

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION INFORMATION  
PERIODIC MAILING  
**OCTOBER 2018**

**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://www.odwphiladelphia.org/sacred-liturgy/christian-initiation/>

Please contact the Office for Divine Worship at 215-587-3537 or [vnouel@archphila.org](mailto:vnouel@archphila.org) with any questions.

**If there has been a change in the parish Christian Initiation Coordinator,  
please inform the Office for Divine Worship.**

Send email to: [vnouel@archphila.org](mailto:vnouel@archphila.org)

**MARKING DATES AND PLANNING THE CHRISTIAN INITIATION CALENDAR**

**2019 RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS  
AND OF THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION OF CANDIDATES**

|                                |                 |  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Saturday, March 9, 2019</b> | <b>11:00 AM</b> | <b>Philadelphia South &amp; Bucks</b>      |
| <b>Saturday, March 9, 2019</b> | <b>3:00 PM</b>  | <b>Delaware &amp; Chester</b>              |
| <b>Sunday, March 10, 2019</b>  | <b>3:00 PM</b>  | <b>Philadelphia North &amp; Montgomery</b> |

*To read the Christian Initiation **Coordinator Memo**  
**Rite of Election of Catechumens**  
**and of the**  
**Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates, October 2018, [click here.](#)***

**To register Catechumens and Candidates**

**Visit:** <http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/christian-initiation/rite/>  
(Scroll down to #4. Second Step: Election or Enrollment of Names)

**\*\*\*All registration forms should be submitted electronically, by February 09, 2019\*\*\***

*Parishes are free to choose another time than the one assigned if necessary to promote greater participation of catechumens and candidates. The Call to Continuing Conversion is meant for adults (and not children) who are baptized and will be received into Full Communion and/or Confirmation and/or Communion but also have distanced themselves from the Faith.*

## **Lenten Retreat Opportunity for the Elect and Candidates**

An Archdiocesan Retreat for Adults in Sacramental Formation will be scheduled in January or February 2019. Additional information will be forthcoming. (*We will communicate the exact date once it is determined.*) Christian Initiation Coordinators are encouraged to take advantage of this retreat opportunity, which is specifically designed for men and women -elect and candidates, godparents, sponsors and RCIA Teams.

### **2019 CELEBRATION OF MASS WITH THE CONFERRAL OF CONFIRMATION FOR BAPTIZED CATHOLIC ADULTS Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, PA Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 2019, 6:30 PM**

Information will follow on the Christian Initiation website.

#### **TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION**

As of Pentecost 2015, only the revised *Order of Confirmation* may be used by priests when delegated by the Archbishop to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. This new ritual book is only published in a bi-lingual (Spanish-English) format by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. To purchase a copy of *The Order for Confirmation*, see: <http://store.usccb.org/>.

#### **BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST AT THE SOLEMN PASCHAL VIGIL**

In accord with the United States *National Statutes for the Catechumenate* (November 11, 1986) no. 33, Archbishop Chaput 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* (see RCIA, nos. 473-504). No additional permission is required for this Reception of Baptized Christians into 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 (CANDIDATES) 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.*

### **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.

## Information from the Tribunal

[Click here](#) for information from the Metropolitan Tribunal.

### **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT** **AND THE RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS** **AND OF THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION OF CANDIDATES** **Saturday and Sunday, March 9 and 10, 2019**

- Details regarding the *Celebration of the Rite of Election and of the Call to Continuing Conversion* can be found on the website of the Office for Divine Worship, Christian Initiation page.
- All priests are invited to vest in choir dress in the Neumann Room behind the Cathedral Basilica Sanctuary for the procession. The *Book of the Elect* is to be carried during the *Celebration of the Rite of Election and of the Call to Continuing Conversion* **by someone other than a priest or deacon.**
- Parishes are encouraged to observe the *Sending of Catechumens for Election* (cf. RCIA, nos. 106-117) or the *Rite of Sending the Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop and for the Call to Continuing Conversion* (cf. RCIA, nos. 434-445) or the *Parish Celebration for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop* (cf. RCIA, nos. 530-546), depending on the local circumstances, the week or so before the *Celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates*.
- If you are unable to participate at the time designated for your county, please contact the Office for Divine Worship with your preference for another day and time.
- The *Call to Continuing Conversion* **is meant for adults (and not children)** who are baptized and will be received into Full Communion and/or Confirmation and/or Communion but also have distanced themselves from the Faith. In other words, a baptized formerly church going Protestant or a practicing Catholic who is receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Communion during Easter Time does not typically participate in the *Call to Continuing Conversion*.

### **PLANNING FOR THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT**

*For both the elect and the local community, therefore, the Lenten season is a time for spiritual recollection in preparation for the celebration of the paschal mystery. This is a period of more intense spiritual preparation, consisting more in interior reflection than in catechetical instruction, and is intended to purify the minds and hearts of the elect as they search their own consciences and do penance. This period is intended as well to enlighten the minds and hearts of the elect with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior (RCIA, see nos. 138-139).*

- **If catechumens were unable, for one reason or another, to participate in the Rite of Election** on the First Sunday of Lent, the pastor should elect them, keeping in mind numbers 127-128 of the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.
- The **scrutinies** for the elect during Lent are not optional and should be carried out with a proper explanation to the elect and to the faithful. The description of the scrutinies, as found in nos. 141-143 of the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, 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. 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 **penitential rites** (scrutinies) for children who have reached catechetical age, as described in numbers 291-303 of the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, belongs to the Lenten journey of unbaptized children to be fully initiated at the Solemn Paschal Vigil.
- The *penitential rite* on the Second Sunday of Lent for baptized uncatechized adults preparing for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist as described in numbers 459-472 in the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, should be seriously considered in the plan for Lent.
  
- 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 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 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.
  
- A **retreat** should be arranged during Lent for the Elect. Also, the candidates for Full Communion and Catholic Adult candidates for Confirmation and Communion may also be part of this retreat. The retreat should include a presentation on Lent and its relationship to the celebration of the Easter Sacraments and the Christian Life, focused prayer and guided reflection sessions. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation could be made available to the already baptized candidates. An archdiocesan retreat for the Elect and Candidates for the Easter Sacraments will be scheduled for **January or February 2019**, (*exact date to be determined*). Additional information will be forthcoming.
  
- The **preparation rites on Holy Saturday** should be observed, in some part, according to numbers 185 to 204 in the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. Most of all, the elect should be encouraged to participate in the paschal fast (see *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, article 110) all through Holy Saturday.

## **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 6:44 PM, on April 20, 2019.

## **SIMPLIFICATION OF THE PERIODS AND STEPS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

*Exceptional circumstances may arise in which the local Bishop, in individual cases, can allow the use of a form of Christian Initiation that is simpler than the usual, more complete Rite (no. 331, from the ritual book, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). This is sometimes the circumstance when an Elect cannot be present for the Easter Vigil. Permission for the use of this simpler form should be directed to Archbishop Chaput through the Office for Divine Worship.*

Numbers 331-367 in the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, describe arrangements for an adapted form for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

### **PERIOD OF POSTBAPTISMAL CATECHESIS OR MYSTAGOGY**

*This is the time, usually the Easter season, following the celebration of initiation, during which the newly initiated experience being fully a part of the Christian community by means of pertinent catechesis and particularly by participation with all the faithful in the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration.*

This period should not be overlooked. Plans should be made to assemble the neophytes, their godparents and others associated with their Christian Initiation for the celebration of Mass, with a particular celebration near Pentecost (cf. RCIA, no. 249). Neophytes should be given the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation in the weeks following their Christian Initiation.

### **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 Chaput 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.

### **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://www.odwphiladelphia.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Marriage-Tribunal-RCIA-Coordinator-Memo.pdf>

**CELEBRATION OF MASS WITH THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION FOR  
BAPTIZED CATHOLIC ADULTS**  
(16 years of age and older)

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 Chaput will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on  
**Pentecost Sunday June 9, 2019**  
during the 6:30 PM Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia.  
**Confessions from 5:30 to 6:15 PM**

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 has been distributed by e-mail in December 2017, 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 Chaput 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.

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>