



## Gathering Rite

### Gathering song

**Procession from the Narthex:** Cross, Lectionary, Presenter of Catechumens and Candidates, Pastors, Presider

**Presider:** Words of welcome by Presider

### **Presider: Opening Prayer**

*Father, through our observance of Lent, help us to understand the meaning of your Son's death and resurrection, and teach us to reflect it in our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.*

## Liturgy of the Word

**Liturgy of the Word as per First Sunday in Lent**

**Presider:** Homily

## Rite of Election

**Presenter:** *(from the lectern)*

*Easter is drawing near, and so these catechumens, whom I now present to you, are completing their period of preparation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example. Now they ask that after the celebration of the scrutinies, they be allowed to participate in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.*

**Presider:** *Those who are to be chosen in Christ, come forward as your names are called, together with your godparents.*

(One by one the catechumens with their godparents are called by name. Each catechumen, accompanied by godparent(s) and pastor/deacon, comes up into the sanctuary and stands on either side of the sanctuary before the presider.)

**Presenter** precedes the name of each group of catechumens, in alphabetical order by parish, with:

*From the parish of (Name of parish), with the pastor/deacon (Name of pastor/deacon) (Name of catechumen)*

## Affirmation by the Godparents and the assembly

### The Presider addresses the godparents

**Presider:** *Godparents I invite you to place your hand on the shoulder of your catechumen as a sign of your support.*

**Presider:** *God's holy Church wishes to know whether these catechumens are sufficiently prepared to be enrolled among the elect for the coming celebration of Easter.*

**Presider:** *And so I speak first of all to the godparents.  
Have they faithfully listened to God's word proclaimed by the Church?*

**Godparents:** *They have.*

**Presider:** *Have they responded to that word and begun to walk in God's presence?*

**Godparents:** *They have.*

**Presider:** *Have they shared the company of their Christian brothers and sisters and joined with them in prayer?*

**Godparents:** *They have.*

**Presider:** *And you, members of the assembly who have journeyed with these people in the various parishes of the archdiocese, is it your opinion that these men and women who stand before us are worthy to be admitted to the sacraments of Christian initiation?*

**Assembly responds:** *Yes, it is.*

## Initiation and Enrollment of Names

**Presider:** *And now my dear catechumens, I address you. Your own godparents and teachers and this entire community have spoken in your favour. The Church in the name of Christ accepts their judgment and calls you to the Easter sacraments.  
Since you have already heard the call of Christ, you must now express your response to that call clearly and in the presence of the whole Church.  
Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist?*

**Catechumens:** *We do.*

**Presider:** *Then offer your names for enrollment.*

**Enrollment takes place. - song of blessing**

The **Book of the Elect** is already placed on a credence table by the altar, in the sanctuary. **Presenter** motions for the catechumens to come and sign and then return to their original position in the sanctuary.

## Act of Admission or Election

After all the elect have signed the book, the presenter brings it forward to the **presider** so that he may see the signatures and declare:

**Presider:** *I now declare you to be members of the elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil.*

**Catechumens:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Presider:** *God is always faithful to those he calls: now it is your duty, as it is ours, both to be faithful to him in return and to strive courageously to reach the fullness of truth, which your election opens up before you.*

The **presider** then addresses the godparents and instructs them in the following or similar words.

**Presider:** *Godparents, you have spoken in favour of these catechumens: accept them now as chosen in the Lord and continue to sustain them through your loving care and example, until they come to share in the sacraments of God's life.*

**Presider:** *The elect and their godparents may now return to their places in the assembly.*

A **hymn** or refrain of the blessing song may be sung as the catechumens return to their places.

## Candidates Presented to Presider

(One by one the candidates with their sponsors are called by name. Each candidate, accompanied by sponsor(s) and pastor/deacon, comes up into the sanctuary and stands on either side of the sanctuary before the presider.)

**Presenter:** *Candidates, as I call your name, will you please come forward together with your sponsor*

Presenter precedes the name of each group of candidates, in alphabetical order by parish, with:

*From the parish of (Name of parish), with the pastor/deacon (Name of pastor/deacon), (Name of candidate)*

**Presenter:** *I present to you the candidates who seek to complete their Christian initiation. They have already been baptized and they too have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example. Now they ask, that after this Lenten season, they be admitted to Confirmation and the Eucharist.*

### Affirmation by the Sponsors

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**Presider:** *Sponsors I invite you to place your hand on the shoulder of your candidate as a sign of your support.*

**Presider:** *My dear friends, these candidates, our brothers and sisters, have asked to be able to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Those who know them have judged them to be sincere in their desire. During the period of their preparation they have reflected of the mystery of their baptism and have come to appreciate more deeply the presence of Christ in their lives. They have shared the company of their brothers and sisters, joined with them in prayer, and endeavored to follow Christ's commands more perfectly.  
And so, I am pleased to recognize their desire to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church. I ask their sponsors now to state their opinion, so that all of you may hear.*

**Presider:** *Sponsors, do you consider these candidates ready to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?*

**Sponsors:** *We do.*

**Presider:** *Dear candidates, the Church has recognized your desire to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and to have a place at Christ's Eucharistic table. Join with us this Lent in a spirit of repentance. Hear the Lord's call to conversion and be faithful to your baptismal covenant.*

**Candidates:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Presider:** *Sponsors, continue to support these candidates with your guidance and concern. May they see in you a love for the Church and a sincere desire for doing good. Lead them this Lent to the joys of the Easter mysteries.*

**Presider returns to his chair and presenter gives gesture to return to place.**

## Intercessions

**Presider:** *My brothers and sisters, in beginning this period of Lent, we look forward to celebrating at Easter the life-giving mysteries of our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. These elect and candidates, whom we bring with us to the Easter sacraments, will look to us for an example of Christian renewal. Let us pray to the Lord for them and for ourselves, that we may be renewed by one another's efforts and together come to share the joys of Easter.*

**Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**LP:** That together we may fruitfully employ this Lenten season to renew ourselves through prayer, self-denial and works of holiness, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**LP:** May our catechumens always remember this day of their election and be grateful for the

blessings they have received from heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**LP:** May our candidates preparing for confirmation and Eucharist grow daily in fidelity to their baptismal covenant, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**LP:** May their teachers always convey the beauty of God's word to those who search for it, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Réponse :** *Seigneur, entends notre prière.*

**LP :** Pour que leurs parrains et marraines soient des exemples vivants du message de l'Évangile, prions le Seigneur.

**Réponse :** *Seigneur, entends notre prière.*

**LP :** Pour que leurs familles les aident à suivre l'appel de l'Esprit Saint, prions le Seigneur.

**Réponse :** *Seigneur, entends notre prière.*

**LP :** Pour que ceux et celles qui n'ont pas encore vaincu leur hésitation, puissent se fier au Christ et se joindre à notre communauté de frères et sœurs, prions le Seigneur.

**Réponse :** *Seigneur, entends notre prière.*

**LP :** Et pour que notre assemblée dans cette période de carême puisse croître dans la charité et la prière constante, Prions le Seigneur.

**Réponse :** *Seigneur, entends notre prière.*

## Prayer over the Elect and the Candidates

Presider, with hands outstretched over the elect and candidates in the assembly prays:

**Presider** *Lord God, You created the human race and are the author of its renewal. Bless all your adopted children and add these chosen ones to the harvest of your new covenant. As true children of the promise, may they rejoice in eternal life, won, not by the power of nature, but through the mystery of your grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

**Assembly:** *Amen*

**Presenter:** *Announcements*

**Presider:** *Go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always*

**Assembly:** *Thanks be to God*

**Recessional hymn**