

Information on **THE RITE OF ELECTION**

Catechumens are encouraged to attend the Rite of Election at the Cathedral or within the parish. RCIA 105–115

The Rite of Election is where the Church makes its ‘election’, formally acknowledging the Catechumens’ readiness for receiving the Sacraments of Initiation, and the Catechumens (now the Elect) express their desire to receive the Sacraments. This ritual is designed for those adults and children over the age of reason who are not yet baptised, although there may be a blessing of baptised candidates preparing for full initiation during the Rite of Election.

“ RCIA 106

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 enrolment of names because as a pledge of fidelity the catechumens inscribe their names in the book that lists those who have been chosen for initiation.

This Rite is usually held on the first Sunday of Lent in the Cathedral. If it is not possible for the young person to attend the Cathedral, or if the Rite is being celebrated outside of Lent, a Rite of Election can be held at the local parish.

The Rite of Election closes the Period of the Catechumenate and marks the transition to the period of Purification and Enlightenment, a time of more intense preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation.

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“ RCIA 107

With deliberate will and an enlightened faith they [the Catechumens] must have the intention to receive the Sacraments of the Church, a resolve they will express publicly in the actual celebration of the rite.

During the Rite of Election, the godparents and catechists give witness to the Catechumen's intention to be a follower of Christ and their readiness to receive the Sacraments of Initiation.