

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PASTORS AND RCIA/OCIA COORDINATORS
RITE OF ELECTION
SUNDAY MARCH 9, 2025

The **Rite of Sending** is celebrated in your parish.

(For a sample copy refer to the Diocesan Website/Ministries/RCIA Information)

The Rite of Election:

1. Catechumens and Godparents, Candidates and Sponsors need to arrive at Holy Family Parish **no earlier than 1:30 p.m. on March 9, but no later than 2:00 p.m.** Bishop will be available for group photos from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you want a group photo, please have your entire group present in the Gathering Hall before 2:00 p.m. Bishop will not be available for photos after the Rite.

2. Parishes will line up in Holy Family Gathering Hall. It is recognized that some parishes do not have an RCIA/OCIA process and will not be present. RCIA/OCIA Committee members will be at the entrance of the church to take roll of the parishes attending. We ask that only RCIA/OCIA Coordinators check in at the table. Catechumens/Godparents and Candidates/Sponsors proceed to the Gathering Hall with their RCIA/OCIA Team Members.

Everyone else is asked to enter the Church pews behind the Reservation Signs.

3. We ask that you bring **TWO** lists of your catechumens and candidates; one for the committee, and one for you to read from. We also ask you to bring a list of your parish RCIA/OCIA Team members at this time as it is important for the Diocese to have a current list with address, phone numbers, and email. If you forget to bring your list of Catechumens and Candidates and RCIA/OCIA Team Roster please mail them to Deacon Gene Ockinga, **St. Joseph Catholic Church, 625 S. Elliott Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98801** or email gockinga@stjoewen.org.

4. Please bring your parish banner and stand. When you check in you will be directed where to place the parish banner stand in the Church. When the Rite begins, the banner bearer will lead the parish procession down the center aisle with the catechumens first in line. An usher will be there to direct your parish to the right or to the left filling up the front pews first. Please let your Catechumens and Candidates know that seating for families and guests will be in the last six rows.

5. After the Bishop's homily, each parish group of **Catechumens** will be called forward in the same order as the entrance procession. The person who introduces the Catechumens to the Bishop will carry the **Book of the Elect** and lead the procession. Please be sure the book is open to the right page when you give the book to the Deacon, and that the current date is listed in the book. After you hand your book to the Deacon proceed to the microphone to read your Introduction Script which is attached.

6. There will be an usher to provide guidance as the Catechumens and Godparents process to the altar. Catechumens line up across the front facing the altar and Bishop, and stand in front of the line of tape that is on the floor. Godparents stand behind the Catechumen with right hand on their shoulder. As the RCIA/OCIA leader calls the name of each Catechumen, they will take one step forward so the Bishop can recognize each person individually and then step back. After all Catechumens have been introduced, remember to get your book from the Deacon after Bishop has signed it. All return to the pews following the usher's directions.

7. Once everyone has returned to the pews, Bishop will ask Catechumens to stand with their sponsors. Sponsors will place their right hand on Catechumen's shoulder. Three questions will be asked of the Godparents and the appropriate response is "They have." The responses for the Catechumens are: "I do" and "Thanks be to God." All then sit down. (Rite Election Responses attached)

8. **Candidates** for Full Communion, those baptized in another faith; and un-catechized baptized-only Catholic adults preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist will be introduced to Bishop as he comes to your pew. RCIA/OCIA Coordinators will stand in the aisle near your pew so that Bishop sees your location. Read from your script and as each candidate's name is called, they will stand in the pew. At this time, the sponsor remains seated. They will stand with their Candidate after all parishes have been presented to Bishop. The appropriate response of the sponsors to the four questions is "They have." The response for Candidates is "Thanks be to God." (Rite Election Responses attached)

9. After Catechumens and Candidates from all parishes have been introduced, the Rite of Election continues with the Intercessions for the Elect and Candidates.

Following the final blessing, Bishop will lead the recessional. There will be **NO** recessional with banners. Do not forget to take your banner and stand home with you.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please call Deacon Gene Ockinga at 509-860-5772 or gockinga@stjoewen.org.

Diocesan RCIA/OCIA Committee

Deacon Gene Ockinga, Chair, Wenatchee gockinga@stjoewen.org

Deacon Juan Reyes, Co-chair, Ephrata juanmreyes4@yahoo.com

Deacon Kerry Turley, Sunnyside kdturley@gmail.com

Mary Evenson, Yakima maryaevenson@gmail.com