



Archdiocese of St. Louis

Cardinal Rigali Center
20 Archbishop May Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63119

Office of Christian Initiation

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MEMORANDUM

Date: December 6, 2023

To: Pastors, RCIA Coordinators, DRE's

From: Christian Initiation Team; Office of Worship; and Joseph Milner, Director, Office of Christian Initiation

Re: Rite of Election 2024 Information and Registration form

Please Note: If you are not the current contact person for your parish Initiation Team, please forward this letter and registration form to the correct person.

The Rite of Election is a recognition of the growth and conversion that God has effected in those preparing for initiation. It is a recognition of the Election which God has made in calling the person to new life in Christ. It is open to all adults and children of catechetical age (generally age 7) who have matured in their relationship with God, shown signs of conversion, appropriately grown in their knowledge and practice of the faith and virtue, developed a life of prayer, and participated in the life and mission of the Christian community (see paragraph #120 RCIA). Based on the testimony of their godparent and the recommendation of the parish, the presider declares them elect and ready to receive the sacraments of Christian Initiation at the coming Easter Vigil. If a person is not ready currently, please do not push them. Permission may be sought to celebrate at another time.

The Call to Continuing Conversion for baptized individuals is a recognition of the growth in understanding of their baptismal commitment and their relationship with God. It is for those who have been previously baptized in another Christian tradition and who wish to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. (see paragraph #435, part 1, RCIA) Adults and children of catechetical age are invited and encouraged to attend. Adults who were baptized in the Catholic Church and who have not completed their initiation are also invited to participate. The presider calls them to join the community in deepening their conversion during the season of Lent and more fully living their baptismal commitment. If a person is not ready yet, Reception into Full Communion can be celebrated when the person is ready on a convenient Sunday.

Please find below information on the celebrations of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion for 2024. Archbishop Rozanski plans to preside at both celebrations of the rites this year. The celebrations of the rites will be on Saturday, February 17 at 1:30 pm, and on Sunday, February 18 at 2:30 pm.

The registration form is attached and registration for the Rite is now available. It is available in both Word and PDF formats. Please return both pages of the form to the Office of Christian Initiation **no later than January 10, 2024**. Please make sure to fill out the contact information on the registration form because further updates regarding the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will be emailed to this contact person.

If you have any questions regarding this form please contact the Office of Christian Initiation at 314-792-7235 or by email at joemilner@archstl.org. I am normally in the office on Wednesday. If you need to reach me on other days, please contact me at St. Francis Xavier Parish, 314-977-7305. Additional information and updates will follow at <https://www.archstl.org/sacred-worship/liturgy-and-sacraments/rcia>

****Please note the procedure for assigning parishes to a specific celebration of the rite:**

Seating of Catechumens and Candidates is limited to 300 at the Cathedral Basilica.

Requests exceeded that number for the Sunday afternoon rite last year and some parishes were assigned to the Saturday celebration of the rite. I recognize that some parishes have serious reasons for requesting the Sunday afternoon service, availability of catechumens or candidates, participation of elderly or youth, health or disability of participants or great distance.

If you request Sunday at 2:30 pm as your first choice, the form asks you if you have a special need or if it is simply your preference. Parishes with special needs will receive priority by noting their need on the reservation form by January 10. Then the parishes that have a preference for the 2:30 celebration will be added as space allows.

I hope to make this as inclusive as possible. Please consider choosing the Saturday celebration if you do not have special circumstances. The Saturday celebration is much more intimate and personal. If you have someone who cannot make it when most of your parish plans to attend, please call me and I will try to work out a place for them at the other celebration.

Once all registrations are received, the dates and times assigned to each parish will be posted on the website listed above.

A sample letter for godparents and sponsors to the Archbishop is also attached. Please collect all the letters from your parish and mail them in a large envelope to:

Rite of Election, Office of Christian Initiation
20 Archbishop May Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63119

before January 24, 2024.

Thank you for your time and efforts. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

May the celebration of the Incarnation be filled with many blessings for you and yours as you recognize all the good things that God has done!