

LITURGY PREPARATION FOR THE

# Preparation Rites on Holy Saturday

(see RCIA 185ff)

*This Rite is celebrated by all of the elect and any candidates who participated in the Presentation of the Creed.*

## Questions to Prepare for the Rite

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### BEFORE THE RITE

#### 1. When and where will the Preparation Rites be celebrated?

Be sure to communicate with others on the parish staff that these Rites will take place. Rehearsals with acolytes and readers in the church often take place on Holy Saturday. While celebrating this Rite in the church is most appropriate, another space may need to be used. If so, it should be suitably prepared (e.g., crucifix, lit candles, or large votives, appropriate liturgical cloth, etc.).

#### 2. Who will be invited?

In addition to the elect, godparents, candidates, sponsors, and initiation team, you may wish to invite members of the parish community.

### GREETING

#### 3. What greeting will be used?

RCIA 187 suggests that a greeting from Mass or other suitable words be used.

### RECITATION OF THE CREED AND EPHPHETHA RITE

#### 4. Will the assembly be seated?

The celebrant could include an instruction to “Please be seated as we listen to the Word of God” prior to the reading.

#### 5. What reading will be used?

RCIA 194 suggests several readings appropriate for the recitation.

#### 6. Will the Ephphetha Rite be celebrated prior to the recitation of the Creed?

This Rite may be celebrated with a brief Scripture reading and the signing of the ears and lips of the elect (see RCIA 198-199).

#### 7. How will the Prayer before the Recitation be adapted to include candidates?

If candidates participate in this Rite, insert the words “and candidates” after “these elect.”

#### 8. Which Creed will the elect and candidates recite?

The Creed that was used at the Presentation of the Creed should be recited.

#### 9. How will the elect and candidates recite the Creed?

The elect and candidates could recite the Creed from memory (preferred) or they can recite it from cards that you would provide for them.

### CHOOSING A BAPTISMAL NAME

#### 10. How will the elect (and candidates, if present) declare their baptismal/Confirmation names?

The naming may be done in a formal manner (see RCIA 200) or by simply inviting participants to briefly explain why they chose their baptismal/Confirmation names. In some dioceses, this Rite is omitted.

### CONCLUDING RITES

#### 11. How will the Prayer of Blessing be adapted to include candidates?

If candidates participate in this Rite, insert the words “or for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church” after “as they earnestly prepare for Baptism.”

## Checklist

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- Script for presider, musicians, etc.
- Lectionary prepared with correct readings
- Copies of the Creed for recitation
- Worship aid for the congregation (handout explaining the Rite and/or with desired liturgical responses)