

## RCIA PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

### **RCIA:**

#### **Rite of Sending, February 18, and Rite of Election, February 25**

These Sunday's, we celebrate two important Rites of the RCIA.

The Rite of Sending, formally asks the Church of St. Mary Magdalene to accept our catechumens as members of the Elect—those chosen by God for baptism—and to pray for our candidates' continued growth in the Spirit. We, the church or St. Mary Magdalene, will then recommend them to journey to Atlanta on February 25, to celebrate the Rite of Election (of the catechumens) and the Rite of Recognition (of the candidates) with our Bishop Archbishop Wilton Gregory.

#### **Scrutinies and Presentations of the Creed and Lord's Prayer.**

March 4, 11 and 18 we will celebrate the Scrutinies. According to the Church's Rites, "the scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good." On March 7 at the 7 pm Mass, we will also "hand over" (*traditio*) the Creed to our catechumens, which they will then "hand back" at the Easter Vigil when they make their Baptismal Promises. Then on March 21, at the 7 pm Mass, we will present the Lord's Prayer for them know by heart. Please keep all the Elect in your prayers as they make their final journey to the Easter Sacraments. At the Mass the Elect attend for the Scrutinies, the readings will be taken from Cycle A of the Lectionary. All other Masses will read from Cycle B.

#### **March 4, RCIA: First Scrutiny of the Elect (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent) 9 am Mass.**

The Gospel of the first Scrutiny is *The Woman at the Well*. Jesus asks the perennial question, for what do you thirst? We pray that the Living Waters of Baptism flow over our elect and ourselves as we recognize that only Jesus can quench all of our thirsts. Next week we will celebrate the second Scrutiny at the Noon mass. The Creed will be handed over at the 7p.m. Mass, Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **March 11, RCIA: Second Scrutiny of the Elect (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent) 12 pm Mass.**

This Sunday, we continue the celebration of the Scrutinies and hear the Gospel of the *Man Born Blind*. On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent we pray in a particular way for those who are to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. We pray that any attachment to evil might be removed, and that they be truly converted to Christ. We ask ourselves as well; to what am I blind to in my life? What keeps me from seeing what needs to be converted in my life? Again, because we are celebrating the Scrutinies, the readings will be taken from Cycle A of the Lectionary. Next week will celebrate the third scrutiny at the 9 am Mass

#### **March 18, RCIA: Third Scrutiny of the Elect (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent) 9 am Mass**

Lazarus is *Raised From the Dead* and we continue the celebration of the Scrutinies. On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent we pray in a particular way for those who are to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. We remember that no one is beyond the redemptive saving power of Jesus. No matter how dead we have been in our faith life, Jesus saves. We pray that any attachment to evil might be removed, and that they be truly converted to Christ. Later this week, we will also hand over the Lord's Prayer to the Elect, (on Wednesday March 21),—and "wait in joyful hope" until they can pray it with us as one of the Faithful at the Easter Vigil.