

**OCIA**  
**RITE OF SENDING**  
**CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION**  
**AND CANDIDATES FOR THE CALLING**  
**TO CONTINUING CONVERSION**

**February 22, 2026 at 9am Mass**

Expecting approximately:  
10 catechumens (unbaptized)  
10 candidates (baptized),  
and their sponsors and class leaders.

534 The rite takes place after the Homily...at Mass.

535 In the catechesis of the community and in the celebration of these rites, care must be taken to maintain the distinction between the catechumens and the baptized candidates.

**OUTLINE OF THE RITE**

Homily

Presentation of the Catechumens

Affirmation by the Godparents (and the Assembly)

Dismissal of the Catechumens

Creed

BINDER PREPARATION:

Binder containing this Rite at the presider's chair and another copy at the ambo.

Add to the Prayer of the Faithful:

For the members of the OCIA preparing for Baptism and full communion into the Church, that they may have our sincere and unfailing support; may they find in our community compelling signs of unity and generous love, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR/MUSIC: play music quietly during the Signing of the Book of the Elect.

EMES: no notes.

LECTORS: this Rite is immediately followed by the Prayer of the Faithful.

SACRISTANS: Binder containing this Rite at the presider's chair and another copy at the ambo.

SOUND AND SCREEN: no notes.

USHERS: Keep front pews reserved until all sit for the first reading.

Presider side front row: catechumens and sponsors

Presider side second row: candidates for the Profession of Faith and sponsors

Presider side third row: candidates baptized Catholic, sponsors, guests, and team

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### HOMILY

536. After the readings, the celebrant gives the homily. This should be suited to the actual situation and should address not just the catechumens and candidates but the entire community of the faithful, so that all will be encouraged to give good example and to accompany the catechumens and candidates along the path of the Paschal Mystery.

### PRESENTATION OF THE CATECHUMENS

536. After the Homily... a Deacon or a catechist presents the catechumens using the following or similar words:

Reverend Father, these catechumens, whom I now present to you,  
are beginning their final period of preparation and purification,  
leading to their Initiation  
through the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.  
They have found strength in God's grace  
and support in our community's prayers and example.  
Now they ask that they be recognized  
for the progress they have made in their spiritual formation  
as they go forth to the Rite of Election  
celebrated this afternoon by Bishop Frank Dewane.

**The celebrant replies:**

Those who are to be sent to the celebration of Election in Christ,  
come forward, together with those who will be your godparents.

**Deacon or Catechist:**

**One by one, the catechumens are called by name. Each catechumen, accompanied  
by a godparent, comes forward and stands before the celebrant.**

Matthew Tyszkiewicz

Neda Cruz-Aguilar

Daniel Wheless

Abigail Osendorf

Jessica Arias

James Wright

Ryan Godcharles

Lynn Williford

Kelly Gonzalez

Jason Matthews

**AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENTS (AND THE ASSEMBLY)**

**538. Then the celebrant addresses the assembly in these or similar words:**

My dear friends, these catechumens  
who have been preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation  
hope that they will be found ready to participate  
in the rite of election  
and be chosen in Christ for the Paschal Sacraments this Easter.  
It is the responsibility of this community  
to inquire about their readiness  
before they are presented to the Bishop.

**He addresses the godparents:**

I turn to you, godparents,  
for your testimony about these catechumens.  
Have they taken their formation in the Gospel  
and in the Catholic way of life seriously?

**Godparents:** Yes.

**Celebrant:** Have they given evidence of their conversion  
by the example of their lives?

**Godparents:** Yes.

**Celebrant:** Do you judge them to be ready  
to be presented to the Bishop for the Rite of Election?

**Godparents:** Yes.

**The celebrant addresses the assembly:** I now turn to the community of believers.  
Have you witnessed the faithfulness of these catechumens, and do you judge them  
to be ready to be presented to the bishop at the Rite of Election?

**Assembly:** Yes.

**The celebrant concludes the affirmation by the following:**

My dear catechumens,  
this community gladly recommends you to the Bishop,  
who, in the name of Christ,  
will call you to the Paschal Sacraments.  
May God who has begun the good work in you  
bring it to fulfillment.

## SIGNING OF THE BOOK OF THE ELECT

### **Celebrant:**

Catechumens, come forward with your sponsors to write your names on this page of the Book of the Elect as a sign of your desire to be numbered among the chosen of God.

Music plays quietly while catechumens sign their name next to their printed name on the parchment at the small table in front of the altar. Sponsors stand behind them with their right hand on the catechumen's right shoulder. Then, catechumens and sponsors return to their seats.

## PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

540. **After the Homily...** a Deacon or a catechist presents the candidates using the following or similar words:

Reverend Father, these candidates, whom I now present to you,  
are beginning their final preparation  
for Reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church.  
They have found strength in God's grace  
and support in our community's prayers and example.  
Now they ask that they be recognized  
for the progress they have made in their spiritual formation  
and that they receive the assurance of our blessings and prayers  
this afternoon.

**The celebrant replies:**

Candidates, come forward, together with your sponsors.

**Deacon or Catechist:**

**One by one, the candidates are called by name. Each candidate, accompanied by a sponsor, comes forward and stands before the celebrant.**

Ronald Seavey

Olga Komarova

Jessica Velluzzi

Presley Osendorf

Diane VanKley

Troy Mennig

Erick Garcia

Cole Pridemore

Keithan Walker

Wilmey Gonzalez

**AFFIRMATION BY THE SPONSORS (AND THE ASSEMBLY)**

**541. Then the celebrant addresses the assembly in these or similar words:**

My dear friends, these candidates,

already one with us by reason of their Baptism in Christ,

have asked to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

They have received catechetical formation

and those who know them have judged them to be sincere in their desire.

Therefore, I ask their sponsors to state their opinion once again,  
so that all of you may hear.

**He addresses the sponsors:**

As God is your witness, do you consider these candidates ready to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church?

**Sponsors:** Yes.

**The celebrant addresses the assembly:** I now turn to the community of believers. Have you witnessed the faithfulness of these candidates, and do you judge them to be ready to be presented to the bishop?

**Assembly:** Yes.

542. **The celebrant concludes the affirmation by the following:**

And now, my dear friends, I address you.

Your own sponsors and this entire community  
have spoken in your favor.

The Church, in the name of Christ, accepts their testimony  
and sends you to the calling of Continuing Conversion,  
where Bishop Frank Dewane will exhort you  
to live in deeper conformity to the life of Christ.  
You may be seated.

DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS

**Celebrant:**

At this time, the OCIA preparing for Communion or  
Baptism, please come forward.

This community now sends you forth to reflect more  
deeply upon the Word of God which you have shared  
with us today. Be assured of our loving support and  
prayers for you.

We look forward to the day when you will share fully  
in the Lord's Table.

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

546. **After the dismissal, the Eucharist is celebrated. The universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) for the needs of the Church and the whole world begins immediately. Then, if required, the Creed is said, and the Preparation of the Gifts follows. But for pastoral reasons the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) and the Creed may be omitted.**