
LENT AND THE ELECT

RITES BELONGING TO THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

“This is a period of more intense spiritual preparation, consisting more in interior reflection than in catechetical instruction, and is intended to purify the minds and hearts of the elect as they search their own consciences and do penance. This period is intended as well to enlighten the minds and hearts with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior. The celebration of certain rites, particularly the scrutinies and the presentations brings about this process of purification and enlightenment and extends it over the course of the entire Lenten season” (RCIA #139).

The scrutinies, which are solemnly celebrated on Sundays and are reinforced by an exorcism, are rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose. 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. For the scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and carry out their decision to love God above all (RCIA 141).

<u>USUAL DAY</u>	<u>RITE</u>	<u>RCIA NUMBERS</u>
First Sunday of Lent	STEP: Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names	118-137
Second Sunday of Lent	Penitential Rite (for candidates; optional)	459-472
Third Sunday of Lent	First Scrutiny	150-156
Third Week of Lent	Presentation of the Creed	157-163
Fourth Sunday of Lent	Second Scrutiny	164-170
Fifth Sunday of Lent	Third Scrutiny	171-177
Fifth Week of Lent	Presentation of the Lord’s Prayer	178-184
Holy Saturday	Preparation Rites	185-205