

**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP  
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill, Director**

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION INFORMATION  
PERIODIC MAILING  
AUGUST 2012**

**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*:

<http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/worship.htm>

Please contact the Office for Divine Worship at 215-587-3537 or [worship@adphila.org](mailto:worship@adphila.org) with any questions. *All communication is electronic with the Christian Initiation Coordinator from the Office for Divine Worship. If there has been a change in the coordinator, please inform the Office.*

**MARKING DATES AND PLANNING THE CHRISTIAN INITIATION CALENDAR  
INFORMATION SESSION FOR COORDINATORS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION**

**TEAM FORMATION**

This session will review membership and roles of those in the parish community charged with the ministry of Christian Initiation. Suggestions for team preparation and on-going formation will be presented. Chief among the members of the team are the Pastor or another priest and the deacon. This workshop will be especially helpful for new team members. Plan now to come to this fall session:

**19 September 2012**

**1:00—4:00 PM**

**Archdiocesan Pastoral Center  
222 North Seventeenth Street  
Philadelphia, PA**

**To register call or e-mail the Office for Divine Worship:  
215-587-3537 or [worship@adphila.org](mailto:worship@adphila.org)**

**rites belonging to the period of the catechumenate**

All throughout the course of the Period of the Catechumenate there should be scheduled **celebrations of the Word of God**. In addition to these celebrations, the **Minor Exorcisms** [RCIA, nos. 90-94], **Blessings of the Catechumens** [RCIA, nos. 95-97] and or **Anointing of the Catechumens** [RCIA, nos. 98-103] should also be scheduled frequently during the Period of the Catechumenate. The use of these rites belongs only to those who will be baptized. A **Model for the Celebration of the Word of God** [RCIA, nos. 85-89], found in the ritual book, provides the manner for the combination of these rites with the celebration of the Word.

**Sending of the Catechumens for Election (Optional) [RCIA nos. 106-117] or Parish Celebration for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop (Optional) [RCIA, nos. 530-546]**

At the conclusion of the Period of the Catechumenate, the Rite of Sending is celebrated in the parish only for those going to the Cathedral Basilica for the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates. The Rite of Sending recognizes the role of the parish community to judge the state of formation of the catechumens and candidates and approves them for election for the Easter Sacraments and the completion of sacramental initiation. The Rite of Sending, whether as part of a celebration of the Word of God or at Mass, should be scheduled in the parish before the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates. *In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, this is the occasion for signing the Book of the Elect.*

**SECOND STEP: ELECTION OR ENROLLMENT OF NAMES**

**Celebration of the 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 Full Communion of the Catholic Church**

**The First Sunday of Lent 2013  
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul**

Saturday, February 16 at 2:30 PM  
Bucks County and Philadelphia North

Saturday, February 16, at 6:30 PM  
Chester County and Philadelphia South

Sunday, February 17, at 2:30 PM  
Montgomery and Delaware Counties

**rites belonging to the Period of Purification and Enlightenment**

The **Scrutinies** for the elect during Lent are *not* optional. The description of the Scrutinies [RCIA nos. 141-143 ] can be helpful explanations for the elect and the faithful. Typically, the Scrutinies are celebrated with the proper ritual Mass in the *Roman Missal, For the Celebration of the Scrutinies*, on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent at any Mass. The Year A readings are *always* used for the Scrutinies. If the Scrutinies cannot be celebrated on the proper Sunday, then a weekday celebration is possible with the same ritual Mass and the proper Year A readings.

**The First Scrutiny takes place on the Third Sunday of Lent, 3 March 2013.**

**The Second Scrutiny takes place on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, 10 March 2013.**

**The Third Scrutiny takes place on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, 17 March 2013.**

The **Presentations** are very much tied into the Scrutinies and follow their schedule. The Presentations of the Creed and the Our Father aid in the enlightenment of the elect. The Presentation of the Creed follows the week of the First Scrutiny. The elect are to commit the Creed to memory and they will recite it publicly on Holy Saturday morning prior to their evening Baptism. The Presentation of the Our Father with the

proclamation of the Gospel follows the week of the Third Scrutiny. The elect recite the Our Father publicly for the first time when they are assembled among the baptized at the Eucharist of the Easter Vigil. These weekday presentations should include the participation of some of the faithful. The handing out of parchments with these living expressions of the Faith is discouraged.

The **Preparation Rites on Holy Saturday, 30 March 2013**, should be observed in some part [RCIA, nos. 185 to 204]. Most of all, the elect should be encouraged to participate in the paschal fast all through Holy Saturday.

**CELEBRATION OF MASS WITH THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION  
FOR BAPTIZED CATHOLIC ADULTS 2013  
(16 years of age and older)  
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul  
Pentecost Sunday, May 19, at 6:30 PM**

Every effort should be made for Roman Catholic adults to be confirmed during the parish celebration of the Sacrament or during the pastoral visit of the Bishop.

**INFORMATION ON THE PERIOD OF EVANGELIZATION AND PRECATECHUMENATE  
AND THE PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE**

The Office for Divine Worship, in accord with the National Statutes for the Catechumenate, approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on 11 November 1986, has promoted the year-round catechumenate for the last four years. For more information on these two Periods and the associated rites, see the website for the Office for Divine Worship, especially the Periodic Mailings for January and March 2011.

<http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/pdf/JanuaryMailing.pdf>  
<http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/pdf/MarchMailing.pdf>

**AN OUTLINE OF THE SUNDAY AND WEEKLY CATECHETICAL SESSIONS**

The catechetical session is an indispensable component of the formation of catechumens and those already baptized but uncatechized to know the teachings of the Church as well as have a profound appreciation of the mystery of salvation revealed in God's Word and celebrated in the Sacraments. For a more complete presentation of the catechetical session, see the ritual book [RCIA, nos. 75-80].

What follows are sample patterns for the Sunday Session for the Catechumens and Elect after their dismissal from Mass and for the Weekly Catechetical Session:

**SAMPLE SUNDAY SESSION FOR CATECUMENS AND ELECT**

- **Dismissal of the Catechumens (only) from Mass using formulas in the ritual book [RCIA, nos. 67, A and B]**
- **Brief recap of the biblical texts and homily**
- **Illustrate points associated with Church teaching, tradition and practice**
- **Response by the catechumens and elect**
- **Closing Prayer**

## SAMPLE WEEKLY CATECHETICAL SESSION APART FROM SUNDAY

- **Celebration of the Word of God (See RCIA, nos. 81-89)**

The celebration of the Word of God should conclude alternately with the Minor Exorcisms, Blessings of the Catechumens, and the Anointing of the Catechumens (See, RCIA, nos. 90-103). The parish priest or deacon should conduct the celebration of the Word of God with the concluding rites.

- **Catechesis**

A systematic sequential presentation of the truths of Catholic doctrine as laid out in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: The Profession of Faith, The Celebration of the Christian Mystery, Life in Christ, and Christian Prayer.

- **Reflection and Response to the Catechesis**
- **Night Prayer (Compline)**

Two excellent resources for year-round catechesis are the following:

[http://church.st-thomasmore.org/uscca\\_catechumenate.htm](http://church.st-thomasmore.org/uscca_catechumenate.htm)

<http://tinyurl.com/liturgyw-kidsRCIA>

### PARISH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* is a sacramental preparation for the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. In some instances, the bulletin invitation to participate in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* is identified as an opportunity for adult faith formation or enrichment for Catholics or a welcoming to returning Catholics. These are important ministries in every parish, but should not be confused with the nature and purpose of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. Bulletin announcements can also serve as a catechetical tool to instruct the faithful about Christian Initiation of adults. In other words, parish bulletin editors are encouraged to have a distinct announcement for those who want to know more about the Faith and the celebration of the Sacraments and an announcement for Catholics interested in faith formation.

### OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS

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>

Orthodox Christians are Received into Full Communion of the Catholic Church with a Profession of Faith. 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>

Invalid Marriages: Every effort should be made for all canonical impediments to the celebration of the Sacraments be resolved before someone is accepted into the Order of Catechumens or welcomed as a Candidate. Validation is to take place before the celebration of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. For assistance in this regard, please contact the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

<http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/pdf/ImportantInformationfromtheTribunal2012.pdf>