

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS
Catechetical instruction for the <i>R.C.I.A.</i> may take place remotely (e.g., via ZOOM).
The celebration of the various rites of the <i>R.C.I.A.</i> must always take place in person.
Certain celebrations of the rites of the <i>R.C.I.A.</i> involve physical contact. Some rites are optional and, therefore, may be omitted. Other rites are not optional and, therefore, are not to be omitted. When celebrating the rites, the following are to be observed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Masks are to be worn by all 2. Social distance is to be maintained insofar as it is possible 3. Hands and spaces are to be sanitized 4. The particular adaptations below are to be made
Members of the same “household” (apart from parents) could be chosen as godparents to minimize the risk of spreading the virus. Proxies may be used for sponsors who cannot attend because of health, quarantine, etc.
The various rites are to be celebrated at the times prescribed by the <i>R.C.I.A.</i> Permission may be sought from Bishop Lucia to celebrate certain rites at different times in cases of necessity.

PARTICULAR INSTRUCTIONS			
What	When	Who	Where
RITE OF SENDING <i>[optional]</i>	First Sunday of Lent	Catechumens	Parish <i>R.C.I.A.</i> nos. 106-117
Since the Rite of Election will be celebrated in parishes, the Rite of Sending will NOT take place this year.			
RITE OF ELECTION	First Sunday of Lent February 21, 2021	Catechumens	Parishes around the Diocese
(1) Use the “Book of the Elect” provided, retain a copy, and send it back to the Office of Liturgy and the R.C.I.A., (2) provide each Catechumen with his/her own pen, and (3) godparents/proxies still stand behind the candidates and place their right hands on the shoulders of the candidates whom they are receiving into their care.			
RITE OF CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION	Beginning of Lent e.g., first week or the Second Sunday	Candidates	Parish <i>R.C.I.A.</i> nos. 446-458
Sponsors still stand behind the candidates and place their right hands on the shoulders of the candidates whom they are receiving into their care.			
PENITENTIAL RITE	Second Sunday of Lent or a Lenten weekday	Candidates	Parish <i>R.C.I.A.</i> nos. 459-463
The celebrant does not lay hands on the candidates.			

FIRST SCRUTINY	Third Sunday of Lent March 7, 2021	Elect	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 150-156
<p>(1) all three scrutinies are to be done, (2) the celebrant does not lay hands on the elect, and (3) if the scrutinies cannot be celebrated on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent because of the pandemic (e.g., Catechumens have underlying health conditions, capacity restrictions for Mass are in place) they may be celebrated on convenient days during the week within the context of a Liturgy of the Word or the ritual Mass: “Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies.”</p>			
PRESENTATION OF THE CREED	During the week after the First Scrutiny	Elect	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 157-163
<p>(1) the presentations (Creed; the Lord’s Prayer) take place after the celebrations of the scrutinies, (2) they may be anticipated during the period of the catechumenate (R.C.I.A., nos. 79, 104-105), (3) they may be celebrated in the context of a Liturgy of the Word with a small group, and (4) the celebrant does not lay hands on the elect.</p>			
SECOND SCRUTINY	Fourth Sunday of Lent March 14, 2021	Elect	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 164-170
THIRD SCRUTINY	Fifth Sunday of Lent Parish	Elect	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 171-177
PRESENTATION OF THE LORD’S PRAYER	During the week after the Third Scrutiny	Elect	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 178-184
PREPARATION RITES ON HOLY SATURDAY	Holy Saturday – before the Vigil	Elect	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 185-205
The ephphetha rite is not to be done.			
CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION	Easter Vigil	Elect and/or candidates	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 206-243 or nos. 562-594
<p>For particular instructions concerning the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism (e.g., immersion vs. pouring), Confirmation (e.g., the use of an instrument to anoint), and Eucharist, see the current <u>diocesan protocols</u>.</p>			
MYSTAGOGY	After Baptism	Neophytes	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 244-251.
<p>(1) Postbaptismal catechesis may take place online, and (2) the current <u>diocesan protocols</u> are to be followed at Masses and celebrations for the neophytes.</p>			
RITE OF ACCEPTANCE	Before the Period of the Catechumenate	Candidates who have completed the precatechumenate	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 41-74.
<p>(1) the celebrant may trace the cross in front of the forehead of the candidates rather than on their forehead (R.C.I.A., no. 54), and (2) the signing of the other senses is to be omitted (R.C.I.A., no. 55A).</p>			
<p>Note: “catechumens” and “elect” are those who will celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist; “candidates” are those who have already been baptized. Also, for rites of initiation for children who have reached catechetical age, see R.C.I.A. nos. 291-330</p>			