

Initiation of Adults Apart from the Easter Vigil

Office of Catechetics

What if we have only elect?

If you have only elect, then you follow RCIA 218-233. The English translation has on top of the page the words "Easter Vigil," but they are not part of the typical edition. This section tells you how to initiate unbaptized adults on any day.

What if we have only baptized candidates?

If you have only baptized candidates, then you follow the Rite of Reception beginning at 487.

What if we have both elect and baptized candidates?

If it's a combined group, then you start at RCIA 566, which is probably the section you know the best. This section was stitched into the USA edition; it does not exist in the typical edition. Although it says "Easter Vigil", the same structure applies on other days.¹

See the Roman Missal for Ritual Masses "For the Conferral of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation," particularly #3 "For the Conferral of Baptism." The Lectionary, too, provides readings for "Baptism apart from Easter Vigil" (nos. 751-755). Outside of the Easter Season, you are also permitted to draw from one of the Old Testament readings from Easter Vigil (see rubric at 751)

It also depends on the rank of the liturgical day.

You would never change the readings or orations on

- · Pentecost or its Vigil,
- nor on a Sunday of the Easter Season.

You may wish to consult the "Table of Liturgical Days According to their Order of Precedence" at #59 in "Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar."

On a Sunday in Ordinary Time, you have options.

On a weekday in Ordinary Time you have even greater flexibility.

Candidates may be received into full Communion nearly any Sunday of the year.

The Lectionary advises that "readings, responsorial psalms, and verses before the Gospel may be taken in whole or in part from

- the Mass of the Day, or
- from the Mass for the Unity of Christians (nos. 867-871), or
- from the Mass for Christian Unity (nos. 751-755), or
- from the following" (cf. nos. 761-763).

1 |Page