

rites belonging to the period of purification and enlightenment

SCRUTINIES

These rites are for self-searching and repentance. They should not be omitted without serious reason. They are for the unbaptised only.

They are celebrated on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent. If for some serious reason they need to be celebrated on a weekday, optional Masses are given.

The Gospels used are for Year A: the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. The texts of the Scrutinies rely heavily on the gospels for the integration of the liturgy.

The presidential prayers are specific (Ritual Masses in the Roman Missal).

There are insertions for the Eucharistic prayer; there is a prayer for the godparents, calling them by name.

If for some extraordinary reason baptism is celebrated at a time other than Easter, the Scrutinies should still be celebrated beforehand.

The following prayers are for the First Scrutiny.

The same format is used for the Second Scrutiny (RCIA #154-156) and Third Scrutiny (RCIA # 161-163)

HOMILY

Invite the godparents to bring the elect forward after the homily.

Make sure the elect and godparents are visible. The people may remain seated.

INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER

Ask the community to pray for the elect (name them) that they might have a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin and the true freedom of the children of God. Invite the Elect to pray in silence with the words

“Elect of God, N, bow your heads and pray.....”

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE ELECT

The RCIA gives two sets of sample intercessions. Option B given here uses imagery from the Gospel.

You may blend the parish’s Prayer of the Faithful with these Intercessions.

The prayers may be carefully adapted to the expressed needs of the elect.

CELEBRANT

Let us pray for these elect whom the Church has confidently chosen. May they successfully complete their long preparation and at the paschal feast find Christ in his sacraments.

R: That, like the woman of Samaria, our elect, N, may review their lives before Christ and acknowledge their sins, let us pray to the Lord.

R: That N may be freed from the spirit of mistrust that deters people from following Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

R: That, while awaiting the gift of God, they might long with all their hearts for the living water that brings eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.

R: That N may share with their friends and neighbours the wonder of their own meeting with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

R: That all of us may learn from Christ to do the Father’s will in love, let us pray to the Lord..

EXORCISM

The celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:

All-merciful Father,
through your Son you revealed your mercy to the woman of Samaria;
and moved by that same care
you have offered salvation to all sinners.

Look favourably on these elect, N,
who desire to become your adopted children
through the power of your sacraments.

Free them from the slavery of sin,
and for Satan's crushing yoke
exchange the gentle yoke of Jesus.

Protect them in every danger,
that they may serve you faithfully in peace and joy
and render you thanks for ever.

AMEN

*The celebrant lays hands on each one of the elect.
You may invite the godparents and catechists to also lay hands.
Then with hands outstretched over all the elect, you continue.*

Lord Jesus, in your merciful wisdom
you touched the heart of the sinful woman
and taught her to worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

Now, by your power,
free these elect, N, from the cunning of Satan,
as they draw near to the fountain of living water.

Touch their hearts with the power of the Holy Spirit,
That they may come to know the Father in true faith,
which expresses itself in love,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

AMEN.

DISMISSAL

If the elect are dismissed at this point say to them:

Dear elect, go in peace, and join us again at the next scrutiny.
May the Lord remain with you always. AMEN

If the elect remain for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, say to them:

Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God's children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with his Spirit to recreate the face of the earth.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

For pastoral reasons the Prayer of the Faithful and Creed may be omitted in which case the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the preparation of gifts.

The Elect and Godparents are remembered in the Eucharistic Prayer (see Missal p1178).