



OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
330 WYOMING AVENUE
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503

January 2021

Christian Initiation Coordinator Memo

Below please find important dates for the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion for 2021. **Please take the time to read through all of this information carefully as it contains adjustments in how the Rite of Election will be celebrated because of the pandemic.** This will be the only electronic communication prior to registration.

Because of the current pandemic, there will be **three** celebrations of the Rite of Election to safely accommodate all of catechumens and candidates who are preparing for the Sacraments in Initiation at Easter. **The Rite of Election will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. and at 1:30 p.m., and on Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.** at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, located at 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. For the sake of meeting safety protocols, the assignment of parishes to each celebration will be completed once we have your registrations.

Friday, January 29, 2021

Deadline to submit all names of catechumens and candidates for the *Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates*

Saturday, February 20, 2021

at 10:00AM & 1:30PM

and

Rite of Election of Catechumens

and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates

Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton

Sunday, February 21, 2021

at 2:30PM

Those individuals who will be baptized as well as those who will be admitted into full communion with the Catholic Church are invited to be present for the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion. Because of social distancing requirements in the Cathedral, only parish RCIA coordinators, catechumens, candidates and godparents/sponsors may attend the Rite of Election. Other parish RCIA team members are not to attend. Because of the health crisis, one parish representative (proxy) may act as a godparent/sponsor for all of your catechumens and candidates. All diocesan COVID-19 safety protocols, including wearing face masks, will be required at the Rite of Election.

Catechumens, Godparents, Parish RCIA Coordinators, Candidates and Sponsors should arrive at the Cathedral **thirty minutes before the start of the celebration.**

RITE OF ELECTION

All Pastors are expected to send **Adult Catechumens**, those who have completed their 18th year and older, to the Cathedral for the *Rite of Election*. Participation in the *Rite of Election* by those 18 years of age and younger is optional (see *RCIA*, 227)

- **Because of the safety protocols, catechumens will need to inscribe their names in the parish Book of the Elect before this year's celebration of the Rite of Election.** Therefore, it is strongly recommended that each parish celebrate the *Rite of Sending* for catechumens and candidates prior to the *Celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates*. While the candidates will not be called by name at the Cathedral (only by Parish), the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults allows for the candidates to be called by name during a separate Rite in the parish. (Please refer to Ritual #537 and #540, "Parish Celebration for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop.")
- Please remember that **this is a Liturgy of the Word**, not a Eucharistic celebration. Attendance at the *Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates* does not fulfill the Sunday obligation.
- The solemnity of this occasion should be reflected in the choice of attire. Recreational attire is not appropriate.
- Arrangements have been made for the parking lot on the Linden Street side of the Cathedral to be open that weekend. The parking lot between the Chancery and the Diocesan Pastoral Center on Wyoming Avenue will also be available for parking.
- **ONLY** RCIA Coordinators who have catechumens report to the Diocesan Pastoral Center 45 minutes prior for a review of the procedure for the presentation of names during the Rite.
- If you have NO catechumens, you may go directly to the Cathedral. **It is not necessary for the catechumens themselves to come to the Diocesan Pastoral Center; they may go directly to the Cathedral.**
- Please bring with you your copy of the "Script" that will be emailed to you for the purpose of presenting the catechumens to the Bishop.

SEATING

- There will be reserved seating for the catechumens/candidates and their godparents/sponsor. Diocesan Staff will be happy to assist them.
- The godparent is to sit in proximity of the catechumen, but must observe social distancing if they are not of the same household.
- Candidates and their sponsors, may sit anywhere behind the reserved section.
- The sponsor of the candidate will sit in proximity of the candidate, but appropriate social distancing must be maintained if they are not of the same household.
- Coordinators who will be presenting catechumens to the Bishop will have a reserved seat in the side pews of the Cathedral.
- **There will be reserved seating for wheelchair users and deaf catechumens. Please indicate special needs on the catechumen form.**

BOOK OF THE ELECT

- The signing of the Book of the Elect is indicative of Election for Baptism; therefore, the already baptized do not sign it.
- **Because catechumens will not be signing the Book of the Elect during the Rite of Election this year, they will need to sign it prior to the celebration, preferably at the parish Rite of Sending.**
- Parishes with catechumens will need to procure their own Book of the Elect.

CALLING OF NAMES

- **Coordinators, if you have catechumens, you will be the person to present the name(s) of your catechumens to the Bishop. If you are not comfortable with this role, please designate a person in your place.**
- Coordinators who have catechumens report to the Diocesan Pastoral Center 45 minutes prior for a review of the procedure for the presentation of names during the Rite.
- If you have NO catechumens, you may go directly to the Cathedral.
- **Coordinators with catechumens will NOT be participating in the Entrance Procession this year. Coordinators will proceed from the Diocesan Pastoral Center over to the Cathedral to their reserved pews before the Rite of Election begins.**
- If a baptized Catholic is being confirmed by the pastor and is in attendance at the Rite of Election, he/she stands with the rest of the candidates when the name of the parish is called.

REGISTRATION

- All information with regard to the 2021 *Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates* will be handled electronically.
- Complete and submit the Parish Participation Form on the Diocesan Website under Parish Life and Mass Times/Christian Initiation Resources (Use the same Participation Form for both Catechumens and Candidates.)
- After submitting the forms, expect to receive an email confirming that the Office for Parish Life has received your forms.

Please register online no later than January 29, 2021.

REMINDERS

- All information with regard to the 2021 *Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates* will be handled electronically.
- The Call to Continuing Conversion is meant for adults (not children) who are baptized and will be received into Full Communion. This Rite is also appropriate for adult Catholics who are baptized but uncatechized.
- Please share this information with your catechumens and candidates.
- Catechumens, godparents, RCIA coordinators, candidates and sponsors should arrive at the Cathedral **thirty minutes before the start of the celebration**.