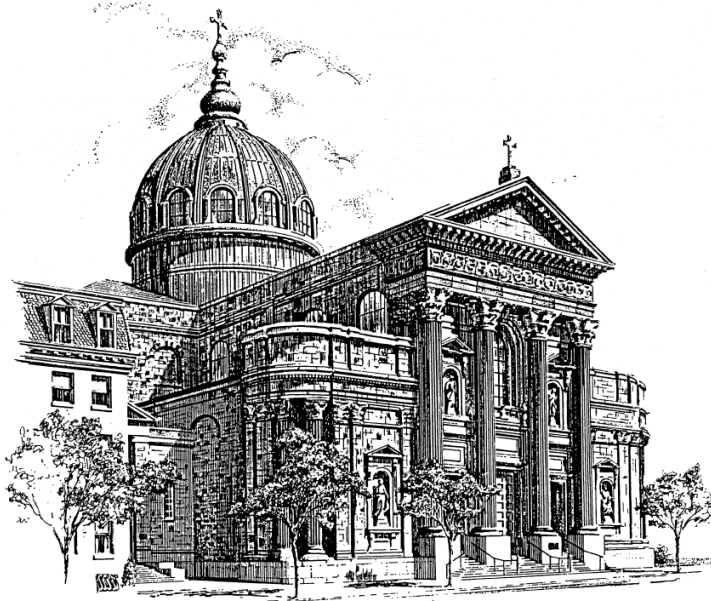

RITE *of* ELECTION *of* CATECHUMENS
AND *of* CALLING THE CANDIDATES
to CONTINUING CONVERSION



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

FIRST SUNDAY *of* LENT, 2025

**RITE of ELECTION of CATECHUMENS
and of CALLING THE CANDIDATES
TO CONTINUING CONVERSION**

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 of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates 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

DEUTERONOMY 26: 4-10

DEUTERONOMIO 26, 4-10

En aquel tiempo, dijo Moisés al pueblo: "Cuando presentes las primicias de tus cosechas, el sacerdote tomará el cesto de tus manos y lo pondrá ante el altar del Señor, tu Dios. Entonces tú dirás estas palabras ante el Señor, tu Dios:

'Mi padre fue un arameo errante, que bajó a Egipto y se estableció allí con muy pocas personas; pero luego creció hasta convertirse en una gran nación, potente y numerosa.

Los egipcios nos maltrataron, nos oprimieron y nos impusieron una dura esclavitud. Entonces clamamos al Señor, Dios de nuestros padres, y el Señor escuchó nuestra voz, miró nuestra humillación, nuestros trabajos y nuestra angustia. El Señor nos sacó de Egipto con mano poderosa y brazo protector, con un terror muy grande, entre señales y portentos; nos trajo a este país y nos dio esta tierra, que mana leche y miel. Por eso ahora yo traigo aquí las primicias de la tierra que tú, Señor, me has dado'.

Una vez que hayas dejado tus primicias ante el Señor, te postrarás ante él para adorarlo".

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM / SALMO RESPONSORIAL

PSALM 91 / SALMO 90

RONALD F. KRISMAN

A - com - pá - ña - me, Se - ñor, en la tri - bu - la - ción.
(Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.)

Letra: *Leccionario, Edición Hispanoamérica*, © 1970, 1972, Conferencia Episcopal Española; *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL
Música: Ronald F. Krisman, © 2004, GIA Publications, Inc.

*Tú que habitas al amparo del Altísimo, Que vives a la sombra del Omnipotente,
Di al Señor: "Refugio mío, alcázar mío, Dios mío, confío en ti."*

*No evil shall befall you, nor affliction come near your tent,
For to his angels he has given command about you, That they guard you in all your ways.*

*Te llevarán en sus palmas, Para que to pie no tropiece en la piedra;
Caminarás sobre áspides y víboras, Pisotearás leones y dragones.*

*Because he clings to me, I will deliver him;
I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name.
He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in distress; I will deliver him and glorify him.*

SECUNDA LECTURA/SECOND READING

**ROMANOS 10, 8-13
ROMANS 10: 8-13**

Brothers and sisters:

What does Scripture say?

The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart
—that is, the word of faith that we preach—,

for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.

For one believes with the heart and so is justified,
and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

For the Scripture says,

No one who believes in him will be put to shame.

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;

the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him.

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Lector: Palabra de Dios.

All: Te alabamos, Señor.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE the GOSPEL

JUAN A. SOSA



A - la - ban - za a ti, oh 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 Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

En aquel tiempo, Jesús, lleno del Espíritu Santo, regresó del Jordán y conducido por el mismo Espíritu, se internó en el desierto, donde permaneció durante cuarenta días y fue tentado por el demonio.

No comió nada en aquellos días, y cuando se completaron, sintió hambre. Entonces el diablo le dijo: "Si eres el Hijo de Dios, dile a esta piedra que se convierta en pan". Jesús le contestó: "Está escrito: *No sólo de pan vive el hombre*".

Después lo llevó el diablo a un monte elevado y en un instante le hizo ver todos los reinos de la tierra y le dijo: "A mí me ha sido entregado todo el poder y la gloria de estos reinos, y yo los doy a quien quiero. Todo esto será tuyo, si te arrodillas y me adoras". Jesús le respondió: "Está escrito: *Adorarás al Señor, tu Dios, y a él sólo servirás*".

Entonces lo llevó a Jerusalén, lo puso en la parte más alta del templo y le dijo: "Si eres el Hijo de Dios, arrójate desde aquí, porque está escrito: *Los ángeles del Señor tienen órdenes de cuidarte y de sostenerte en sus manos, para que tus pies no tropiecen con las piedras*". Pero Jesús le respondió: "También está escrito: *No tentarás al Señor, tu Dios*".

Concluidas las tentaciones, el diablo se retiró de él, hasta que llegara la hora.

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/Bishop.

Affirmation / Afirmación

The Archbishop/Bishop 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/Bishop 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.*

Questioning and Petitioning of the Catechumens / Pregunta y Petición de los Catecúmenos

The Archbishop/Bishop 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: *It is.*

The Archbishop/Bishop 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/Bishop.

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.

RECEPTION OR ELECTION / RECEPCIÓN O ELECCIÓN

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

Archbishop/ You have been chosen for Initiation into the sacred mysteries at
Bishop: the forthcoming Easter Vigil.

Elect: *Thanks be to God.*

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

Elegidos: *Demos gracias a Dios.*

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

CELEBRATION of THE CALLING TO CONTINUING CONVERSION /
CELEBRACIÓN de EL LLAMADO A LA CONVERSIÓN CONTINUA

PRESENTATION of THE CANDIDATES / PRESENTACIÓN de LOS CANDIDATOS
The candidates are presented to the Archbishop/Bishop.

**AFFIRMATION BY THE SPONSORS AND THE ASSEMBLY /
AFIRMACIÓN POR PARTE DE LOS PADRINOS Y DE LA ASAMBLEA**

The Archbishop/Bishop questions the Sponsors four times concerning the readiness of the candidates.

The Sponsors respond each time: *They have.*

The Archbishop/Bishop 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/Bishop 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/
Bishop: 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/
Obispo: La Iglesia reconoce su deseo de ser sellados con 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/Bishop encourages the sponsors to continue their support of the candidates in their preparation for the Sacraments.

INTERCESSIONS *for* THE ELECT AND THE CANDIDATES /
 LAS INTERCESIONES PARA LOS ELEGIDOS Y LOS CANDIDATOS

PETER KOLAR

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

DISMISSAL / 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

D.C.

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 2025

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 Day of Reflection for Adults in Sacramental Formation will take place at the Malvern Retreat House, Malvern PA on Saturday, April 12, 2025. Christian Initiation Coordinators are encouraged to take advantage of this retreat opportunity.

CELEBRATION OF THE SCRUTINIES

THE HANDING ON OF THE CREED AND THE HANDING ON OF THE LORD'S PRAYER, AND THE RITES OF IMMEDIATE PREPARATION

The Rites belonging to the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, nos. 138-205, found in the ritual book, *Order 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 7:44 PM on April 19, 2025.

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

The *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* allows for people baptized in another ecclesial community, although never treated as catechumens, to benefit from the doctrinal and spiritual formation and catechesis 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 and so their formation may be separate and distinct from the unbaptized catechetical sessions.

Preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation for baptized non-Catholics are an essential element of their Reception (See Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, 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 regarding 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).

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, the Archbishop will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025, 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 soon and then also 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). The Archbishop gives this faculty to all priests of the Archdiocese to confirm Roman Catholic Adults, 16 years of age and older, 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.*

PLEASE NOTE

Full Sacramental Initiation — Baptism, Confirmation and the first Reception of Holy Communion — apart from the Easter Vigil, outside of the immediate danger of death, requires the permission of the Archbishop (see Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, 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 *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, 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 *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, 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 *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, 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 *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, no. 46);
- *Book of Elect*, prior to the Rite of Election (see *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, 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 *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, no. 486).

DAY *of* REFLECTION
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
Saturday, April 12, 2025
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*

The Office for Ministry with Young Adults (OMYA) is a ministerial office of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia that seeks to accompany, inspire and unify young adults to experience the love, mercy, and healing of God and to become missionary disciples. Whether you are 18 to 39, you can find a community to belong and grow spiritually by finding a young adult group, joining our newsletter, or attending our annual young adult conference on November 15th, 2025 (<https://phillyyam.org/find-a-group/>).
