

## RCIA Period of Purification and Enlightenment

### The Period of Purification and Enlightenment - Begins on Ash Wednesday - Third phase of RCIA

“During the period of purification and enlightenment, we focus on the spiritual and mystical life in preparation for the sacraments of initiation. The focus for this period (celebrated as Lent by Christians) as well as the rites associated with them shift our formation from a discussion of doctrine and the Deposit of Faith to reflection and meditation. **As non Christians** we are asked to really consider whether or not we are truly ready to be disciples and maybe even Martyrs. Before receiving the sacraments of initiation, ‘the elect must have the intention of achieving an intimate knowledge of Christ and His Church, and they are expected particularly to progress in genuine self-knowledge through serious examination of their lives and true repentance. (RCIA)’” During this forty day we will experience many Rites and special prayers and ask that the community of St. Mary Magdalene join us in earnest and sincere prayer. Pick up one of our prayer cards in the Narthex and see our faces on the photos in the narthex.

During this phase based on the testimony of godparents and catechists and of the catechumens’ reaffirmation of their intention, the Church judges their state of readiness and decides on their advancement towards the sacraments of initiation. Before the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, participants should manifest:

- A conversion in mind and in action
- Developed a sufficient acquaintance with Christian teaching
- Developed a sufficient acquaintance with faith and charity
- An intention to receive the sacraments of the Church

During Lent, **the Christian** who is on his or her own faith journey is encouraged to examine one’s own life in relation to the guidelines mentioned above. During Lent, our Christian community walks beside our candidates and elect reflecting back on our Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist while they look forward to the meaning and living out of these sacraments.

### February 25

**RCIA: Rite of Sending** This Saturday and Sunday, we celebrate two Rites of the RCIA. The first on Saturday is the Rite of Sending, formally asking the sponsors of our Candidates to affirm their candidate’s readiness for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Once affirmed, the Church of St. Mary Magdalene presents our candidates and catechumen to the Archbishop. We will then journey on Sunday, to Atlanta, to celebrate the Rite of Election (of the catechumens) and the Call to Continuing Conversion (of the candidates) with our Bishop. We ask the Archbishop 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.

### March 4

#### RCIA: Penitential Rite for Candidates (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent)

This Sunday, we celebrate a special penitential rite for our Candidates for full communion. Recognizing that these candidates are already baptized, we pray for the grace of further conversion of life. Pray for us as we celebrate next week for the first time, the sacrament of Reconciliation.

### March 11

#### RCIA: First Scrutiny of the Elect (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent) Woman at the Well For What do you Thirst? Lord Give me Living Water!

This Sunday, and for the next two Sundays, 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.” Later this week, 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. Please keep all the Elect in your prayers as they make their final journey to the Easter Sacraments. Because we are celebrating the Scrutinies, the readings will be taken from Cycle A of the Lectionary for this and the next two Sundays. Lord, quench my thirst – fill me with your love.

**March 18**

**RCIA: Second Scrutiny of the Elect (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent) Man Born Blind**

**What are we blind to about ourselves? How do we clear away the darkness to let the Light of Christ in?**

This Sunday, 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 pray that any attachment to evil might be removed, and that they be truly converted to Christ. Again, because we are celebrating the Scrutinies, the readings will be taken from Cycle A of the Lectionary. Open my eyes Lord, let me see with the eyes of faith.

**March 25**

**RCIA: Third Scrutiny of the Elect (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent) The Raising of Lazarus**

**No one and nothing is beyond the redemptive salvific action of Jesus Christ- No one!**

This Sunday, we continue the celebration of the Scrutinies. 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—and "wait in joyful hope" until they can pray it with us as one of the Faithful at the Easter Vigil. Because we are celebrating the Scrutinies, the readings will be taken from Cycle A of the Lectionary. Lord let me have true and lasting faith that you are the redeemer and in you I have everlasting life.