

RITE OF ELECTION

INVITATION

The Rite of Election is **only for Catechumens**: unbaptized adults and unbaptized children of catechetical age. All others are welcome to attend as **guests**.

Note: *This liturgy does **not** include the celebration of the Eucharist.*

WHEN:

Sunday, February 18, at 2:30pm
(Catechumens and sponsors, please arrive at **1:15pm** in the Cathedral Hall)

WHERE:

St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Adelaide

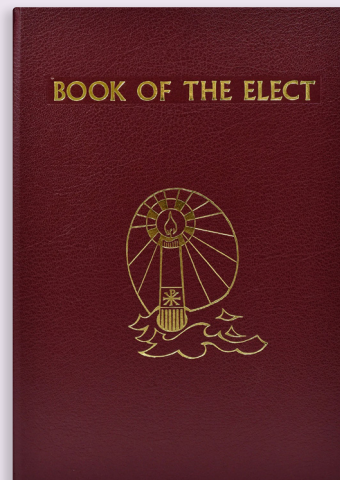
BOOK OF THE ELECT

NEW! Catechumens will sign the Book of the Elect at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

Following the rite, we encourage parishes to place the Book of the Elect in a prominent place in the church, e.g. near the baptismal font or ambry.

Note: *The Archbishop does not sign the book even though some publishers include a line for this purpose.*

You can order a Book of the Elect from either of these publishers:



St Pauls

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER](#)



Garratt Publishing

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER](#)

INCLUDED IN THIS PACKAGE

- Information for Coordinators
- Liturgical Instructions for Coordinators
- Dismissal to the Rite of Election
- Understanding and Explaining the Rite of Election

REGISTRATION

- Register **online at our website** by **Feb 5, 2024**.
- For assistance with registration contact:

Community Life and Worship

P: 8210 8130

E: worship@adelaide.catholic.org.au

DISMISSAL

Since the names will be called and the Book of the Elect will be signed at the Rite of Election, **the Dismissal to the Rite of Election is optional**. A ritual template is attached in this package.

INFORMATION FOR COORDINATORS

ARRIVAL

- Bring with you:
 - > the UNSIGNED Book of the Elect from your parish
 - > a list of catechumens' names
- Come to St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Hall, 39 Wakefield St., Adelaide SA 5000
- Please arrive at 1:15pm to meet with the archbishop, the liturgy begins at 2:30pm
- When you move into the cathedral, identify yourself to the head usher. People will be seated based on whether they are PARTICIPANTS or GUESTS. Please prepare your group accordingly to assist the ushers with the seating process.

SEATING

- **PARTICIPANTS:** Will have **assigned seating**

- > coordinator
- > person with the Book of the Elect, if separate from the coordinator
- > catechumens
- > godparents

Note: *The person with the Book of the Elect **cannot** also be a godparent.*

- **GUESTS:**

- > other team members
- > clergy
- > friends
- > family
- > previously baptized candidates for initiation

- Seat the catechumens in the order in which they will sign the Book of the Elect
- Seat godparents next to their catechumen
- Be sure that all PARTICIPANTS have a worship aid so that they can easily respond

LITURGICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COORDINATORS

Please read these instructions to prepare yourself and the catechumens.

- The coordinator and the person with the Book of the Elect may be the same person or two people. The person will be referred to in these instructions as the coordinator.
- The person with the Book of the Elect cannot be a godparent because the roles require simultaneous action in different parts of the church.
- The questions and responses are here for you to prepare catechumens and godparents. They will also be printed in the worship aid. Please prepare all to respond in a confident voice.

RITE OF ELECTION

The Rite of Election follows the homily. Send only catechumens to this rite.

PRESENTATION OF THE CATECHUMENS

The coordinator with the names will be seated at the end of the pew near the centre aisle. An usher will direct the coordinators to the microphone starting with the last pew first.

Archbishop: Those who are to be chosen in Christ, please stand when your name is called.

Coordinator: Archbishop Pat, I present to you from (name of parish) our catechumens:

The coordinator will present the names of the catechumens. Each catechumen will stand when called. Only name those present. Each coordinator will return to their seat after presenting the names. The catechumens remain standing. Once the catechumens from all parishes have been presented by name the godparents will be invited to stand as well and the archbishop will question them.

Archbishop: Have they faithfully listened to God's word proclaimed by the Church?

Godparents: **Yes, they have.**

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

Godparents: **Yes, they have.**

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

Godparents: **Yes, they have.**

The godparents will be asked to sit. The archbishop will then question the catechumens.

Archbishop: Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the eucharist?

Catechumens: **Yes, we do.**

Once the catechumens have affirmed their wish to enter into the Church the archbishop invites them to offer their names for enrollment.

ENROLLMENT OF NAMES

As directed by the ushers, the coordinator will place the Book of the Elect on the table and stand behind the table. The catechumens of that parish will inscribe their names in the book one by one. Catechumens will go back to their seats immediately after signing. Once that parish is finished the coordinator will stand as directed holding open the book. The choir will be singing during this time.

ACT OF ADMISSION OR ELECTION

Once all names are enrolled the archbishop declares the catechumens members of the elect.

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

Elect: **Thanks be to God.**

The coordinators holding the Book of the Elect return to their seats. Then the archbishop instructs the elect and the godparents. He will ask the godparents to place their hand on the shoulder of the elect. The intercessions and prayer over the elect follow.

CONCLUDING RITES

The bishop will use the pontifical blessing.

Archbishop: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Archbishop: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

All: **Now and forever.**

Archbishop: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: **Who made heaven and earth.**

DISMISSAL TO THE RITE OF ELECTION

Since the catechumens will be called by name and sign the Book of the Elect at the Rite of Election at the cathedral, this parish dismissal rite is optional. It may take place at a Sunday Mass after the homily. It is only to be used with the unbaptized.

PRESENTATION OF CATECHUMENS

Catechist: Reverend Father, these catechumens are beginning their final period of preparation and purification leading to their initiation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example.

The catechumens may be called by name as they come forward.

Priest: My dear catechumens, you are being sent to the cathedral to celebrate the liturgical rite called both election and the enrollment of names, which closes the period of the catechumenate proper. This celebration marks the beginning of the period of final, more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation. On the basis of the testimony of your godparents and your own reaffirmation of your intention, the Church judges your state of readiness and decides on your advancement towards the sacraments of initiation. This step is called election because the acceptance made by the Church is founded on the election by God, in whose name the Church acts. The step is also called the enrollment of names because as a pledge of fidelity you inscribe your names in the book that lists those who have been chosen for initiation.

PRAYER OVER CATECHUMENS

The priest extends his hands and prays over the catechumens.

Priest: Let us pray.
Father of love and power,
it is your will to establish everything in Christ
and to draw us into his all-embracing love.
Guide these catechumens
in the days and weeks ahead:
strengthen them in their vocation,
building them into the kingdom of your Son,
and seal them with the Spirit of your promise.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

If the catechumens are to be dismissed immediately to the Rite of Election:

Priest: My dear friends,
you are about to set out on the road that leads to the glory of Easter.
Christ will be your way, your truth, and your life.
In his name we send you forth from this community
to celebrate with the archbishop the Lord's choice of you
to be numbered among his elect.
Until we meet again for the scrutinies, walk always in his peace.

All: Amen.

The catechumens leave the sanctuary.

If you have any other catechumens or candidates in an ongoing process who should be dismissed for the breaking open of word, invite them to come forward now for dismissal.

Priest: Would our other catechumens and candidates please come forward.
My friends, I invite you to go in peace to discover anew the great deeds of the Lord.

All: Amen.

The catechumens and candidates leave the sanctuary with their catechist.

If the catechumens and candidates are staying for Mass:

Priest: My brothers and sisters,
although you cannot yet participate fully in the eucharist,
stay with us as a sign of our hope
that you will soon be one with us
at the Lord's table.

All: Amen.

Mass continues as usual with the Creed and Universal Prayer.

You may include this intention in The Universal Prayer:

For our catechumens, who are about to enter a period of purification and enlightenment ahead of their baptism and for our candidates, already baptized and entering a period of Lenten preparation to be received into full communion in the Catholic Church, Lord hear us.

WHAT IS THE RITE OF ELECTION?

The Rite of Election is about being chosen by God to become a disciple of Jesus Christ through baptism. In this ritual, the Church chooses those who have the dispositions that make them fit to take part in the sacraments of initiation. Before the Rite of Election, the godparents, catechists, and entire community arrive at a judgement about the catechumens' formation and progress in the Christian life. In the liturgy they present the catechumens by name and give testimony about the catechumens' readiness. The catechumens themselves then express their intention to receive the sacraments of initiation and live as disciples.

With these testimonies the Church, presided over by the bishop, makes its "election" and invites the catechumens to offer their names for enrollment. One by one they inscribe their names as "a pledge of fidelity" in the Book of the Elect. The bishop then announces the Church's approval of them saying: I now declare you to be members of the elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil. From this day until they receive the sacraments of initiation those who were catechumens are now called "the elect".

UNDERSTANDING THE SHAPE OF THE RITE

THE TESTIMONY

- a. *Presentation.* The testimony begins with the presentation, by name, of those who are preparing for baptism.
- b. *Questioning.* Next, the bishop himself questions the godparents of the catechumens as to whether they have been listening to God's Word, walking in God's presence, and joining with the community in prayer. Then he asks the catechumens themselves if they wish to fully enter the life of the Church through the sacraments of initiation.
- c. *Affirmation.* The catechumens respond by affirming their intention. Therefore, the bishop invites them to offer their names for enrollment.

THE ENROLLMENT

- a. *Enrollment of Names.* As a pledge of fidelity, the catechumens come forward and inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect.
- b. *Election.* Through the bishop, the Church makes its "election" of those who are to take part in the sacraments of initiation. The bishop declares the catechumens to be members of the elect and instructs them "to strive courageously to reach the fullness of truth".
- c. *Instruction of the Godparents.* The bishop instructs the godparents to sustain the elect through their care and example.
- d. *Intercessions.* As a sign of support, the godparents place their hand on the shoulder of the elect in their care and the Church prays that the elect and all members will be renewed by their Lenten efforts and come together to share in the joys of Easter.
- e. *Prayer over the Elect.* On behalf of the Church, the bishop prays over the elect.
- f. *Dismissal.* The elect are dismissed to follow Christ on the road to Easter.

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

The Rite of Election closes the period of the catechumenate and begins the final period of intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation. The period between the Rite of Election and the Easter Vigil is known as the Period of Purification and Enlightenment. It is to be a time of intense spiritual preparation for the elect. The time for catechesis has ended so the elect now join with the entire Christian community in fruitfully employing the Lenten season to prepare for Easter. The readings, music, and prayers for the Rite of Election are generally taken from the First Sunday of Lent. The bishop urges the godparents and the entire community to be an example and support for the elect during this time and then they are surrounded by prayer before being dismissed to “set out with us on the road that leads to the glory of Easter.”

WHY SHOULD THE CATECHUMENS ATTEND?

The Rite of Election is an important rite of passage in the journey to becoming a Christian. With this rite the identity of the person preparing for baptism changes from that of a catechumen to a member of the elect. The elect have also been known as co-petitioners (*competentes*) because they are asking for the sacraments and the gift of the Holy Spirit and as *illuminandi*, those about to be enlightened! You want to impress upon the catechumens the importance of attending the Rite of Election as the proximate spiritual preparation for their initiation.

THE GRACE OF BAPTISM

As for those already baptized who are planning to make a profession of faith and/or complete their initiation at the Easter Vigil, they have already been made ready for discipleship through the dignity and grace of their baptism. These Christians have already been chosen or elected; they cannot be chosen again. Becoming Catholic is an expression of God's choice and a choice of the individual but it is not a new choice by God. The community of faith recognizes their desire to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and take their place at the Lord's table. At this time, they affirm their readiness to their election by God that took place at their baptism by joining with the whole Christian community in uniting themselves more closely to Christ and coming to know in a deeper way the power of his resurrection in us during this holy season of Lent.