

Resurrection Weekly

Volume 1 Issue 1

March 5th, 2017

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What Will Keep Happening Throughout Lent for our Catechumens & Candidates?

First Things First, Who are These Catechumens & Candidates?

For more information about what is a Catechumen or Candidate please see the write up on A1, "Words to Know".

Who are all these people one might ask? All our Catechumens and Candidates have come to us because they were first interested by someone or some organization that is Catholic. Many of our RCIA and RCIC members have come to us here at Resurrection Roman Catholic Parish as a direct result of the witness that is present in our Catholic Education System.

If you would like to learn more about each of these individuals please see the display board in the Gathering Space, or make the time to talk with them. They are becoming a part of our community, so we should be making them feel welcomed, and a part of us. You will also have to opportunity to see them more at the Sunday 9:00 masses when we will do the Dismissals and Scrutinies. For more information on these see "Scrutinies W5: Who, What, Where, Why, When?"

Scrutinies W5: Who, What, Where, Why, When?

Who?

The Scrutinies are for the Catechumens and the Candidates in both our RCIA and RCIC programmes not only at Resurrection but in every Catholic Church in the world.

What?

The newly Elect and the Candidates will be called up after the Homily to be instructed on sin the redemption of Christ and the resurrection and the life found through Jesus Christ. A minor exorcism will be celebrated in order to help the elect and Candidates to be free from the effects of sin and from the influences of the devil.

The Scrutinies serve as a reminder to the whole congregation but most especially our RCIA and RCIC participants of the need to reflect on our sin and turn towards God's mercy and love.

Where?

Right here at Resurrection parish!

Why?

The Scrutinies are meant to uncover and the heal all that is weak or sinful in the Elect's hearts and to bring through repentance all that is upright, strong, and good.

The celebration of these Scrutinies also serves to remind the whole congregation that we need to reflect on our own sins and look to Christ on the Cross for God's mercy.

When?

The dates for the Scrutinies are:
 1st Scrutiny – Sunday March 19th
 2nd Scrutiny – Sunday March 26th
 3rd Scrutiny – Sunday April 2nd
 All at the 9:00 Masses

We are challenged with the Samaritan woman at the well when we thirst for the Lord, who knows what we need and provides it; we beg, with the man born blind, to see Jesus, who is the light and gives us sight; and finally, we lie with Lazarus in the tomb of oblivion and death, built with the stones of our own sins, until Jesus reaches out his hand and pulls us from the pit.

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What Is Going On This Sunday?

The Rite of Election Is NOT Just About The Catechumens

Rite of Election:

In this Rite those preparing for Baptism are invited to come forward and sign a book called the “**Book of the Elect**” as a sign of their desire to be numbered among the chosen of God.

This marks a key moment in their steps towards initiation into the Catholic Church. It signifies that they have been called by Christ and it is important for the Bishop to recognize them because he is the sign of unity of the universal Church. It is the parish community’s responsibility to bring those in RCIA into the fullness of the life of the Catholic Church.

The catechumens’ Godparents give public testimony about them and are asked to make serious statements about them concerning their faith life and their new life founded on Christ. The Catechumens will now be called the “**Elect**”.

After this rite, they are chosen to enter the final period of preparation for initiation, and called by the Bishop, their shepherd, to the holy mysteries to be celebrated at Easter.

What Are All These Rites About?

The Period of Purification & Enlightenment:

The previous stage of the RCIA and RCIC was the “**Period of the Catechumenate**”. This is an extended period during which the catechumens and candidates are given formation, catechesis, and are trained in the Christian life. This stage was marked by the **Rite of Welcome & Acceptance** on November 27th, 2016.

They have finished this stage and now enter into a more reflective, prayerful spiritual preparation period until the **Easter Vigil**. This serves as a time where we ask the congregation – That’s YOU! – to continue to pray for them as they journey towards Easter. This journey is completed through the searching of their hearts and consciences and through acts of repentance, and mercy.

Rite of Sending:

Across the entire world Catholic Bishops will welcome those sent by the parish to gather together with their godparents and sponsors in the Rite of Election. We as a community have the opportunity to acknowledge the spiritual progress the catechumens have made and send them forth to our Bishop. To send them forth is saying that they are ready to enter the Church.

Rite of Calling Candidates to Lenten Renewal:

This Rite is for the Candidates who are already baptized in another Christian tradition and are preparing to be Confirmed and receive Holy Eucharist. This Rite recognizes the reality that they have already been chosen and claimed by Christ at their baptisms.

This rite it is also for those who are baptized Catholic and preparing to complete their initiation by the sacraments of Confirmation and/or Holy Eucharist. They are already among the elect in Christ. The Candidates are called to “**Lenten Renewal**” and their intention to be fully initiated and share in the Eucharist is recognized.

Words to Know:

Catechumen – one who is not yet baptized in any Christian denomination, or was done so invalidly, but is taking steps towards their baptism.

Candidate – one who is baptized, either in the Catholic Church, or in another Christian church where the baptism was done in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and done with water being poured over them three times.