



## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

### Lenten Journey for the Catechumens/Elect

Lent for all Catholics is a time of renewal. It is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This is especially true for those in the RCIA process. During Lent the journey goes from the head to the heart as the Catechumens/Elect long for the Easter Sacraments.

### The Rite of Election<sup>1</sup>

This is the liturgical rite wherein the bishop, on basis of the testimony of the sponsors, godparents and catechists, and the intention of the catechumen, declares that the catechumens are chosen or elected to receive the sacraments of initiation at the next Easter Vigil. As members of the Order of the Elect they enter the final period of preparation.

In the Archdiocese of Edmonton, the Rite of the Elect takes place at St. Joseph's Basilica. The dates of the Rite are as follows:

- for parishes within the Edmonton city limits, the Rite is on the First Saturday (evening) of Lent;
- for rural parishes (all those outside the Edmonton city limits) the Rite is on the First Sunday (afternoon) of Lent.

This liturgy is organized by the Office of Divine Worship. Parishes are asked to register for the Rite through the Office of Divine Worship. If a parish is unable to attend the Rite, special permission must be requested, of the Archbishop, in order that the catechumens can receive the Sacraments at Easter.

It is important to note that those who are already baptized are already elect and therefore do not participate in the Rite of Election. They may come to the celebration as witnesses and to support the newly Elect.

<sup>1</sup> See The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults nos. 105-124.

### LENT

#### Growing as Disciples during Lent

*Prayer* reminds us of our loving relationship with God

*Fasting* make us hungry for God and should lead to new actions and behaviors that fit into God's plan for our lives.

*Giving* to those in need helps us be grateful and shows that we are connected to others and responsible for our brothers' and sisters' well-being.  
- excerpt from *The Catholic Faith and Family Bible*



### Period of Purification and Enlightenment for the Elect

This is a period of intense spiritual preparation for the Elect. The focus shifts in some sense from head knowledge to the conversion of the heart. This time, which normally coincides with the Lenten season, is marked by celebration of the scrutinies and presentations in preparation of the Easter Vigil.<sup>2</sup>

The scrutinies serve to heal and strengthen the hearts of the Elect. They take place during the third, fourth and fifth Sundays during Lent. The readings for the scrutinies are taken from Year A.

Presentations are rites through which the Church passes on to the Elect important prayers of the Church including, the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. The Creed is presented during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Lent and the Lord's Prayer during the 5<sup>th</sup> week of Lent.

Lastly, there are preparatory rites that take place on Holy Saturday.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The Scrutinies and Presentation are found in The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, See Nos. 137-197.

<sup>3</sup> See The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Nos. 172-197.