

LITURGY PREPARATION FOR THE

Scrutinies

(for the Unbaptized Elect Only)

(see RCIA 141-146)

For the 1st Scrutiny see RCIA 50ff.

For the 2nd Scrutiny see RCIA 164ff.

For the 3rd Scrutiny see RCIA 171ff.

Questions to Prepare for the Rite

BEFORE THE RITE

1. When will the Scrutinies be celebrated?

At a different Mass each week, or at the same Mass?

2. How will you inform the parish that these Rites 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. Where will the elect and their godparents be seated?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

4. Which readings will be proclaimed? How will the lector(s) and homilist be informed?

The readings from Year A are recommended for the Mass at which these Rites are celebrated, even if it is Year B or C. Some parishes choose to use these readings at all Masses each year.

INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER

5. Where will the candidates stand for the Rite?

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

6. What liturgical actions, if any, will you incorporate into the Rite?

Will the elect and their godparents remain in their pews or will they go to another location in the church? Will they kneel or stand with bowed heads (see RCIA 152)?

7. Will you compose a text for the celebrant to use to address the assembly and elect?

Though the Rite directs that this take place, no specific text is given (see RCIA 152).

8. How long will the celebrant allow for silent prayer?

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE ELECT

9. Which intercessions will you use: Option “A” or “B” or a combination?

Only the “B” intercessions incorporate images from the Year A Gospel reading.

10. Will you write intercessions that take into account the specific needs of the elect?

If so, invite the elect to name specific needs at a time of reflection and prayer prior to the Scrutiny, then use these to write additional intercessions for this Rite.

11. How and when will you present the intercessions?

The intercessions for the elect may be offered, then additional general intercessions may be offered after the elect are dismissed. Or all may be offered at this time.

EXORCISM

12. Which option will you use for the exorcism, “A” or “B”?

Both options incorporate images from the Year A Gospel reading.

13. How and where will the laying on of hands take place?

Will the elect come to the celebrant or will he go to them?

14. Will you sing a psalm to conclude the Rite?

See the final rubric of RCIA 154 for suggestions.

DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT

15. Will you dismiss the elect? Will the candidates be invited to join them?

Where will they go? Who will lead them in reflecting on the Scriptures and ritual of the Scrutiny?

Checklist

- Reserved pews
- Worship aid for the congregation (handout explaining the Rite and/or with desired liturgical responses)
- Intercessions for lector
- Script for presider, musicians, etc.
- Lectionary prepared with correct readings (Year A or other)