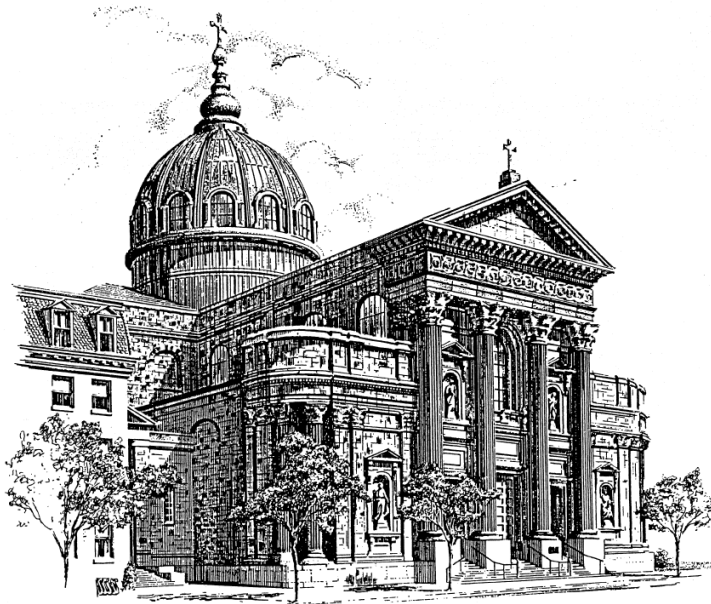

RITE *of* ELECTION
AND *of* THE CALL
to CONTINUING CONVERSION



ARCHDIOCESE *of* PHILADELPHIA
CATHEDRAL BASILICA *of* SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
AND THE SHRINE *of* SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

FIRST SUNDAY *of* LENT, 2024

RITE *of* ELECTION *of* CATECHUMENS
and
***of* THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION *of* CANDIDATES**
WHO ARE PREPARING *for* CONFIRMATION AND/OR EUCHARIST
OR RECEPTION INTO THE FULL COMMUNION
of THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, the Archbishop of Philadelphia, assembles all of us today in the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul and the Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel. He does so as our chief shepherd and teacher of the faith with many priests, deacons and faithful of our local church. This is a celebration of the Church!

We come from so many of the parish communities throughout the Archdiocese with our godparents and sponsors to hear the holy Word of God on this First Sunday of Lent. This saving Word has formed and guided us in the Catholic Faith with its promise of divine life celebrated in the Sacraments.

Today's celebration begins a new period for the Elect, the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, with its scrutinies and presentations of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer, with its prayer and penance, to ready the Elect for full immersion into Christ's Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist at the great Easter Vigil.

Today's celebration gives fresh meaning to this Lenten season for all of the Candidates, those already baptized, looking forward to completing Christian Initiation with Easter Time. This Lent, as for all Christians indeed, inspired by the commitment and perseverance of the Elect, calls each of us to deeper communion with Christ as we turn away from sin and seek to live more fully his Gospel in the Church.

Let us enter into the mystery of this Sunday celebration of the Rite of Election and of the Call to Continuing Conversion with the joy that comes from belonging to the Church, supporting one another in prayer and penance, and awaiting the splendid gifts of the Easter Sacraments.

ORDER of SERVICE / ORDEN *del* SERVICIO

INTRODUCTORY RITES / RITOS INICIALES

ENTRANCE / ENTRADA

ST. FLAVIAN

LORD, WHO THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS



1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days, For us did fast and
2. As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, And did the vic - t'ry
3. As you did hun - ger bear and thirst, So teach us, gra-cious
4. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through your Pas-sion-
5. A - bide with us that when this life Of suf - fer - ing is



1. pray, Teach us with you to mourn our sins, And close by you to stay.
2. win, O give us strength in you to fight, In you to con-quer sin.
3. Lord, To die to self, and al - ways live By your most ho - ly word.
4. tide, For - ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
5. past, An Ea-ster of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last!

Text: CM; Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898, alt. Music: *The Whole Psalmes in Foure Partes*, 1563, alt.

SIGN of THE CROSS AND GREETING / SEÑAL de LA CRUZ Y SALUDO

COLLECT / ORACIÓN COLECTA

LITURGY of THE WORD / LITURGIA *de* LA PALABRA

FIRST READING / PRIMERA LECTURA

GENESIS 9: 8-15

GÉNESIS 9, 8-15

Translation:

En aquellos días, dijo Dios a Noé y a sus hijos: “Ahora establezco una alianza con ustedes y con sus descendientes, con todos los animales que los acompañaron, aves, ganados y fieras, con todos los que salieron del arca, con todo ser viviente sobre la tierra. Esta es la alianza que establezco con ustedes: No volveré a exterminar la vida con el diluvio ni habrá otro diluvio que destruya la tierra”.

Y añadió: “Esta es la señal de la alianza perpetua que yo establezco con ustedes y con todo ser viviente que esté con ustedes. Pondré mi arco iris en el cielo como señal de mi alianza con la tierra, y cuando yo cubra de nubes la tierra, aparecerá el arco iris y me acordaré de mi alianza con ustedes y con todo ser viviente. No volverán las aguas del diluvio a destruir la vida”.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM / SALMO RESPONSORIAL

PSALM 25 / SALMO 24

LUKE MAYERNIK



Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your cov-e-nant.

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Verses translation:

Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; Teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me, For you are God my savior.

Recuerda, Señor, que tu ternura y tu misericordia son eternas.

Acuérdate de mí con misericordia, por tu bondad, Señor.

Good and upright is the Lord, Thus he shows sinners the way.

He guides the humble to justice, And he teaches the humble his way.

SEGUNDA LECTURA / SECOND READING

1 PEDRO 3, 18-22

1 PETER 3: 18-22

Translation:

Beloved:

Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water. This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

Lector: Palabra de Dios.

All: Te alabamos, Señor.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE *the* GOSPEL

JUAN SOSA



A-la - ban-za a ti, O Cris - to, Rey de e-ter - na glo-ria.

(Praise to you, O Christ, king of endless glory.)

*One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Translation:

En aquel tiempo, el Espíritu impulsó a Jesús a retirarse al desierto, donde permaneció cuarenta días y fue tentado por Satanás. Vivió allí entre animales salvajes, y los ángeles le servían.

Después de que arrestaron a Juan el Bautista, Jesús se fue a Galilea para predicar el Evangelio de Dios y decía: "Se ha cumplido el tiempo y el Reino de Dios ya está cerca. Arrepíentanse y crean en el Evangelio".

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

CELEBRATION of ELECTION / CELEBRACIÓN *de* LA ELECCIÓN

Presentation of Catechumens / Presentación *de* los Catecúmenos

The catechumens are presented to the Archbishop.

Affirmation / Afirmación

The Archbishop questions the godparents three times as to the readiness of the catechumens to be elected for the Easter Sacraments.

Godparents respond each time: *They have.*

The Archbishop questions the assembly's intention to support the testimony concerning the Catechumens' readiness and to include them in prayer as Easter approaches.

Assembly responds: *We are.*

Invitation and Enrollment of Names / Invitación e Incripción *de* los Nombres

The Archbishop asks the catechumens if they wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

Catechumens respond: *We do.*

The Archbishop then invites the catechumens to offer their names for enrollment. The Books of the Elect from each parish, containing the names of the catechumens, are now carried in procession and presented to the Archbishop.

PROCESSIONAL SONG / CANTO PROCESIONALES

PSALM 16 / SALMO 15

JAMES J. CHEPPONIS

Lord, you will show us the path of life; you will
show us that path of life.

Music: James J. Chepponis © 1984 World Library Publications, Inc.

ACT of ADMISSION OR ELECTION / ACTO de ADMISIÓN O ELECCIÓN

Turning to the catechumens, the Archbishop declares them members of the elect.

Archbishop: 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.***

Arzobispo: Ahora los declaro miembros de los elegidos para ser iniciados en los sagrados misterios durante la próxima Vigilia Pascual.

Elegidos: ***Demos gracias a Dios.***

The Archbishop continues addressing the newly elected, and their godparents encouraging them in their fidelity to the Lord and preparation for the Sacraments.

**CELEBRATION of THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION /
CELEBRACIÓN de LLAMADO A LOS CANDIDATOS
A LA CONVERSIÓN CONTINUA**

PRESENTATION of THE CANDIDATES / PRESENTACIÓN de LOS CANDIDATOS

The candidates are presented to the Archbishop.

AFFIRMATION / AFIRMACIÓN

The Archbishop questions the sponsors four times concerning the readiness of the candidates.

The Sponsors respond each time: *They have.*

The Archbishop questions the assembly's intention to support the testimony concerning the candidates' readiness and to include them in prayer as Easter approaches.

The Assembly responds: *We are.*

ACT of RECOGNITION / ACTO de RECONOCIMIENTO

The Archbishop recognizes the candidates' desire to be sealed with the Holy Spirit and participate in Eucharistic Communion. He invites them to continue their journey of conversion.

Archbishop: Candidates, the Church recognizes 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.*

Arzobispo: La Iglesia reconoce el deseo de ustedes de ser sellados el don del Espíritu Santo y de participar en la mesa eucarística de Cristo. Unanse a nosotros esta Cuaresma en un espíritu de arrepentimiento. Escuchen el llamado del Señor a la conversión y sean fieles a su alianza bautismal.

Candidatos: *Demos gracias a Dios.*

The Archbishop encourages the sponsors to continue their support of the candidates in their preparation for the Sacraments.

INTERCESSIONS *for* THE ELECT AND THE CANDIDATES /

PETER KOLAR

LAS INTERCESIONES PARA LOS ELEGIDOS Y LOS CANDIDATO

Te ro - ga - mos, ó - ye - nos. Te ro - ga - mos, ó - ye - nos.

PRAYER OVER ELECT AND CANDIDATES /

ORACIÓN SOBRE LOS ELEGIDOS Y LOS CANDIDATOS

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL / BENDICIÓN Y DESPIDO

RECESSIONAL / SALIDA

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

CRUCIFER

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim till
all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where the Mas - ter trod, our
2. Led on their way by this tri - um-phant sign, the
3. Each new - born fol - l'wer of the Cru - ci - fied bears
4. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, your
5. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise

King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
hosts of God in con - quering ranks com - bine.
on the brow the seal of him who died.
death has bought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18; George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912, and Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, alt.
Tune: CRUCIFER, 10 10 with refrain; Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947
© 1974, Hope Publishing Co.

SPECIAL INVITATION

All the newly baptized adults at the Easter Vigil (Neophytes) are cordially invited to come to a Sunday evening Mass, at 6:30, in the Cathedral Basilica, on any Sunday during Easter Time.

Christian Initiation Information 2024

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Office for Divine Worship has the responsibility for direction, guidance and support of pastors and those who collaborate with them in the formation of adults for Christian Initiation. Additional information on Christian Initiation for adults can be found on the website for the **Office for Divine Worship**, under the heading *Christian Initiation*.

LENTEN RETREAT OPPORTUNITY

An Archdiocesan RCIA Day of Reflection for Adults in Sacramental Formation will take place at the Malvern Retreat House, Malvern PA on Saturday, March 23, 2024. Christian Initiation Coordinators are encouraged to take advantage of this retreat opportunity.

CELEBRATION OF THE SCRUTINIES AND PRESENTATIONS OF THE CREED AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rites belonging to the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, RCIA nos. 138-205, found in the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, are to be carefully observed for the Elect. Any questions regarding these rites may be directed to the Office for Divine Worship.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE EASTER VIGIL

Time of the Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil should not begin before nightfall. It may be helpful to know that sunset, according to the US Naval Observatory Astronomical Applications Department, occurs at 7:23 PM on March 30, 2024.

In accord with the US National Statutes for the Catechumenate (November, 11, 1986) no. 33, Archbishop Pérez asks that you note:

Only the adult elect, that is, the unbaptized catechumens elected at the Rite of Election, are to be fully initiated with Baptism, Confirmation and reception of the Body and Blood of the Lord at the Solemn Paschal Vigil, according to the rites outlined in the Roman Missal. Children may also be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

Baptized non-Catholic Christians are to be received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday or any Sunday of Easter Time. In fact, this reception can take place almost any time during the Church Year according to the rite outlined in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (cf. RCIA, nos. 473-504). No additional permission is required for this Reception of Baptized Christians in the Full Communion of the Catholic Church.

For many parishes, this practice continues to represent an innovation that requires catechesis on the dignity of Baptism and the avoidance of any confusion between candidates for Baptism and baptized Christians.

Candidates for the Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church should be encouraged to participate in the Easter Vigil, especially with a distinct place to sit among the faithful and acknowledged by the priest celebrant.

RECEPTION OF BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS INTO THE FULL COMMUNION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* allows for people baptized in another Church or ecclesial community, although never treated as catechumens, to benefit from the doctrinal and spiritual formation of the unbaptized. Additionally, the use of the Combined Rites for catechumens and candidates gives the candidates an important sense of the Sacred Liturgy and participation with the Church leading to Confirmation and Communion. However, many candidates do not require a full program parallel to the catechumenate. Therefore, the directives provided in the US National Statutes for the Catechumenate for Reception into Full Communion (nos. 30-37) should be increasingly observed.

Preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation for baptized non-Catholics are an essential element of their Reception (See RCIA, no. 482).

Reception of Candidates and Valid Baptism and Conditional Baptism

All non-Catholic Christians seeking full communion must be validly baptized. The following norm is to be observed in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia with regard to the reception of candidates into the full communion of the Catholic Church:

Baptism is the doorway to all of the Sacraments. Therefore, the sacred minister needs moral certitude that a person was baptized with the Trinitarian formula and the triple water pouring/immersion before other Sacraments are celebrated. This moral certitude requires more than the evidence of a baptismal certificate and must be the case in each individual circumstance. Such moral certitude can often be readily obtained through inquiry with the candidate. When moral certitude is lacking, a conditional Baptism is necessary (see Canon 869 and National Statutes for the Catechumenate 37).

Additional information on valid baptism and conditional baptism can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship.

CONFIRMATION FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC ADULTS

The ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation for baptized Roman Catholics is the Bishop. Typically, this occurs during the pastoral visit of the Bishop to the parish. Every effort should be made to prepare Catholic Adults for Confirmation to participate in the parish celebration with the Bishop.

Additionally, Archbishop Pérez will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024, during the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. The candidates for this sacramental celebration are baptized Roman Catholics who have been properly catechized for Confirmation (and if needed, for the reception of First Communion). Information about this celebration for pastors and those who assist with the formation and reception of the Sacraments of Initiation will be distributed by e-mail to all parish Liturgy Contacts, parish Christian Initiation Coordinators, and DRE's, and can also be found on the website of the Office for Divine Worship.

If for some serious reason, a school age baptized Roman Catholic is unable to be confirmed by the Bishop during his pastoral visit to the parish, then this candidate, with the permission of the pastor, may be presented for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday. The pastor's permission is to be included with the registration forms to be sent to the Office for Divine Worship.

A pastor who foresees the genuine pastoral need to confirm an adult baptized Roman Catholic can do so only with the specific delegation of the Bishop (see Canon 882 and *National Statutes for the Catechumenate*, nos. 28-29). Archbishop Pérez gives this faculty to all priests of the Archdiocese to confirm Roman Catholic Adults on any occasion from Palm Sunday through Pentecost Sunday. This delegation is required for the validity of the Sacrament in the case of a Roman Catholic candidate. If you have any questions about this faculty, please contact the Office for Divine Worship. There is no need for an additional letter requesting this faculty during the period specified by the Archbishop. Priests are reminded that only the 2016 revised *The Order of Confirmation* may be used to celebrate the Sacrament.

Full Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and the first reception of Communion—apart from the Easter Vigil, outside the immediate danger of death, requires the permission of the Archbishop (see RCIA, no. 331). Archbishop Pérez delegates the Office for Divine Worship to give this permission. Please contact the Office for Divine Worship for such circumstances.

REMINDERS

- Full Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and the first reception of Communion—apart from the Solemn Paschal Vigil, outside the immediate danger of death, requires the permission of the Archbishop (see RCIA, no. 331). Archbishop Pérez delegates the Office for Divine Worship to give this permission. Please contact the Office for Divine Worship for such circumstances.
- All baptized non-Catholic children over the age of seven whose parents/guardians wish for them to come into full communion with the Catholic Church do so with the rites for the *Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church* (see RCIA, nos. 473-504). So, children, baptized as non-Catholics, receive Confirmation and Communion in the same celebration when they are received into the Catholic Church. The *Profession of Faith* within the rite and the *Act of Reception* are essential elements of this rite.
- Orthodox Christians are received into full communion of the Catholic Church with a Profession of Faith (see RCIA, no. 474). For assistance in this regard, see *Admission of an Orthodox Christian into the Catholic Church in Other than their Parallel Ritual Church*:
<http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/pdf/AdmissionofOrthodoxChristian.pdf>
- Before the Rite of Welcoming the Candidates, the baptisms should be determined as valid. For assistance in this regard, see Pastoral Guidance Regarding the Conditional Baptism of Those Seeking Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church:
<http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/pdf/ConditionalBaptism.pdf>
- Invalid Marriages: Every effort should be made for all canonical impediments to the celebration of the Sacraments to be resolved before the celebration of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. For assistance in this regard, please contact the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, 215-587-3750.

RECORD KEEPING

The following registers are to be maintained diligently with regard to required information and record keeping:

- *Register of Catechumens*, after the Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (see RCIA, no. 46);
- *Book of Elect*, prior to the Rite of Election (see RCIA, no. 132);
- *Register for Baptism*, after the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (see Christian Initiation, General Introduction, no. 29);
- *Register for Full Communion of the Catholic Church* (see RCIA, no. 486).

DAY *of* REFLECTION
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
Saturday, March 23, 2024
8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Malvern Retreat House
St. Joseph's Hall - Library and Chapel
315 S. Warren Avenue
Malvern, PA 19355

*Please contact Malvern Retreat House
for more information at 610-644-0400*
