



---

**To:**

Pastors and Initiation Ministers

---

**From:**

Bishop Robert Casey, Vicar General, and Todd Williamson, Director of the Office for Divine Worship

---

**Re:**

Rite of Election, 2022

---

**Date:**January 18, 2022

---

The COVID 19 pandemic continues to affect how we gather and how we celebrate special events. As of now, the need for safety in celebrating our public liturgies once again is dictating that this year, **the Archdiocese of Chicago will celebrate only the Rite of Election with the catechumens (the unbaptized).**

We realize that this is the second year for this, but because of the current surge in Covid cases and the spread of the Omicron variant, the need to keep everyone safe is paramount. Please know that these decisions are out of an abundance of caution and aimed at the health and safety of all of us. The Cathedral will be livestreaming the Rites of Election and we encourage family, friends and parishioners to participate virtually with the catechumens.

The Call to Continuing Conversion, celebrated with baptized candidates, is an optional Rite and can be celebrated at the parish by the pastor (see RCIA nos. 446-458).

Also, since this year we are celebrating only the Rite of Election, we have scheduled only **two** Rites, **March 6 and March 13, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. on both days.**

Please note the following:

- We strongly encourage that everyone be fully vaccinated;
- Only catechumens (the unbaptized) are to be registered;
- The godparents should accompany the catechumens;
- Please limit the number of family members invited. Two family members per catechumen is strongly suggested;
- The Pastor and/or the Catechumenate Director should also attend in order to present the catechumen(s);
- Please limit the number of people you bring to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election.

If there are catechumens who are not vaccinated, or if your catechumen(s) are uncomfortable coming to a large crowd in the Cathedral, Cardinal Cupich will delegate to your pastor the celebration of the Rite of Election at the parish. If this is the case, please indicate that on the attached form and still send in the names of your catechumen(s) **and** candidates for the Archdiocesan records.

With this letter are all the forms and information necessary for you to register your catechumens for the celebration of the Rite, **as well as to record your baptized candidates for Reception into Full Communion. Even if you have no catechumens, please still send in the number/names of your baptized candidates for Archdiocesan records.**

The registration forms are due **on or before Monday, February 28, 2022.**



# 2022 RITE OF ELECTION

There are **two** scheduled celebrations of the Rite of Election at **Holy Name Cathedral** (North State Street at Superior Street, Chicago) in 2022:

- **Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.**
- **Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.**

The liturgies planned for Holy Name Cathedral are the Rite of Election of Catechumens (the unbaptized) only. **Registration is due on or before Monday, February 28, 2021. Registration materials are enclosed.**

In the **Rite of Election**, catechumens (i.e., those who are not baptized) are formally called or chosen for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This calling or election is founded on the election by God, in whose name the Church acts (RCIA #119).

Parish ministers have the responsibility of making sure that those who are presented for the Rite of Election are sufficiently prepared. The catechumens are expected to have undergone a conversion in mind and heart and to have a sufficient acquaintance with Christian teaching, as well as a spirit of faith and charity (RCIA #120). Those involved in their preparation testify to their worthiness to receive the sacraments of initiation at this year's Easter Vigil.

In the **Call to Continuing Conversion**, the Church welcomes those who are already baptized and are preparing to complete their initiation **through both Confirmation and Eucharist** and are preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. The Church acknowledges their desire to be one with the Church in faith, prayer and service. Respecting the integrity of their baptism, the Church charges these candidates to use the Lenten season as a time to hear again the call to conversion and to be faithful to their baptismal vows. **The Call to Continuing Conversion is an optional rite which, if celebrated, is to be done at the parish this year.**

## Godparents

Godparents are invited to join the catechumens for the celebrations held at the Cathedral.

## Children

Children of catechumens, who are of catechetical age and are themselves catechumens, may accompany their parents to the Cathedral celebration. However, because the rites at the Cathedral are the adult rites, children who are catechumens but whose parents are not should not attend. Instead they should celebrate a Rite of Election specifically adapted for children, which can be celebrated at the parish (RCIA # 277 – 290).

### **Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election by the Bishop**

Although the Rite of Election takes place at Holy Name Cathedral with the Bishop presiding, an individual parish may wish to celebrate the sending of catechumens to the Archdiocesan celebration by using the **Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election by the Bishop** (see RCIA #106-117). This optional rite offers the parish community the opportunity to express its approval of catechumens and send them forth to the celebration at the Cathedral assured of the parish's care and support.

### **Book of the Elect**

All parishes are expected to bring their own Book of the Elect with them to the Cathedral.

**Note:** It is most appropriate that **only the Catechumens sign the Book of the Elect.** Candidates, by virtue of their Christian Baptism, already have their names "inscribed in the Book of Life," and are not considered as "Elect." Catechumens should sign this book at the parish's Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election by the Bishop. The Book of the Elect is then brought to the Archdiocesan celebration at the Cathedral.

After the names are read at the Cathedral the book will receive a special seal and then be returned immediately to the parish minister. It is expected that the same book will be used year after year.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION**

1. Complete and return the enclosed forms on or before Monday, February 28. On the forms, you will indicate your preference for service date and time. **Your choice will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis.** We regret that we will not be able to offer everyone their first choice. **Confirmation will be made by email.**
2. Once completed, please email the forms to **Riteofelection@archchicago.org**.

**PLEASE DO NOT MAKE YOUR FINAL PLANS UNTIL YOU RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF YOUR DATE AND TIME.**

**SEATING WILL BE ASSIGNED BASED ON THE DATE YOUR FORM IS RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP.**

3. If your parish is part of a combined catechumenate (two or more parishes working together), indicate this in the box on the registration form.
4. Note that the Cathedral has a 12:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday, so there may be some traffic congestion for those who arrive early.
5. Please plan on being at the Cathedral at least 25 minutes prior to your service so that you can check in and get your seat assignments.

## Registration for the Rite of Election 2022

### Holy Name Cathedral

Parish:		Pastor:	
Address:			
City:		ZIP:	Parish Phone:
Catechumenate Director/Parish Contact Person:			
Phone (day):		(evening):	
Email Address:			

Services are assigned on a first come, first served basis.

We would like to attend the Cathedral celebration on:

\_\_\_ Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.  
**Bishop Robert Casey**

\_\_\_ Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.  
**Cardinal Blase Cupich**

**Total Number Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Includes catechumens, godparents, pastor and Catechumenate Director

\_\_\_ I request the Cardinal give delegation for the Rite of Election to be celebrated at our parish.  
(Please list the names of Catechumens and Candidates on the next pages.)

**Parishes Participating in a Combined Catechumenate:**

---

---

---

---

Check here if these parishes will be attending together.

## Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion 2022

Complete and email this form with your registration form to the **Office for Divine Worship** as soon as possible. All forms must be received by **Monday, February 28, 2022**.

**Type or print clearly the first and last name for each individual.**

### CATECHUMENS

(those who are **not baptized** and who will be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil)

Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:

**Total Catechumens:**

---

### CANDIDATES FOR RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION

(baptized non-Catholic)

Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:

**Total Candidates:**

---

Duplicate this form as necessary.

**OVER PLEASE**



**CATHOLICS COMPLETING THEIR INITIATION WITH CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST**

(**NOT** Catholics who already received Holy Communion. **Please Note:** Baptized Catholics who need only to be confirmed may **NOT** ordinarily be confirmed at the Easter Vigil)

Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:

**Total Catholics completing their initiation:**

Duplicate this form as necessary.

**Parish/Contact Information:**

Parish:	Contact Person:	
Address:		
City:	ZIP:	Parish Phone:
Catechumenate Director/Parish Contact Person:		
Phone (day):	(evening):	
Email Address:		

**(Please include Email—this helps us to keep you updated before the Rites. Please PRINT CLEARLY.)**

**\*Return this registration along with the names of catechumens on or before Monday, February 28, 2022**

**Riteofelection@archchicago.org**

Office for Divine Worship  
 3525 South Lake Park Avenue  
 Chicago, Illinois 60653