



RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS and of CALLING THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

**February 22, 2026
Archdiocese of Cincinnati**

2:00pm	Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter-in-Chains	(English)
2:00pm	Church of the Immaculate Conception	(English)
7:00pm	St. Maximilian Kolbe Church	(Spanish)
Archbishop Robert Casey		

WHAT IS IT?

In the Rite of Election we celebrate the Lord's choosing of men, women and children who, with the help of the Church, acknowledge God's election of them for the Easter Sacraments. The Rite of Election marks the beginning of the final period of intensive preparation prior to receiving the sacraments of initiation.

The Call to Continuing Conversion marks the final period of preparation for those candidates preparing to be received into full communion or for those Catholics completing their initiation through Confirmation and First Communion.

FOR WHOM?

Catechumens seeking Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, and candidates for reception into full communion, as well as those Catholics completing their initiation will be welcomed at the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion. A clear distinction will be made in order to respect the baptismal status of those being received into full communion.

Candidates for the Rite of Election are expected to have a conversion of mind and morals, a sense of faith and charity, and be judged by those involved in their preparation to be worthy to receive the Easter Sacraments at this year's Easter Vigil.

Those seeking full communion in the Church and those Catholics preparing to complete their initiation are to have listened faithfully to the Gospels, developed a deeper appreciation of their baptism, reflected upon the tradition of the Church, and have advanced in a life of love.

WHAT ABOUT CELEBRATION IN THE PARISH?

Although this Rite takes place in a larger diocesan setting with the bishop (or his delegate), local parishes

should celebrate a Rite of Sending (cf. *OCIA* 106). In this celebration the catechumens are presented to the community, testimony is given by the catechists and sponsors, and **they inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect that will be kept in the parish.**

Baptized candidates for reception into full communion and Catholics preparing for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist may also be presented to the parish at this time (cf. *OCIA* 434 or 530). **Since those who are baptized already have their names enrolled in the baptismal registers, they do *not* inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect.**

RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS

Each parish brings its Book of the Elect to the Rite of Election. Each parish should designate a catechist or someone who has played a significant role in the formation of the catechumens to present the Book of the Elect during the celebration of the Rite of Election. That designated person (who should not be a catechumen or candidate) will come forward and present the Book of the Elect as the name of the parish is called. They will be directed to an appropriate place to stand.

Even though formation and even liturgical rites may be taking place at the Family level, each parish should retain its own Book of the Elect.

Once all parishes from a deanery have been called, and the catechumens are standing, the Archbishop/celebrant will ask the godparents to give testimony regarding God's action in the lives of the catechumens and how the catechumens have responded to God's call. Then he will question the catechumens of their desire to answer God's call through the celebration of the Easter sacraments.

Each parish representative will then bring the Book of the Elect before the Archbishop/celebrant, who will bless it. The book-bearer then returns to the pew.

Only the names of the catechumens are inscribed in the Book of the Elect. This book should be of good quality. It will be brought forward only during the presentation of catechumens. If you need assistance in purchasing a Book of the Elect, [please contact the Office for Divine Worship & Sacraments](#).

CALLING OF CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

Baptized candidates will then be invited to stand. The Archbishop/celebrant will question the sponsors about the readiness of the candidates to enter fully into the sacramental life of the Church.

SEATING

Seating will be reserved only for catechumens and godparents, candidates and sponsors, children who are catechumens/candidates, their parents and godparents, three team members and the pastor. Other family members are asked to be seated in the non-reserved sections. A seating chart will be available in the days immediately prior to the liturgy.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Designate the person to present the parish Book of the Elect** during the celebration. Prior to the

celebration of the Rite of Election, that person will need instructions for presentation of the catechumens. (Refer to the section above). ***The book-bearer should arrive and meet the master of ceremonies 20 minutes prior to the liturgy beginning at the front of the sanctuary for a brief walk-through.***

2. **Prepare your catechumens and candidates for the liturgy** by walking through the basic structure with them. You don't have to "spoil it" for them, but giving them a basic understanding will help them to participate more fully. Also, please rehearse their responses with them:
 - a. Catechumens will be asked if it is their will to be initiated; they respond "It is." Also, the Archbishop/celebrant declares them to be "elect", to which they respond "Thanks be to God!"
 - b. After the Archbishop/celebrant recognizes the candidates and affirms them, they respond "Thanks be to God!"
3. **Plan to celebrate the Rite of Sending at a parish Mass for the First Sunday of Lent.** You can find the ritual text in the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, and also on the ODWS website. ***Please be certain to have your catechumens sign the Book of Elect at this parish celebration, as they will not sign the book at the Rite of Election.***
4. After the celebration of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, **the Book of the Elect should be taken back to the parish church and displayed there in a place of honor** during the remainder of the Lenten season.

Questions or concerns?

Contact the ODWS

worship@catholicaoc.org

513.263.6609



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