



Diocese of Fall River
Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion 2021
Update as of Jan 6, 2021

As a result of pandemic concerns, and scheduling conflicts that have also arisen as a result, the following changes have been made to the celebration of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion for 2021.

The Rite of Election

The Rite of Election (for the unbaptized) will be moved back one Sunday to **February 28, 2021**. It will remain at 3 PM at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption.

The attached conferral form is updated (p.3). Pastors are asked to kindly complete and submit the form. If a conferral form has already been submitted, it does not need to be submitted again.

For those catechumens for whom attending the Rite of Election in person presents health and safety risks due to the pandemic, Pastors can request delegation to celebrate the Rite of Election by contacting the Bishops' Office.

The Call to Continuing Conversion

The Call to Continuing Conversion (for those who are to be received into the faith) is hereby delegated by the Bishop to local Pastors, to be completed on a day of their choosing during the Lenten season at the candidate's local Parish.

Attached is a copy of the Call to Continuing Conversion (p.5), which Pastors can use. Parishes with candidates are asked to complete the attached form (p.4) sharing when this ritual will take place and the number of candidates for Diocesan record.

Reminder: The Scrutinies (for the Elect only)

The Scrutinies are normally celebrated on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent. At the Masses at which the Scrutinies are celebrated, the Cycle A readings are to be used. (RCIA #146)

They are "rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose (RCIA #141)." ***The Scrutinies are for the elect only.*** Candidates join the congregation in heart and mind to pray for the elect, and should reflect with them on the meaning of these rites for themselves.

When, for pastoral reasons, the ritual Masses cannot be celebrated on their proper Sunday, they are celebrated on other Sundays of Lent or even convenient days during the week. (RCIA #159) This may be an appropriate option this year.

Attached are copies of the three Scrutinies (p.11)

COVID-19

If the situation necessitates a change due to the pandemic, additional guidance will be given. The celebration of these rites are not optional and are required. Pastors must contact the Bishop's Office ahead of time if there is a legitimate conflict.

Parishes must each discern the best way in which to engage in ministry. Any and all plans must be in accordance with the most updated Massachusetts Safety Standards and applicable local ordinances.

When in doubt on safety stands and ordinances, parishes can contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and their Local Town's Department of Public Health for guidance, especially as State and local ordinances are subject to change.

Diocese of Fall River
Rite of Election
St. Mary's Cathedral



Please Print

Name _____ e-mail _____

From the parish of _____

City _____

Requests that you celebrate (Please check one)

_____ February 28, 2021 at 3 p.m.
Rite of Election for Catechumens non-baptized persons (adults or children of
catechetical age) seeking full initiation

_____ I have requested delegation from
the Bishop's Office for this catechumen

I testify on behalf of those responsible for his/her preparation that he/she is prepared to
continue in their full initiation into the Catholic Church, and that:

_____ is a qualified
godparent/sponsor.

Signature of Priest _____ Date _____

- Kindly mail or fax completed forms by **February 19, 2021**, to the Office of Faith Formation, 423 Highland Ave., Fall River, MA 02721 or fax # 508-675-3864.
- Use a separate form for each person
- Catechumens with their godparents/sponsors will be directed to assigned places.
- Dress for priests: cassock and surplice
- Dress for deacons: alb and stolle

Diocese of Fall River
Call to Continuing Conversion



For Lent 2021, the Call to Continuing Conversion is delegated to Pastors to be celebrated at the local Parish, to be completed on a day of their choosing during the Lenten Season.

Parishes are asked to please report the date of their celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion, as well as who the candidates are, for Diocesan records.

Please Print

Parish Name _____

City _____

Date of Call to Continuing Conversion _____

Names of Candidates:

Signature of Person Reporting _____

Person's Role _____

Date _____

- Kindly mail or fax completed forms by **March 26, 2021**, to the Office of Faith Formation, 423 Highland Ave., Fall River, MA 02721 or fax # 508-675-3864.

Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion

Liturgy of the Word

Homily

450. *After the readings the celebrant gives the homily. This should be suited to the actual situation and should address not just the candidates but the entire community of the faithful, so that all will be encouraged to give good example and to accompany the candidates in their final preparation leading to the celebration of confirmation and eucharist.*

Presentation of the Candidates for Confirmation and Eucharist

451. *After the homily, the priest in charge of the candidates' formation, or a deacon, a catechist, or a representative of the community, presents the candidates, using the following or similar words.*

Representative: Reverend Father, (since Easter is drawing near,) I am pleased to present to you the candidates who seek to complete their Christian Initiation (or: who are preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church). They 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 the eucharist (or: to full eucharistic sharing).

The celebrant replies:

Celebrant: Those who desire to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church, come forward, 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 [and the Assembly]

452. *Then the celebrant addresses the assembly. If he has taken part in the earlier deliberation on the candidates' suitability (see n.122), he may use either option A or option B or similar words; if he has not taken part in the earlier deliberation, he uses option B or similar words.*

Option A

Celebrant: My dear friends, these candidates, our brothers and sisters, have asked to be able to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Those who know them have judged them to be sincere in their desire. During the period of their preparation they have reflected on the mystery of their baptism and have come to appreciate more deeply the presence of Christ in their lives. They have shared the company of their brothers and sisters, joined with them in prayer, and endeavored to follow Christ's commands more perfectly.

And so I am pleased to recognize their desire to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church. I ask their sponsors now to state their opinion once again, so that all of you may hear.

He addresses the sponsors:

Celebrant: Do you consider these candidates ready to receive the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist (or: to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church)?

Sponsors: We do.

453. *When appropriate in the circumstances, the celebrant may also ask the entire assembly to express its approval of the candidates in these or similar words.*

Celebrant: Now I ask you, the members of the community:

Are you willing to affirm the testimony expressed about these candidates and support them in faith, prayer, and example as they prepare to participate more fully in the Church's sacraments?

All: We are.

Option B

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 about their readiness.

He 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 faithfully listened to the apostles' instruction proclaimed by the Church?

Sponsors: They have.

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

Sponsors: They have.

When appropriate in the circumstances, the celebrant may also ask the entire assembly to express its approval of the candidates in these or similar words.

Celebrant: And now I speak to 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?

All: We are.

Act of Recognition

454. *Then the celebrant says:*

Celebrant: N. and N., 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 continuing conversion and be faithful to your baptismal covenant.

Candidates: Thanks be to God.

Then the celebrant turns to the sponsors and instructs them in the following 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 this Lent to the joys of the Easter mysteries.

He invites them to place their hand on the shoulder of the candidate whom they are receiving into their care, or to make some other gesture to indicate the same intent.

General Intercessions

455. *Then the sponsors and the whole congregation join in the general intercessions. One or more of the following intentions for the candidates are added to the intentions for the Church and the whole world.*

Assisting minister:

That these candidates may come to a deeper appreciation of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That God bless those who have nurtured these candidates in faith, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That these candidates may embrace the discipline of Lent as a means of purification and approach the sacrament of reconciliation with trust in God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may open their hearts to the promptings of God's Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may approach the table of Christ's sacrifice with thanksgiving and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That our community, during the Lenten period, may grow in charity and be constant in prayer, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer over the Candidates

456. *After the intercessions, the celebrant, with hands outstretched over the candidates, says the following prayer:*

Celebrant: Lord God,
whose love brings us to life
and whose mercy gives us new birth,
look favorably upon these candidates,
and conform their lives
to the pattern of Christ's suffering.
May he become their wealth and wisdom,
and may they know in their lives
the power flowing from his resurrection,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

R. Amen

Dismissal of the Assembly

457. *If the eucharist is not to be celebrated, the entire assembly is dismissed by use of the following formulary or similar words:*

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

All: Thanks be to God.

And an appropriate song may conclude the celebration.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

458. *The liturgy of the eucharist begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts.*

FIRST SCRUTINY (THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT)

Liturgy of the Word

Readings

150. *The texts and the readings for Mass are always those given for the first scrutiny in the Missal and the Lectionary for Mass among the ritual Masses, "Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies."*

Homily

151. *After the readings and guided by them, the celebrant explains in the homily the meaning of the first scrutiny in the light of the Lenten liturgy and of the spiritual journey of the elect.*

Invitation to Silent Prayer

152. *After the homily, the elect with their godparents come forward and stand before the celebrant.*

The celebrant first addresses the assembly of the faithful, inviting them to pray in silence and to ask that the elect will be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God.

The celebrant then addresses the elect, inviting them also to pray in silence and suggesting that as a sign of their inner spirit of repentance they bow their heads or kneel; he concludes his remarks with the following or similar words.

Presider: Elect of God, bow your heads [kneel down] and pray.

The elect bow their heads or kneel, and all pray for some time in silence. After the period of silent prayer, the community and the elect stand for the intercessions.

153. *Either of the following formularies, options A or B, may be used for the intercessions for the elect and both the introduction and the intentions may be adapted to fit various circumstances. During the intercessions the godparents stand with their right hand on the shoulder of the elect.*

[If it is decided, in accordance with no. 156, that after the dismissal of the elect the usual general intercessions of the Mass are to be omitted and the liturgy of the eucharist is to begin immediately, intentions for the Church and the whole world are to be added to the following intentions for the elect.]

Presider: Let us pray for these elect whom the Church has confidently chosen. May they successfully complete their long preparation and at the paschal feast find Christ in his sacraments.

A.

Assisting Minister: *That they may ponder the word of God in their hearts and savor its meaning more fully day by day, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That they may learn to know Christ, who came to save what was lost, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That they may humbly confess themselves to be sinners, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That they may sincerely reject everything in their lives that is displeasing and contrary to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That the Holy Spirit, who searches every heart, may help them to overcome their weakness through his power, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That the same Holy Spirit may teach them to know the things of God and how to please him, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That their families also may put their hope in Christ and find peace and holiness in him, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That we ourselves in preparation for the Easter feast may seek a change of heart, give ourselves to prayer and persevere in our good works, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That throughout the whole world whatever is weak may be strengthened, whatever is broken restored, whatever is lost found, and what is found redeemed, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Or:

Presider: Let us pray for these elect whom the Church has confidently chosen. May they successfully complete their long preparation and at the paschal feast find Christ in his sacraments.

B.

Assisting Minister: *That, like the woman of Samaria, our elect may review their lives before Christ and acknowledge their sins, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That they may be freed from the spirit of mistrust that deters people from following Christ, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That while awaiting the gift of God, they may long with all their hearts for the living water that brings eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That by accepting the Son of God as their teacher, they may become true worshipers of the Father in spirit and in truth, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That they may share with their friends and neighbors the wonder of their own meeting with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That those whose lives are empty for want of the word of God may come to the Gospel of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Exorcism

154. *After the intercessions, the rite continues with one of the following exorcisms.*

A. *The celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:*

Presider: God of power,
you sent your Son to be our Savior.
Grant that these catechumens,
who, like the woman of Samaria, thirst for living water,
may turn to the Lord as they hear his word
and acknowledge the sins and weaknesses that weigh
them down.

Protect them from vain reliance on self
and defend them from the power of Satan.

Free them from the spirit of deceit,
so that, admitting the wrong they have done,
they may attain purity of heart
and advance on the way to salvation.

All: We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

If it is convenient, the celebrant lays his hands on each of the elect.

Then, with hands outstretched over all the elect, he continues:

Presider: Lord Jesus,
you are the fountain for which they thirst,
you are the Master whom they seek.
In your presence
they dare not claim to be without sin,
for you alone are the Holy One of God.

They open their hearts to you in faith,
they confess their faults
and lay bare their hidden wounds.
In your love free them from their infirmities,
heal their sickness,
quench their thirst, and give them peace.

In the power of your name,
which we call upon in faith,
stand by them now and heal them.
Rule over that spirit of evil,
conquered by your rising from the dead.

Show your elect the way of salvation in the Holy Spirit,
that they may come to worship the Father in truth,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

Or:

B.

The celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined says:

Presider: All-merciful Father,
through your Son you revealed your mercy
to the woman of Samaria;
and moved by that same care
you have offered salvation to all sinners.

Look favorably on these elect,
who desire to become your adopted children
through the power of your sacraments.

Free them from the slavery of sin,
and for Satan's crushing yoke
exchange the gentle yoke of Jesus.

Protect them in every danger,
that they may serve you faithfully in peace and joy
and render you thanks for ever.

All: Amen.

Here, if this can be done conveniently, the celebrant lays his hands on each one of the elect.

Then, with hands outstretched over all the elect, he continues:

Presider: Lord Jesus,
in your merciful wisdom
you touched the heart of the sinful woman
and taught her to worship the Father
in spirit and in truth.

Now, by your power,
free these elect from the cunning Satan,
as they draw near to the fountain of living water.

Touch their hearts with the power of the Holy Spirit,
that they may come to know the Father
in true faith, which expresses itself in love,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

An appropriate song may be sung, for example, Psalm 6, 26, 32, 38,39, 40, 51, 116:1-9, 130, 139, or 142.

Dismissal of the Elect

155. *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.*

A. *The celebrant dismisses the elect in these or similar words:*

Presider: Dear elect, go in peace, and join us again at the next scrutiny. May the Lord remain with you always.

Elect: Amen.

B. *As an optional formulary for dismissing the catechumens, the celebrant may use these or similar words.*

Presider: 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.

C. *If for serious reasons the elect cannot leave and must remain with the baptized, they are to be instructed that though they are present at the eucharist, they cannot take part in it as the baptized do. They may be reminded of this by the celebrant in these or similar words.*

Presider: 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.

D. *The celebrant dismisses those present, using these or similar words.*

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

All: Thanks be to God.

An appropriate song may conclude the celebration.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

156. *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. The liturgy of the Eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts. In the eucharistic prayer there is to be a remembrance of the elect and their godparents (see ritual Mass "Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies").*

SECOND SCRUTINY (FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT)

Liturgy of the Word

Readings

164. *The texts and the readings for Mass are always those given for the second scrutiny in the Missal and the Lectionary for Mass among the ritual Masses, "Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies."*

Homily

165. *After the readings and guided by them, the celebrant explains in the homily the meaning of the second scrutiny in the light of the Lenten liturgy and of the spiritual journey of the elect.*

Invitation to Silent Prayer

166. *After the homily, the elect with their godparents come forward and stand before the celebrant.*

The celebrant first addresses the assembly of the faithful, inviting them to pray in silence and to ask that the elect will be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God.

The celebrant then addresses the elect, inviting them also to pray in silence and suggesting that as a sign of their inner spirit of repentance they bow their heads or kneel; he concludes his remarks with the following or similar words.

Presider: Elect of God, bow your heads [kneel down] and pray.

The elect bow their heads or kneel, and all pray for some time in silence. After the period of silent prayer, the community and the elect stand for the intercessions.

Intercessions for the Elect

167. *Either of the following formularies, options A or B, may be used for the intercessions for the elect and both the introduction and the intentions may be adapted to fit various circumstances. During the intercessions the godparents stand with their right hand on the shoulder of the elect.*

[If it is decided, in accordance with no. 156, that after the dismissal of the elect the usual general intercessions of the Mass are to be omitted and the liturgy of the eucharist is to begin immediately, intentions for the Church and the whole world are to be added to the following intentions for the elect.]

Presider: Let us pray for these elect whom God has called, that they may remain faithful to him and boldly give witness to the words of eternal life.

A.

Assisting Minister: *That, trusting in the truth of Christ, they may find freedom of mind and heart and preserve it always, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That, preferring the folly of the cross to the wisdom of the world, they may glory in God alone, let us pray to the Lord*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That, freed by the power of the Spirit, they may put all fear behind them and press forward with confidence, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That, transformed in the Spirit, they may seek those things that are holy and just, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That all who suffer persecution for Christ's name may find their strength in him, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That those families and nations prevented from embracing the faith may be granted freedom to believe the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That we who are faced with the values of the world may remain faithful to the spirit of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That the whole world, which the Father so loves, may attain in the Church complete spiritual freedom, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Or:

Presider: Let us pray for these elect whom God has called, that they may remain faithful to him and boldly give witness to the words of eternal life.

B.

Assisting Minister: *That God may dispel darkness and be the light that shines in the hearts of our elect, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That he may gently lead them to Christ, the light of the world, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That our elect may open their hearts to God and acknowledge him as the source of light and the witness of truth, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That he may heal them and preserve them from the unbelief of this world, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That, saved by him who takes away the sin of the world, they may be freed from the contagion and forces of sin, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they may never fail to profess the Good News of salvation and share it with others, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: That all of us, by the example of our lives may become in Christ the light of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: That every inhabitant of the earth may acknowledge the true God, the Creator of all things, who bestows upon us the gift of Spirit and life, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Exorcism

168. *After the intercessions, the rite continues with one of the following exorcisms.*

A. *The celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:*

Presider: Father of mercy,
you led the man born blind
to the kingdom of light
through the gift of faith in your Son.

Free these elect
from the false values that surround and blind them.
Set them firmly in your truth,
children of the light for ever.

All: We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

If it is convenient, the celebrant lays his hands on each of the elect.

Then, with hands outstretched over all the elect, he continues:

Presider: Lord Jesus,
you are the true light that enlightens the world.
Through your Spirit of truth
free those who are enslaved by the father of lies.

Stir up the desire for good in these elect,
whom you have chosen for your sacraments.

Let them rejoice in your light, that they may see,
and, like the man born blind whose sight you restored,
let them prove to be staunch and fearless witnesses to
the faith,
for you are Lord for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

Or:

B. *The celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined says:*

Presider: Lord God,
source of unfailing light,
by the death and resurrection of Christ
you have cast out the darkness of hatred and lies
and poured forth the light of truth and love
upon the human family.

Hear our prayers for these elect,
whom you have called to be your adopted children.

Enable them to pass from darkness to light
and, delivered from the prince of darkness,
to live always as children of the light.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Here, if this can be done conveniently, the celebrant lays his hands on each one of the elect.

Then, with hands outstretched over all the elect, he continues:

Presider: Lord Jesus,
at your own baptism
the heavens were opened
and you received the Holy Spirit
to empower you to proclaim the Good News to the poor
and restore sight to the blind.

Pour out the same Holy Spirit on these elect,
who long for your sacraments.

Guide them along the paths of right faith,
safe from error, doubt, and unbelief,
so that with eyes unsealed
they may come to see you face to face,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

An appropriate song may be sung, for example, Psalm 6, 26, 32, 38,39, 40, 51, 116:1-9, 130, 139, or 142.

Dismissal of the Elect

169. *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.*

A. *The celebrant dismisses the elect in these or similar words:*

Presider: Dear elect, go in peace, and join us again at the next scrutiny. May the Lord remain with you always.

Elect: Amen.

B. *As an optional formulary for dismissing the catechumens, the celebrant may use these or similar words.*

Presider: 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.

C. *If for serious reasons the elect cannot leave and must remain with the baptized, they are to be instructed that though they are present at the eucharist, they cannot take part in it as the baptized do. They may be reminded of this by the celebrant in these or similar words.*

Presider: 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.

D. *The celebrant dismisses those present, using these or similar words.*

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

All: Thanks be to God.

An appropriate song may conclude the celebration.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

170. *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. The liturgy of the Eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts. In the eucharistic prayer there is to be a remembrance of the elect and their godparents (see ritual Mass "Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies").*

THIRD SCRUTINY (FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT)

Liturgy of the Word

Readings

171. *The texts and the readings for Mass are always those given for the third scrutiny in the Missal and the Lectionary for Mass among the ritual Masses, "Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies."*

Homily

172. *After the readings and guided by them, the celebrant explains in the homily the meaning of the third scrutiny in the light of the Lenten liturgy and of the spiritual journey of the elect.*

Invitation to Silent Prayer

173. *After the homily, the elect with their godparents come forward and stand before the celebrant.*

The celebrant first addresses the assembly of the faithful, inviting them to pray in silence and to ask that the elect will be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God.

The celebrant then addresses the elect, inviting them also to pray in silence and suggesting that as a sign of their inner spirit of repentance they bow their heads or kneel; he concludes his remarks with the following or similar words.

Presider: Elect of God, bow your heads [kneel down] and pray.

The elect bow their heads or kneel, and all pray for some time in silence. After the period of silent prayer, the community and the elect stand for the intercessions.

Intercessions for the Elect

174. *Either of the following formularies, options A or B, may be used for the intercessions for the elect and both the introduction and the intentions may be adapted to fit various circumstances. During the intercessions the godparents stand with their right hand on the shoulder of the elect.*

[If it is decided, in accordance with no. 156, that after the dismissal of the elect the usual general intercessions of the Mass are to be omitted and the liturgy of the eucharist is to begin immediately, intentions for the Church and the whole world are to be added to the following intentions for the elect.]

Presider: Let us pray for these elect whom God has chosen. May the grace of the sacraments conform them to Christ in his passion and resurrection and enable them to triumph over the bitter fate of death.

A.

Assisting Minister: *That faith may strengthen them against worldly deceits of every kind, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That they may always thank God, who has chosen to rescue them from their ignorance of eternal life and to set them on the way of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That the example and prayers of catechumens who have shed their blood for Christ may encourage these elect in their hope of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That they may all have a horror of sin, which distorts life, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That those who are saddened by the death of family or friends may find comfort in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That we too at Easter may again be confirmed in our hope of rising to life with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That the whole world, which God has created in love, may flower in faith and charity and so receive new life, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Or:

B.

Presider: Let us pray for these elect whom God has chosen. May the grace of the sacraments conform them to Christ in his passion and resurrection and enable them to triumph over the bitter fate of death.

Assisting Minister: *That these elect may be given the faith to acknowledge Christ as the resurrection and the life, we pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That they may be freed from sin and grow in the holiness that leads to eternal life, we pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That liberated by repentance from the shackles of sin they may become like Christ by baptism, dead to sin and alive for ever in God's sight, we pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That they may be filled with the hope of the life-giving Spirit and prepare themselves thoroughly for their birth to new life, we pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That the eucharistic food, which they are soon to receive, may make them one with Christ, the source of life and of resurrection, we pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That all of us may walk in newness of life and show to the world the power of the risen Christ, we pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Exorcism

175. *After the intercessions, the rite continues with one of the following exorcisms.*

A. *The celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:*

Presider: Father of life
and God not of the dead but of the living,
you sent your Son to proclaim life,
to snatch us from the realm of death,
and to lead us to the resurrection.

Free these elect
from the death-dealing power of the spirit of evil,
so that they may bear witness
to their new life in the risen Christ,
for he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

If it is convenient, the celebrant lays his hands on each of the elect.

Then, with hands outstretched over all the elect, he continues:

Presider: Lord Jesus,
by raising Lazarus from the dead
you showed that you came that we might have life
and have it more abundantly.

Free from the grasp of death
those who await your life-giving sacraments
and deliver them from the spirit of corruption.

Through your Spirit, who gives life,
fill them with faith, hope, and charity,
that they may live with you always
in the glory of your resurrection,
for you are Lord for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

Or:

B. *The celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined says:*

Presider: Father,
source of all life,
in giving life to the living you seek out the image of your
glory
and in raising the dead you reveal your unbounded
power.

Rescue these elect from the tyranny of death,
for they long for new life through baptism.

Free them from the slavery of Satan,
the source of sin and death,
who seeks to corrupt the world you created
and saw to be good.

Place them under the reign of your beloved Son,
that they may share in the power of his resurrection
and give witness to your glory before all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Here, if this can be done conveniently, the celebrant lays his hands on each one of the elect.

Then, with hands outstretched over all the elect, he continues:

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ,
you commanded Lazarus to step forth alive from his tomb
and by your own resurrection freed all people from death.

We pray for these your servants,
who eagerly approach the waters of new birth
and hunger for the banquet of life.

Do not let the power of death hold them back,
for, by their faith,
they will share in the triumph of your resurrection,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

An appropriate song may be sung, for example, Psalm 6, 26, 32, 38,39, 40, 51, 116:1-9, 130, 139, or 142.

Dismissal of the Elect

176. *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.*

A. *The celebrant dismisses the elect in these or similar words:*

Presider: Dear elect, go in peace, and join us again at the next scrutiny. May the Lord remain with you always.

Elect: Amen.

B. *As an optional formulary for dismissing the catechumens, the celebrant may use these or similar words.*

Presider: 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.

C. *If for serious reasons the elect cannot leave and must remain with the baptized, they are to be instructed that though they are present at the eucharist, they cannot take part in it as the baptized do. They may be reminded of this by the celebrant in these or similar words.*

Presider: 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.

D. *The celebrant dismisses those present, using these or similar words.*

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

All: Thanks be to God.

An appropriate song may conclude the celebration.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

177. *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. The liturgy of the Eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts. In the eucharistic prayer there is to be a remembrance of the elect and their godparents (see ritual Mass "Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies").*