The Archbishop then addresses the sponsors and candidates. Although the questions and responses appear in both the ritual text and the worship aid, please review this material with sponsors and candidates in preparation for the Rites. (Sponsors [RCIA 556]; Candidates [RCIA 557])
- c. After the rite, the candidates and sponsors return to their seats.



## **Signing the Book of the Elect and the Parish Rite of Sending**

### **PARISH RITE OF SENDING**

We hope you will celebrate the *Rite of Sending* with your parish community prior to attending the Archdiocesan rites. The *Rite of Sending* is the parish celebration that takes place prior to the *Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion*. These are optional parish rites that take place after the homily. The distinction between catechumens and candidates is to be clearly established and expressed during the *Rite of Sending* [RCIA 530-535].

There are separate rites of sending for the parishes who have only catechumens or only candidates. Find the *Rite of Sending of the Catechumens for Election* on page 56 of the ritual text [RCIA 106]. The *Rite of Sending the Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop and for the Call to Continuing Conversion* is on page 253 [RCIA 434].

There is also a combined *Rite of Sending of the Catechumens for Election and of Sending the Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop* [RCIA 530-546]. It is provided for parishes whose catechumens will celebrate their election and whose candidates for reception into full communion will celebrate their recognition at the same celebration with the archbishop. It is within the parish community that the initial discernment is made concerning the catechumens' state of formation and progress. This combined *Rite of Sending* offers the community the opportunity to express its affirmation of the catechumens and candidates and to assure them of their ongoing support.