

2024 Rite of Election

Included in this Package

- Information for Coordinators
- Liturgical Instructions for Coordinators
- Dismissal to the Rite of Election
- Calling to Lenten Renewal

Registration

- Register by FEBRUARY 12, 2024 at <https://www.catholicyc.ca/riteofelection.html>
- Register all your catechumens and sponsors.
- For assistance with registration contact Monica Warman at 403-218-5521 or monica.warman@calgarydiocese.ca

Invitation

- The Rite of Election is **only for Catechumens:** unbaptized adults and unbaptized children of catechetical age. All others are welcome to attend as **guests**.
- The Rite of Calling to Lenten Renewal for already **baptized** individuals preparing for reception and/or full initiation **will not take place** at the same time. It may be celebrated in the parish the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

One Day Only

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, at 3:30 pm.

Where: St. Mary's Cathedral, 219 18 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2S 0C2.

Please arrive at 2:30pm – 3pm.

Note: This liturgy does **not** include the celebration of the Eucharist.

Book of the Elect

Catechumens will **sign the book of the elect** at **St. Mary's Cathedral**. Following the rite, we encourage parishes to place the Book of the Elect in a prominent place in the church, e.g. near the baptismal font or ambry.

- Note: The Bishop does not sign the book even though some publishers include a line for this purpose.
- If you need to order the [Book of Elect](#), please find the [order form here](#).

Dismissal

Since the names will be called and the Book of the Elect will be signed at the Rite of Election, **the Dismissal to the Rite of Election is optional**. The ritual has been modified to reflect that only catechumens are being sent to the Rite of Election.

Information for Coordinators

Arrival

- Bring with you:
 - the UNSIGNED Book of the Elect from your parish.
 - a list of catechumens' names
- Come to St. Mary's Cathedral, 219 – 18th Avenue SW, Calgary, T2S 0C2
- **Please arrive at 2:30 – 3pm**
- As much as possible, try to arrive as a group
- Identify yourself to the head usher. People will be seated based on whether they are PARTICIPANTS or GUESTS. Please prepare your group accordingly to assist the ushers with the seating process.

Seating

- **PARTICIPANTS:** Will have assigned seating
 - coordinator
 - person with the Book of the Elect, if separate from the coordinator
 - catechumens
 - godparents

Note: The person with the Book of the Elect **cannot** also be a godparent.
- **GUESTS:** Will be seated in the transepts
 - other team members
 - clergy
 - friends
 - family
 - previously baptized candidates for initiation
- Seat the catechumens in the order in which they will sign the Book of the Elect
- Seat godparents next to their catechumen
- Be sure that all PARTICIPANTS have a worship aid so that they can easily respond



Liturgical Instructions for Coordinators

Please read these instructions to prepare yourself and the catechumens.

- The coordinator and the person with the Book of the Elect may be the same person or two people. The person will be referred to in these instructions as the coordinator.
- The person with the Book of the Elect cannot be a godparent because the roles require simultaneous action in different parts of the church.
- The questions and responses are here for you to prepare catechumens and godparents. They will also be printed in the worship aid. Please prepare all to respond in a confident voice.

Rite of Election

The Rite of Election follows the homily. Send only catechumens to this rite.

Presentation of the Catechumens

The coordinator with the names will be seated at the end of the pew near the centre aisle. An usher will come to each coordinator with a wireless microphone.

Bishop: Those who are to be chosen in Christ, please stand when your name is called.
Coordinator: Bishop McGrattan, I present to you from (name of parish) our catechumens:

The coordinator will present the names of the catechumens from the pew. Each catechumen will stand when called. Only name those present. When all have been presented the coordinator will sit down. The catechumens remain standing. Once the catechumens from all parishes have been presented by name the godparents will be invited to stand as well and the bishop will question them.

Bishop: Have they faithfully listened to God's word proclaimed by the Church?
Godparents: Yes, they have.

Bishop: Have they responded to that word and begun to walk in God's presence?
Godparents: Yes, they have.

Bishop: Have they shared the company of their Christian brothers and sisters and joined with them in prayer?
Godparents: Yes, they have.

The godparents will be asked to sit. The bishop will then question the catechumens.

Bishop: Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the eucharist?
Catechumens: Yes, we do.

Once the catechumens have affirmed their wish to enter into the Church the bishop invites them to offer their names for enrollment.

Enrollment of Names

As directed by the ushers, the coordinator will place the Book of the Elect on the table and the catechumens of that parish will inscribe their names in the book one by one. Catechumens will go back to their seats immediately after signing. Once that parish is finished the coordinator will stand as directed holding open the book. Note, there will be two tables, one on either side of the nave so there will be two lines of people enrolling their names. The choir will be singing during this time.

Act of Admission or Election

Once all names are enrolled the bishop declares the catechumens members of the elect.

Bishop: Therefore, I now declare you to be members of the elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the Easter Vigil.
Elect: **Thanks be to God.**

The coordinators holding the Book of the Elect return to their seats. Then the bishop instructs the elect and the godparents. He will ask the godparents to place their hand on the shoulder of the elect. The intercessions and prayer over the elect follow.

Concluding Rites

The bishop will use the pontifical blessing.

Bishop: The Lord be with you.
All: **And with your spirit.**
Bishop: Blessed be the name of the Lord.
All: **Now and forever.**
Bishop: Our help is in the name of the Lord.
All: **Who made heaven and earth.**

The Bishop will return to the sanctuary after the recessional to greet the newly elected.

Dismissal to the Rite of Election

Since the catechumens will be called by name and sign the Book of the Elect at the Rite of Election at the cathedral, this parish dismissal rite is optional. It may take place at a Sunday Mass after the homily. It is only to be used with the unbaptized.

Should you wish to celebrate this ritual and the Calling to Lenten Renewal at the same Mass, conduct the Calling to Lenten Renewal after the homily followed by this rite to dismiss the catechumens to the Rite of Election.

Presentation of Catechumens

Catechist: Reverend Father, these catechumens are beginning their final period of preparation and purification leading to their initiation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example.

The catechumens may be called by name as they come forward.

Priest: My dear catechumens, you are being sent to the cathedral to celebrate the liturgical rite called both election and the enrollment of names, which closes the period of the catechumenate proper. This celebration marks the beginning of the period of final, more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation. On the basis of the testimony of your godparents and your own reaffirmation of your intention, the Church judges your state of readiness and decides on your advancement towards the sacraments of initiation. This step is called election because the acceptance made by the Church is founded on the election by God, in whose name the Church acts. The step is also called the enrollment of names because as a pledge of fidelity you inscribe your names in the book that lists those who have been chosen for initiation.

Prayer over Catechumens

The priest extends his hands and prays over the catechumens.

Priest: Let us pray.
 Father of love and power,
 it is your will to establish everything in Christ
 and to draw us into his all-embracing love.
 Guide these catechumens
 in the days and weeks ahead:
 strengthen them in their vocation,
 building them into the kingdom of your Son,
 and seal them with the Spirit of your promise.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

If the catechumens are to be dismissed immediately to the Rite of Election:

Priest: My dear friends,
 you are about to set out on the road that leads to the glory of Easter.
 Christ will be your way, your truth, and your life.
 In his name we send you forth from this community
 to celebrate with the bishop the Lord's choice of you
 to be numbered among his elect.
 Until we meet again for the scrutinies, walk always in his peace.

All: Amen.

The catechumens leave the sanctuary.

If you have any other catechumens or candidates in an ongoing process who should be dismissed for the breaking open of word, invite them to come forward now for dismissal.

Priest: Would our other catechumens and candidates please come forward.
 My friends, I invite you to go in peace to discover anew the great deeds
 of the Lord.

All: Amen.

The catechumens and candidates leave the sanctuary with their catechist.

If the catechumens and candidates are staying for Mass:

Priest: My brothers and sisters,
 although you cannot yet participate fully in the eucharist,
 stay with us as a sign of our hope
 that you will soon be one with us
 at the Lord's table.

All: Amen.

Mass continues as usual with the Creed and Prayer of the Faithful.

Calling to Lenten Renewal

What is it?

The Calling to Lenten Renewal is an optional rite that may be celebrated with baptized Christians seeking reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church and with baptized Catholic adults.

Where is it celebrated?

According to the ritual, “The Rite of Calling Candidates to Lenten Renewal is not to be celebrated together with the Rite of Election for catechumens.” (RCIA 497) It can be celebrated in the parish community.

- The candidates already have received the grace and dignity of baptism. By keeping this rite distinct from the Rite of Election, the baptismal dignity of the candidates is better respected and their zeal for Lenten renewal can serve as witness and encouragement to all in the community.
- According to the ritual, “This rite acknowledges the seriousness with which baptized but uncatechized adults begin the Lenten season. With the entire community of the faithful, they are invited to use this holy season in preparation for the renewal of their baptismal promises at Easter.” (RCIA 494)

When to celebrate it?

We recommend parishes to celebrate this rite on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday (RCIA no. 495).

How do we celebrate it?

The ritual is in the “Blue Book” on page 284 and following. If the celebration takes place before Ash Wednesday modify the coordinator’s instruction in no. 501 to “as we approach this Lenten season”

If you wish to celebrate the Calling to Lenten Renewal on the First Sunday of Lent and dismiss catechumens to the Rite of Election at the same Mass:

- Celebrate the Calling to Lenten Renewal after the homily
- Then call forward the catechumens for dismissal to the Rite of Election using the ritual in this package

Can candidates come to the Rite of Election?

Candidates are welcome to support the catechumens by attending the Rite of Election as guests.

Rite of Calling the Candidates to Lenten Renewal

The Rite of Calling the Candidates to Lenten Renewal can be celebrated on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, after the homily. Conduct this Rite first, followed by the ritual of Dismissal to the Rite of Election (with catechumens) if both are to be celebrated on the same Sunday.

Presentation of the Candidates

Catechist: Father [name], as we approach the Lenten season, we present to you these candidates who seek to complete their Christian initiation [or who seek to be received into full communion with the Church]. They have already been baptized, and have found strength in God's grace. As they begin this final period of their preparation, they ask to be supported by the prayer and example of this faith community.

Priest: We invite those who wish to become full members of the Church to come forward now with their sponsors.

Catechist: I call on [name of candidates] to come forward with their sponsors.

The candidates line up in a row right in front of the sanctuary, facing the altar, with their sponsors standing directly behind them.

Affirmation by the Sponsors and the Assembly

The priest addresses the assembly:

Priest: My dear friends,
these candidates, our brothers and sisters in Christ,
have asked to become full members of the Church
by celebrating the sacraments
of confirmation and eucharist with us.
During the period of their preparation
they have listened to the word of God.
They have reflected on the mystery of their baptism,
and have come to treasure more deeply
the presence of Christ in their lives.
They have joined us in prayer
and in loving service to others.
I now ask their sponsors to testify to their readiness.

The priest addresses the sponsors:

Priest: Do you consider that our brothers and sisters
are ready to join us in prayer and penance
during this Lenten season
in order to renew their baptismal promises
and come to full membership in the Church?

Sponsors: We do.

An appropriate acclamation may be sung or a sign of approval may be given.

Act of Recognition

The priest addresses the candidates:

Priest: This community of faith recognizes your desire to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, to take your place at the Lord's table, and so to complete your initiation into the life of the Church.

We invite you to be one with us during this Lenten season. By prayer, fasting, and works of charity, we will unite ourselves more closely to Christ, and come to know in a deeper way the power of his resurrection in us. We assure you of our support by prayer and example during this holy season.

Candidates: Thanks be to God.

Prayer for the Candidates

The priest invites the assembly to pray for the candidates:

Priest: Let us pray to God for the needs of the Church, and especially for these candidates as they prepare to become full members of the Church.

Catechist: That they may find the gift of joy as they pray each day in union with Christ and his Church, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Catechist: That they may read the word of God with faith and continue to ponder that word in their hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Catechist: That they may do all things for the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Catechist: That together we may grow in our love and service

For those most in need,
Let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Catechist: That together we may possess a spirit of repentance
For all our sins,
Let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer over the Candidates

The priest, with hands outstretched over the candidates, says this prayer:

Priest: Father, creator of the universe,
you have made us in your image and likeness,
and have given us new birth in the waters of baptism.
Look with love on these candidates,
and lead them with all your people
to imitate Christ in his sufferings
and rejoice once again in his resurrection.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Invitation

If there are baptised Catholics among the candidates, the priest addresses them in these words:

Priest: My brothers and sisters,
although you cannot yet participate fully in the eucharist,
stay with us as a sign of our hope
that you will soon be one with us
at the Lord's table.

All: Thanks be to God.

Candidates for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church are invited to leave the assembly together with their catechist, in order to reflect further upon God's word.

Priest: My friends,
I invite you to go in peace
to discover anew the great deeds of the Lord.

If the candidates for full communion cannot leave at this time, they remain with the baptized Catholics.