

LITURGY PREPARATION FOR THE
Presentation of the Creed

(see RCIA 147-149, 157ff)

The Presentation of the Creed is to be celebrated with the elect and with candidates for whom the presentation seems appropriate (see RCIA 407).

Questions to Prepare for the Rite

BEFORE THE RITE

1. When will the Presentation be celebrated?

The Rite is preferably celebrated at a weekday parish Mass in the third week of Lent (see RCIA 157). It could also take place at the catechetical session within a Liturgy of the Word.

2. How will you inform the parish that this Rite will be taking place?

Announcements could be made for several weeks before the Rite at all Masses and communicated in other ways (e.g., in the bulletin, on a website, at parish meetings, etc.). On the day of the Rite, the coordinator or celebrant could make a brief announcement before the Rite begins.

3. Who will participate in the Presentation?

In addition to the elect, uncatechized candidates may participate in this Rite.

4. Where will the elect and their godparents, and the candidates and their sponsors, be seated?

It might be helpful to seat each group on different sides of the center aisle or in different pews.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

5. Which readings will be proclaimed? If at a weekday Mass, how will the lectors and homilist be informed?

Specific readings are suggested for this Rite (see RCIA 58), which replace the weekday readings.

PRESENTATION OF THE CREED

6. Where will the elect and candidates stand when they are called forward (RCIA 160)?

In their pews? At the front of the church? Down the center aisle?

7. Which Creed will be used?

You may use the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed.

8. If the Rite is celebrated at a Mass, how will the assembly know to join the celebrant in reciting the Creed?

The Rite instructs the assembly to join the celebrant but no specific text is given. A sentence such as, "After I begin the Creed, I invite the rest of the assembly to join me" would suffice. If the Rite is celebrated at a catechetical session, the catechist and team members may be invited to join the recitation.

9. Will the elect and candidates receive a copy of the Creed?

Though there is no explicit instruction in the Rite, a copy of the Creed may be given to the elect and candidates. If feasible, pre-printed, frameable copies can be purchased by the parish for this purpose.

10. How will the Creed be given to the elect and candidates?

The celebrant or other minister could say the following sentence or other similar words while presenting the Creed to each person: "This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. May you be proud to profess it in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

PRAYER OVER THE ELECT (AND CANDIDATES)

11. How will the candidates be included in this prayer?

If candidates participate in this Rite, you will need to modify the prayer in RCIA 161 to include them.

DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT

12. Will the elect be dismissed? Will the candidates be invited to join them?

Where will they go? Who will lead the Reflection on the Word session?

Checklist

- Reserved pews
- Script for presider, musicians, etc.
- Worship aid for the congregation (handout explaining the Rite and/or with desired liturgical responses)
- Lectionary prepared with the readings
- Copies of the Creed to present to the elect (and candidates)