

FIRST SCRUTINY
Third Sunday of Lent

LITURGY OF THE WORD

150 When this rite happens on the Third Sunday of Lent, the texts and readings are from Third Sunday of Lent in the *Missal* and the *Lectionary for Mass-Cycle 'A'*. When at another time, the texts and the readings for Mass are always those given for the first scrutiny in the *Missal* and the *Lectionary for Mass* among the ritual Masses, "Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies."

HOMILY

151 After the readings and guided by them, the celebrant explains in the homily the meaning of the first scrutiny in the light of the Lenten liturgy and of the spiritual journey of the elect.

INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER FOR ELECT

152 After the homily, the elect with their godparents come forward and stand before the celebrant.

Celebrant:

I now invite the Elect with their Godparents to come forward.

The celebrant first addresses the assembly of the faithful, inviting them to pray in silence and to ask that the elect will be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God.

Celebrant addresses assembly:

Today the Church calls the Elect to conversion.

**To deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ
and to carry out the decision to love God above all.**

Let us all pray at this time in silence for them

to be given a spirit of repentance,

a sense of sin

and strength of will to live in true freedom as children of God.

The celebrant then addresses the elect, inviting them also to pray in silence and suggesting that as a sign of their inner spirit of repentance they bow their heads or kneel; he concludes his remarks with the following or similar words:

Celebrant addresses the Elect:

My dear Elect, I invite you to join your prayers to this community of faith, and to kneel as we intercede to God on your behalf.

The elect kneel, and all **pray for some time in silence.**

After the period of silent prayer, the celebrant invites the people to join in the intercessions.

During the intercessions godparents should stand behind the Elect and place their right hand on the right shoulder of the Elect during the intercessions.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE ELECT

N.B. there are two series of the intercessions, 'A' and 'B'. For more, or alternate intercessions see RCIA 153-ff.

153 During the intercessions godparents should stand behind the Elect and place their right hand on the right shoulder of the Elect during the intercessions.

Celebrant:

**Let us pray for these elect whom the Church has confidently chosen.
May they successfully complete their long preparation
and at the Paschal Feast find Christ in his sacraments.**

Deacon, Lector, or another minister:

That they may ponder the word of God in their hearts
and savor its meaning more fully day by day, let us pray to the Lord:
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may learn to know Christ, who came to save what was lost,
let us pray to the Lord:
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may humbly confess themselves to be sinners, let us pray to the Lord:
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may sincerely reject everything in their lives
that is displeasing and contrary to Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Holy Spirit, who searches every heart, may help them to overcome their weakness through his power, let us pray to the Lord:
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That the same Holy Spirit may teach them to know the things of God and how to please him, let us pray to the Lord:
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That their families also may put their hope in Christ and find peace and holiness in him, let us pray to the Lord:
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That we ourselves in preparation for the Easter feast may seek a change of heart, give ourselves to prayer, and persevere in our good works, let us pray to the Lord:
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That throughout the whole world whatever is weak may be strengthened, whatever is broken restored, whatever is lost found, and what is found redeemed, let us pray to the Lord:
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

EXORCISM

N.B. there are two sets of the prayer of exorcism, 'A' and 'B'. Form 'A' appears below. For form 'B', see RCIA 154-ff.

After the intercessions, the rite continues with the exorcism.

After the intercessions godparents lift their right hand from the shoulder of the Elect.

The Celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:

Celebrant:

God of power,

You sent your Son to be our Savior.

Grant that these Elect,

who like the woman of Samaria, thirst for living water,

may turn to the Lord as they hear his word

and acknowledge the sins and weaknesses that weigh them down.

Protect them from vain reliance on self

and defend them from the power of Satan.

Free them from the spirit of deceit,

so that, admitting the wrong they have done,

they may attain purity of heart and advance on the way to salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen

Here the celebrant lays hands on the head of each of the candidates in silence.

Then, with hands outstretched over all of them, he continues:

Celebrant:

Lord Jesus,

you are the fountain for which they thirst,

you are the Master whom they seek.

In your presence

they dare not claim to be without sin,

for you alone are the Holy One of God.

They open their hearts to you in faith,

they confess their faults

and lay bare their hidden wounds.

In your love free them from their infirmities,

heal their sickness,

quench their thirst, and give them peace.

**In the power of your name,
which we call upon in faith,
stand by them now and heal them.
Rule over that spirit of evil,
conquered by your rising from the dead.**

**Show your Elect the way of salvation in the Holy Spirit,
that they may come to worship the Father in truth,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.**

R/. Amen

At this point, the Godparents assist the Elect in standing and briefly composing themselves.

DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT

N.B. there are 3 forms of the dismissal, 'A' and 'B' and 'C'. Also, form 'D' is used if the elect are not dismissed. Form 'B' appears below. For alternate forms, see RCIA 155-ff.

Celebrant:

**My dear friends, this community now sends you forth
to reflect more deeply upon the word of God
which you have shared with us today.
Be assured of our loving support and prayers for you.
We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord's Table.**

The dismissal song then begins. The catechist leading the Breaking Open the Word leads the procession of catechumens out of the church. Mass then continues with the Profession of the Faith and the Prayers of the Faithful.

SECOND SCRUTINY

Fourth Sunday of Lent

LITURGY OF THE WORD

164 When this rite happens on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the texts and readings are from Fourth Sunday of Lent in the *Missal* and the *Lectionary for Mass-Cycle 'A'*. When at another time, the texts and the readings for Mass are always those given for the second scrutiny in the *Missal* and the *Lectionary for Mass* among the ritual Masses, "Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies."

HOMILY

151 After the readings and guided by them, the celebrant explains in the homily the meaning of the first scrutiny in the light of the Lenten liturgy and of the spiritual journey of the elect.

INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER FOR ELECT

152 After the homily, the elect with their godparents come forward and stand before the celebrant.

Celebrant:

I now invite the Elect with their Godparents to come forward.

The celebrant first addresses the assembly of the faithful, inviting them to pray in silence and to ask that the elect will be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God.

Celebrant addresses assembly:

Today the Church calls the Elect to conversion.

**To deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ
and to carry out the decision to love God above all.**

Let us all pray at this time in silence for them

to be given a spirit of repentance,

a sense of sin

and strength of will to live in true freedom as children of God.

The celebrant then addresses the elect, inviting them also to pray in silence and suggesting that as a sign of their inner spirit of repentance they bow their heads or kneel; he concludes his remarks with the following or similar words:

Celebrant addresses the Elect:

My dear Elect, I invite you to join your prayers to this community of faith, and to kneel as we intercede to God on your behalf.

The elect kneel, and all **pray for some time in silence.**

After the period of silent prayer, the celebrant invites the people to join in the intercessions.

During the intercessions godparents should stand behind the Elect and place their right hand on the right shoulder of the Elect during the intercessions.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE ELECT

N.B. there are two series of the intercessions, 'A' and 'B'. For more, or alternate intercessions see RCIA 167-ff.

167 During the intercessions godparents should stand behind the Elect and place their right hand on the right shoulder of the Elect during the intercessions.

Celebrant:

Let us pray for these elect whom God has called, that they may remain faithful to him and boldly give witness to the words of eternal life.

Deacon, Lector, or another minister:

That, trusting in the truth of Christ, they may find freedom of mind and heart and preserve it always, let us pray to the Lord:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That, preferring the folly of the cross to the wisdom of the world, they may glory in God alone, let us pray to the Lord:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That, freed by the power of the Spirit, they may put all fear behind them and press forward with confidence, let us pray to the Lord:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That, transformed in the Spirit, they may seek those things that are holy and just, let us pray to the Lord:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That all who suffer persecution for Christ's name may find their strength in him, let us pray to the Lord:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That those families and nations prevented from embracing the faith may be granted freedom to believe the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That we who are faced with the values of the world may remain faithful to the spirit of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That the whole world, which the Father so loves, may attain in the Church complete spiritual freedom, let us pray to the Lord:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

EXORCISM

N.B. there are two sets of the prayer of exorcism, 'A' and 'B'. Form 'A' appears below. For form 'B', see RCIA 168-ff.

After the intercessions, the rite continues with the exorcism.

After the intercessions godparents lift their right hand from the shoulder of the Elect.

The Celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:

**Father of mercy,
you led the man born blind
to the kingdom of light
through the gift of faith in your Son.**

**Free these elect
from the false values that surround and blind them.
Set them firmly in your truth,
children of the light for ever.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen

Here the celebrant lays hands on the head of each of the candidates in silence.

Then, with hands outstretched over all of them, he continues:

Celebrant:

**Lord Jesus,
you are the true light that enlightens the world.
Through your Spirit of truth
free those who are enslaved by the father of lies.**

**Stir up the desire for good in these elect,
whom you have chosen for your sacraments.**

**Let them rejoice in your light, that they may see,
and, like the man born blind whose sight you restored,
let them prove to be staunch and fearless witnesses to the faith,
for you are Lord for ever and ever.**

R/. Amen

At this point, the Godparents assist the Elect in standing and briefly composing themselves.

DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT

N.B. there are 3 forms of the dismissal, 'A' and 'B' and 'C'. Also, form 'D' is used if the elect are not dismissed. Form 'B' appears below. For alternate forms, see RCIA 155-ff.

Celebrant:

**My dear friends, this community now sends you forth
to reflect more deeply upon the word of God
which you have shared with us today.**

Be assured of our loving support and prayers for you.

We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord's Table.

THIRD SCRUTINY

Fifth Sunday of Lent

LITURGY OF THE WORD

171 When this rite happens on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the texts and readings are from Fifth Sunday of Lent in the *Missal* and the *Lectionary for Mass-Cycle 'A'*. When at another time, the texts and the readings for Mass are always those given for the third scrutiny in the *Missal* and the *Lectionary for Mass* among the ritual Masses, "Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies."

HOMILY

172 After the readings and guided by them, the celebrant explains in the homily the meaning of the first scrutiny in the light of the Lenten liturgy and of the spiritual journey of the elect.

INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER FOR ELECT

173 After the homily, the elect with their godparents come forward and stand before the celebrant.

Celebrant:

I now invite the Elect with their Godparents to come forward.

The celebrant first addresses the assembly of the faithful, inviting them to pray in silence and to ask that the elect will be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God.

Celebrant addresses assembly:

Today the Church calls the Elect to conversion.

**To deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ
and to carry out the decision to love God above all.**

Let us all pray at this time in silence for them

to be given a spirit of repentance,

a sense of sin

and strength of will to live in true freedom as children of God.

The celebrant then addresses the elect, inviting them also to pray in silence and suggesting that as a sign of their inner spirit of repentance they bow their heads or kneel; he concludes his remarks with the following or similar words:

Celebrant addresses the Elect:

My dear Elect, I invite you to join your prayers to this community of faith, and to kneel as we intercede to God on your behalf.

The elect kneel, and all **pray for some time in silence.**

After the period of silent prayer, the celebrant invites the people to join in the intercessions.

During the intercessions godparents should stand behind the Elect and place their right hand on the right shoulder of the Elect during the intercessions.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE ELECT

N.B. there are two series of the intercessions, 'A' and 'B'. For more, or alternate intercessions see RCIA 174-ff.

174 During the intercessions godparents should stand behind the Elect and place their right hand on the right shoulder of the Elect during the intercessions.

Celebrant:

Let us pray for these elect whom God has chosen.

May the grace of the sacraments conform them to Christ in his passion and resurrection and enable them to triumph over the bitter fate of death.

Deacon, Lector, or another minister:

That faith may strengthen them against worldly deceits of every kind, let us pray to the Lord:

That they may always thank God, who has chosen to rescue them from their ignorance of eternal life and to set them on the way of salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That the example and prayers of catechumens who have shed their blood for Christ may encourage these elect in their hope of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may all have a horror of sin, which distorts life, let us pray to the Lord:
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who are saddened by the death of family or friends
may find comfort in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That we, too, at Easter may again be confirmed in our hope
of rising to life with Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That the whole world, which God has created in love,
may flower in faith and charity and so receive new life, let us pray to the Lord:
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

EXORCISM

N.B. there are two sets of the prayer of exorcism, 'A' and 'B'. Form 'A' appears below. For form 'B', see RCIA 174-ff.

After the intercessions, the rite continues with the exorcism.

After the intercessions godparents lift their right hand from the shoulder of the Elect.

The Celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:

Celebrant:

**Father of life-
and God not of the dead
but of the living,
you sent your Son to proclaim life,
to snatch us from the realm of death,
and to lead us to the resurrection.**

**Free these elect
from the death-dealing power of the spirit of evil,
so that they may bear witness
to their new life in the risen Christ,
for he lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

R/. Amen

Here the celebrant lays hands on the head of each of the candidates in silence.

Then, with hands outstretched over all of them, he continues:

Celebrant:

**Lord Jesus,
by raising Lazarus from the dead
you showed that you came that we might have life
and have it more abundantly.**

**Free from the grasp of death
those who await your life-giving sacraments
and deliver them from the spirit of corruption.**

**Through your Spirit, who gives life,
fill them with faith, hope, and charity,
that they may live with you always in the glory of your resurrection,
for you are Lord for ever and ever.**

R/. Amen

At this point, the Godparents assist the Elect in standing and briefly composing themselves.

DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT

N.B. there are 3 forms of the dismissal, 'A' and 'B' and 'C'. Also, form 'D' is used if the elect are not dismissed. For alternate forms, see RCIA 155-ff.

DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT

Celebrant:

**My dear Elect
the Lord raised Lazarus from the dead
as a sign that he has come to give us life in full measure.**

**May each of you learn to trust the Lord
to also liberate you from the death-dealing situations of your lives.
Go now in the peace of Christ to reflect on the Scriptures
and break open the Word of God in your lives.**