

Session 1: PREPARING FOR THE PENITENTIAL RITE (SCRUTINY)

The Elect attend Sunday Mass and are dismissed for the following Purification and Enlightenment session.

Dismissal

After the Elect are dismissed from Mass, they move with the catechist to another area which has a sacred space arranged and comfortable seating for those gathered.

Today at Mass we heard readings from ... (name the readings e.g. Isaiah or Matthew).

1. Tell me something that you heard from the Mass or the readings at Mass.
2. Let's go back and look at the gospel again. Read from the Bible and as you read this, focus on what you might have seen if you had been there. Share your thoughts if you would like to.
3. Read the passage again and pay attention to what might have been heard such as background sounds, people talking. Pay attention to the questions that Jesus or the disciples ask.
4. After hearing this gospel, what will it mean for you this week? What is Jesus saying to you? Make a commitment about what you will do differently now.

Activity Book - Gospel Space

In your Activity Book (page 29), after listening to and discussing the gospel, write down what you think Jesus is asking you to do this week.

Share a sentence, or one or two words, that summed up how you felt when you had your name written in the book of the Elect.

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Looking forward to next week...

What is the Penitential Rite (Scrutiny)?

The Penitential Rite (Scrutiny) helps the child to examine their life and see where they need to make changes. The prayers of healing for the Elect bring strength to live as followers of Jesus and prepare the child for the Sacraments of Initiation.

Scrutiny means “the thorough examination of something”.

“ RCIA 128

The scrutinies are meant to uncover, heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the Elect; to bring out, strengthen all that is upright, strong and good ... These rites should complete the conversion of the Elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all.



Enlightenment happens when we look to the Lord and not at ourselves. The scrutinies help us to see the situation we are in, choose to change and then follow the Lord.

Activity Book

We are encouraged during this time to reflect within. The scrutinies are an opportunity to look to Jesus who sees who we are and who we can be – he is our hope.

In the Activity Book (page 30) write or draw a prayer to Jesus inviting Jesus into your life. Share with Jesus any situation you may like to change.

Prayer

Before we leave today, let us ask for God’s blessing upon our week with a modified prayer from Numbers 6:24-26

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May the LORD bless us and keep us;

May the LORD make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us;

May the LORD lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace.