

MEMORANDUM



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary

DATE February 15, 2022
TO Priests, Deacons, and Parish Office Staff
FROM The Office of the Bishop
SUBJECT STEP 2 – RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The following directives concern the Rites Prior to Baptism:

Rite of Election – First Sunday of Lent, March 6, 2022

- The Rite of Election for the year 2022 will take place in the parishes within the Mass after the homily on the First Sunday of Lent.
- It is only for catechumens, unbaptized adults, and unbaptized children of catechetical age.
 - Baptized candidates are not included. Nos. 105-124 in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (CCCB) provide a theological understanding of this second step in Christian initiation which closes the period of catechumenate proper.
- Catechumens and godparents may stand from where they are seated or may be asked to stand at the front if there is adequate space for physical distancing. Follow the Rite as provided in the RCIA (CCCB) nos. 117-122.
- The Elect will remain with the community for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Follow nos. 123 option B.
- It is recommended that parishes reserve seating for catechumens and godparents for the Rite of Election.
- If your parish has a large number of catechumens, the Rite of Election can take place in a separate liturgy outside of Mass (RCIA no. 115).

Scrutinies & Presentations

Following the Rite of Election, the Elect enter into the period of Purification and Enlightenment.

- Candidates, baptized Christians preparing for Reception into Full Communion, do not go through this rite. Instead, Candidates are invited to a Lenten renewal.
- Scrutinies are celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent with Year A readings (RCIA no. 133).

- When, for pastoral reasons, these ritual Masses cannot be celebrated on their proper Sundays, they are celebrated on other Sundays of Lent or even convenient days during the week (RCIA no. 133).
- It is recommended that parishes reserve seating for the Elect at the Sunday Masses where the scrutinies are being celebrated.

First Scrutiny – Third Sunday of Lent, March 20, 2022

- *The gospel of the Samaritan woman.*

Presentation of the Creed

- Only the priest may be the minister for the Presentation of the Creed.
- If possible, the Creed should be presented on a weekday Mass following the First Scrutiny (RCIA no. 144). It may be presented in a Liturgy of the Word.
- The readings assigned for the weekday Mass are replaced by those prescribed in RCIA no. 145.

Second Scrutiny – Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 27, 2022

- *The gospel of the man born blind.*

Third Scrutiny – Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 3, 2022

- *The gospel of Lazarus.*
- The traditional practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from this Sunday onward may be observed (Ordo page 177).

Presentation of the Our Father

- Only the priest may be the minister for the Presentation of the Lord's Prayer, and celebrated during the week following the Third Scrutiny.
- It is possible to defer the presentation of the Lord's Prayer to be included as part of the Preparation Rites on the day of the initiation (RCIA nos. 136, 165, 172.2).