

# The Rites of the RCIA

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The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is a formal program of catechetical instruction, prayer and spirituality, and liturgies whereby adults — called Catechumens and Candidates — are formally admitted into the Church receiving the Sacraments of Initiation —

**(Baptism,) Confirmation & Holy Eucharist.**

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During the course of the RCIA program, the individual follows a spiritual journey of "steps" accomplished through defined periods of instruction, prayer and support, punctuated with formal ceremonies or Rites.

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# The RCIA Periods

The Period of the Pre-Catechumenate

The Period of the Catechumenate

The Period of the Purification/Enlightenment

The Period of Mystagogy



# The Rites of the RCIA

The Rite of Acceptance (Pre-Catechumenate/Candidate)

The Rite of Sending (Catechumenate/Candidate)

The Rite of Election (Elect/Candidate)

The Scrutinies (Self-Searching & Repentance)

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# The Period of the Pre-Catechumenate

The first period is the Pre-Catechumenate, when candidates inquire about the faith and receive evangelization. Hopefully, the person comes to that initial conversion and step of faith, aided by the grace of God. This period ends with the **Rite of Acceptance** into the Order of Catechumens when the candidates publicly declare their intention to enter the Church.



Then begins the **Period of the Catechumenate**, during which the catechumen/candidates receive catechetical and liturgical training.

"This catechesis leads the catechumens not only to an appropriate acquaintance with dogmas and precepts but also to a profound sense of the mystery of salvation in which they desire to participate" (RCIA, No. 75).

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During this time, the catechumens should undergo a conversion of mind and action, becoming acquainted with the teachings of the faith and acquiring a spirit of charity.

The sponsors and parish community assist the catechumens by their example and support.





**The Rite of Sending to the Rite of Election** closes the Period of the Catechumenate. This rite normally coincides with the first Sunday of Lent. At this rite, upon the testimony of sponsors, catechists and the catechumens'/candidate's affirmation of their intention to join the Church, the Church "elects" these catechumen/candidates to be received.



In the presence of the Bishop, the Book of the Elect is presented inscribed with their names as a pledge of fidelity.

The catechumen are now called "the elect" or those who will be enlightened.

The candidates are called...



# Candidates



# Rite of Sending

THIS Sunday at the 8:30am Mass

# Rite of Election

Saturday, March 11th at 12:30pm

Holy Spirit Catholic Church



**The Period of Purification and Enlightenment** is the final preparation for reception into the Church.

During Lent, three scrutinies, rites for self-searching and repentance and the presentation of the Creed and Lord's Prayer take place.



# The Period of Purification and Enlightenment

## First Scrutiny

Sunday, March 19th (3rd Sun. of Lent) 5:30pm Mass

## Second Scrutiny

Sunday, March 26th (4th Sun. of Lent) 11:30am Mass **CREED**

## **NEW DATE** - RCIA First Reconciliation

Wednesday, March 22nd Evening Mass at 6:30pm followed by a reflection and examination of conscience, then confessions.

## Third Scrutiny

Saturday, April 1st (5th Sun. of Lent) 5:30pm Mass **Lord's Prayer**



**Ash Wednesday Mass** next Wednesday at 7:30pm

**Stations of the Cross** Fridays of Lent at 6:30pm

**Palm Sunday** April 8/9

**Holy Week & Triduum** April 10-15

*Easter Vigil Rehearsal* April 12th - 7:15pm

*Holy Thursday*, April 13th - 7:00pm

*Good Friday*, April 14th - 7:00pm

**Easter Vigil** April 15th at 8:00pm

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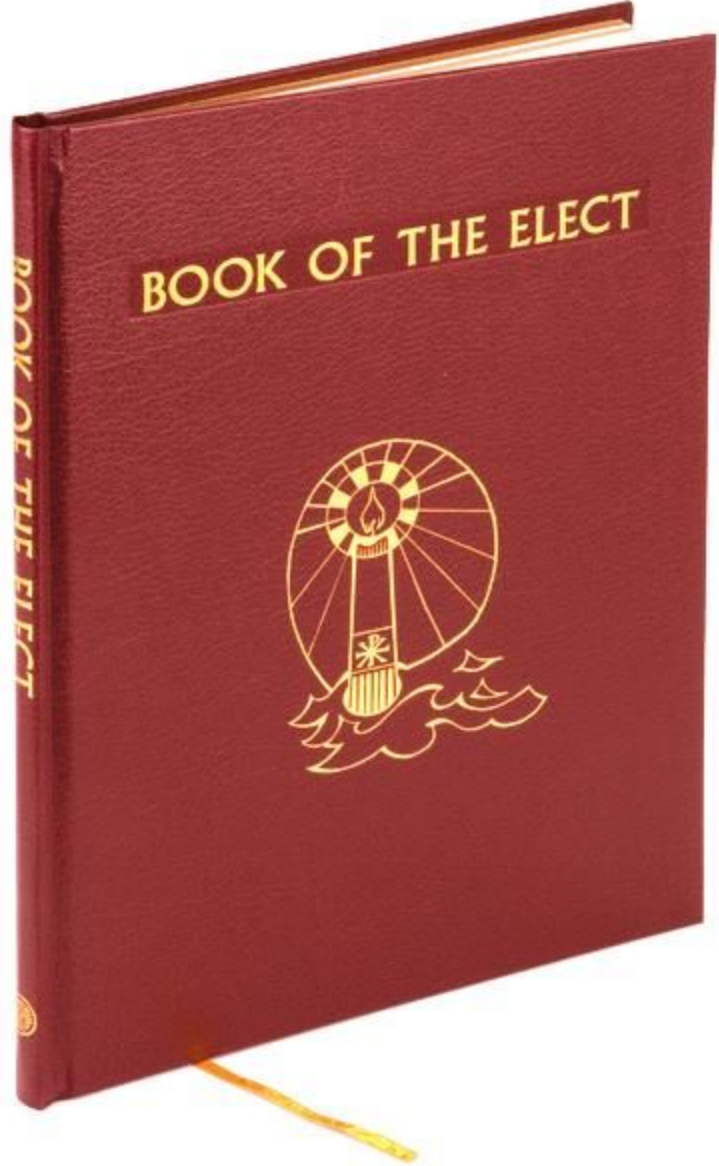


After the Easter Vigil, the newly baptized and confirmed members of the Church (called Neophytes) enter the **Period of Mystagogy** where all are called to grow in an understanding of the mysteries of the faith and strengthen their bond with the rest of the faithful, so as to enter more fully into the life and unity of the Church.

This period normally ends around Pentecost.







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