
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, 2026

**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*

LED BY THE SPIRIT

KINGSFOLD



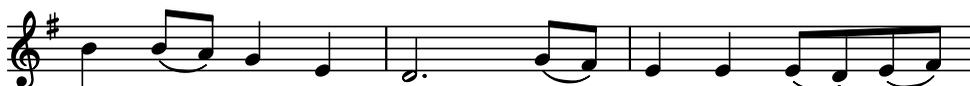
1. Led by the Spir - it of our God, we go to fast and
2. Led by the Spir - it, we con - front temp - ta - tion face to
3. Led by the Spir - it, now draw near the wa - ters of re -
4. Led by the Spir - it, now sing praise to God the Trin - i -



1. pray With Christ in - to the wil - der - ness; we join his
2. face, And know full well we must re - ly on God's re -
3. birth With hearts that long to wor - ship God in spir - it
4. ty: The Source of Life, the liv - ing Word made flesh to



1. pas - chal way. "Rend not your gar - ments, rend your hearts. Turn
2. deem - ing grace. On bread a - lone we can - not live, but
3. and in truth. "Who - ev - er drinks the drink I give shall
4. set us free, The Spir - it blow - ing where it will to



1. back your lives to me." Thus says our kind and
2. nour - ished by the Word We seek the will of
3. nev - er thirst a - gain." Thus says the Lord who
4. make us friends of God: This mys - t'ry far be -



1. gra - cious God, whose reign is lib - er - ty.
2. God to do: this is our drink and food.
3. died for us, our Sav - ior, kin and friend.
4. yond our reach, yet near in heal - ing love.

Text: CMD; based on Joel 2:12-13; Matthew 4:1-4; Mark 1:12-15; John 4:5-42; Bob Hurd, © 1996, Bob Hurd.
Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Music: trad. English Melody; English Country Songs, 1893;
adapt. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958.

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 2: 7-9; 3:1-7
GÉNESIS 2, 7-9; 3, 1-7

Spanish translation, read in English

Lectura del libro del Génesis

Después de haber creado el cielo y la tierra, el Señor Dios tomó polvo del suelo y con él formó al hombre; le sopló en la nariz un aliento de vida, y el hombre comenzó a vivir. Después plantó el Señor un jardín al oriente del Edén y allí puso al hombre que había formado. El Señor Dios hizo brotar del suelo toda clase de árboles, de hermoso aspecto y sabrosos frutos, y además, en medio del jardín, el árbol de la vida y el árbol del conocimiento del bien y del mal.

La serpiente era el más astuto de los animales del campo que había creado el Señor Dios. Un día le dijo a la mujer: "¿Es cierto que Dios les ha prohibido comer de todos los árboles del jardín?"

La mujer respondió: "Podemos comer del fruto de todos los árboles del jardín, pero del árbol que está en el centro, dijo Dios: 'No comerán de él ni lo tocarán, porque de lo contrario, habrán de morir' ".

La serpiente replicó a la mujer: "De ningún modo. No morirán. Bien sabe Dios que el día que coman de los frutos de ese árbol, se les abrirán a ustedes los ojos y serán como Dios, que conoce el bien y el mal".

La mujer vio que el árbol era bueno para comer, agradable a la vista y codiciable, además, para alcanzar la sabiduría. Tomó, pues, de su fruto, comió y le dio a su marido, que estaba junto a ella, el cual también comió. Entonces se les abrieron los ojos a los dos y se dieron cuenta de que estaban desnudos. Entrelazaron unas hojas de higuera y se las ciñeron para cubrirse.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
SALMO RESPONSORIAL

PSALM 51
SALMO 50

MANUEL F. GARCIA



R. Mi-se-ri-cor-dia, Se-ñor, he-mos pe-ca-do.

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Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me. **Response/Respuesta**

*Pues yo reconozco mi culpa, tengo siempre presente mi pecado.
Contra ti, contra ti solo pequé, cometí la maldad que aborreces.* **Response/Respuesta**

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me.
Response/Respuesta

*Devuélveme la alegría de tu salvación, afiánzame con espíritu generoso.
Señor, me abrirás los labios, y mi boca proclamará tu alabanza.* **Response/Respuesta**

SEGUNDA LECTURA
SECOND READING

ROMANOS 5, 12-19
ROMANS 5:12-19

English translation, read in Spanish

Brothers and sisters:

Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned—for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one, the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many. And the gift is not like the result of the one who sinned. For after one sin there was the judgment that brought condemnation; but the gift, after many transgressions, brought acquittal. For if, by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so, through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous.

Palabra de Dios.

All: *Te alabamos, Señor.*

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

JUAN SOSA

ACLAMCIÓN ANTES DEL EVANGELIO



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.*

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 4:1-11

EVANGELIO

MATEO 4, 1-11

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Spanish translation, read in English

En aquel tiempo, Jesús fue conducido por el Espíritu al desierto, para ser tentado por el demonio. Pasó cuarenta días y cuarenta noches sin comer y, al final, tuvo hambre. Entonces se le acercó el tentador y le dijo: "Si tú eres el Hijo de Dios, manda que estas piedras se conviertan en panes". Jesús le respondió: "Está escrito: No sólo de pan vive el hombre, sino también de toda palabra que sale de la boca de Dios".

Entonces el diablo lo llevó a la ciudad santa, lo puso en la parte más alta del templo y le dijo: "Si eres el Hijo de Dios, échate para abajo, porque está escrito: Mandará a sus ángeles que te cuiden y ellos te tomarán en sus manos, para que no tropiece tu pie en piedra alguna". Jesús le contestó: "También está escrito: No tentarás al Señor, tu Dios".

Luego lo llevó el diablo a un monte muy alto y desde ahí le hizo ver la grandeza de todos los reinos del mundo y le dijo: "Te daré todo esto, si te postras y me adoras". Pero Jesús le replicó: "Retírate, Satanás, porque está escrito: Adorarás al Señor, tu Dios, y a él sólo servirás".

Entonces lo dejó el diablo y se acercaron los ángeles para servirle.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY / HOMILÍA

CELEBRATION of ELECTION / *CELEBRACIÓN de LA ELECCIÓN*

Presentation of Catechumens / *Presentación de los Catecúmenos*

The catechumens are presented to the Archbishop/Bishop.

Affirmation by the Godparents and the Assembly *Afirmación por parte de los Padrinos y de la Asamblea*

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.

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

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: It is.

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.

RECEPTION OR ELECTION / RECEPCIÓN O ELECCIÓN

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

Archbishop: You have been chosen for Initiation into the sacred mysteries at the forthcoming 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 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.

AFFIRMATION BY THE SPONSORS AND THE ASSEMBLY
AFIRMACIÓN POR PARTE de LOS PADRINOS Y de LA ASAMABLEA

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: 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 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 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* AGAIN WE KEEP THIS SOLEMN FAST ERHALT UNS, HERR

1. Ha - gan a - yu - no y_o - ra - ción, De an -
 2. The law and proph - ets from of old In
 3. Pues, con ma - yor fru - ga - li - dad Co -
 4. Let us a - void each harm - ful way That
 5. O - ra - mos San - ta Tri - ni - dad, El

ta - ño es de la fe un don; Es la Cua - res - ma
 fig - ured ways this Lent fore - told, Which Christ, all a - ges'
 ma - mos por ne - ce - si - dad; Du - ran - te ri - sas
 lures the care - less mind a - stray; By watch - ful prayerour
 Dios de to - da e - ter - ni - dad, Que la Cuar - es - ma en

que, en a - mor, Nos u - ne en ca - ri - dad - y ar - dor.
 Lord and Guide, In these last days has sanc - ti - fied.
 y el so - laz, Por pe - ni - ten - cia, ha - lle - mos paz.
 spi - rits free From schem - ing of the en - e - my.
 tu fa - vor, Nos dé bon - dad, ya ti, loor.

Text: *Ex more docti mystico*; ascr. to St. Gregory the Great, c.540-604; English tr. by Peter J. Scagnelli, b. 1949, after John M. Neale, 1818-1866,
 © 1975, 2011; Spanish tr. by George Lockwood, b. 1946, © 2012, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: ERHALT UNS HERR, LM; Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; harm. by J. S. Bach, 1685-1750.

SPECIAL INVITATION

All the newly baptized adults at the Easter Vigil (Neophytes)
throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia
are cordially invited with their Sponsors and families
to come to a Sunday evening Mass, at 6:30,
in the Cathedral Basilica, on any Sunday during Easter Time.

Christian Initiation Information 2026

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, March 28, 2026. Christian Initiation Coordinators are encouraged to take advantage of this retreat opportunity. See additional information on the back cover.

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 7:35 PM on April 4, 2026.

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, May 24, 2026, 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
Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Saturday, March 28, 2026
8:30 AM – 1:00 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*
