

# The Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion

Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 3 p.m.  
Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church | 209 South Street in Waunakee

## Information for Pastors & RCIA Leaders

*Additional information (including an **online form** for the submission of Catechumen/Candidate names) is available at [www.madisondiocese.org/RiteOfElection](http://www.madisondiocese.org/RiteOfElection).*

**We have adult Catholics who regularly participate in Mass and receive Communion who are seeking Confirmation. They participate in our RCIA. Should they be called forward in this liturgy?**

**N**o. While you will want to invite them to this liturgy to support their companions, the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion is intended for those who have not yet been baptized, have been baptized Catholic but not catechized (have not celebrated their first Eucharist), or are seeking full communion with the Catholic Church from another Christian denomination. The ritual texts and actions are not intended to be “one size fits all.” Acknowledgment of this group—already actively participating in the Mass (by receiving Eucharist) but desiring to receive confirmation—in the parish may be more appropriate. Therefore, they should not be called forward with candidates who are not yet participating in the Eucharist.

**Our Catholic adults seeking Confirmation may be disappointed that they are not acknowledged at this liturgy. What should I tell them?**

**W**e encourage you to remind them that they already are in communion with the Catholic Church. Those who have not yet been baptized and those baptized in another Christian communion who seek to become members of the Catholic Church are not yet one with us, and this liturgy is a step on their path to full initiation. It’s not because we don’t want to acknowledge this group of people, it is simply that they are already members of the Catholic community through their baptism and participation in the Eucharist.

**Does every catechumen and candidate need a Godparent or Sponsor?**

**Y**es. The Godparent and Sponsor play an important role in the liturgy, testifying to the person’s readiness to enter the final period of intense preparation before the celebration of the Easter Sacraments. On a practical note, this person also serves as a companion for the catechumen or candidate, sitting with the person and supporting them on a personal level.

**We have children of catechetical age who are seeking Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. May they sign the Book of the Elect?**

**I**f they are part of this RCIA process and are seeking all three Sacraments, they may sign the Book of the Elect. If they are unable to write their entire name in a timely fashion they may simply write their first name or a parent or sponsor should assist.

### **Is there reserved seating at the liturgy?**

**N**o. Catechumens and Candidates are encouraged to sit with their sponsors, families, friends, and parishioners. Because of this, the amount of seats needed by each parish is often uncertain up to the last minute.

St. John the Baptist Parish has seating for over 1,000 people (normally about 600-800 people participate in this liturgy). All seating is on the same level (no choir loft seating). Please help everyone feel welcome at this liturgy. Please do not hold any seats for late arrivals after 2:30 p.m.

### **How long is this liturgy?**

**T**he liturgy will last about 1 hour and 15 minutes. A reception will be held in the gathering area after the liturgy.

### **Is Saint John the Baptist Parish wheelchair accessible?**

**Y**es. The greeters will be able to assist all with special needs. There will be large-print worship aids available. If there are additional questions regarding accessibility, please contact the Office of Worship (608.821.3080) as soon as possible.

### **What if there are last-minute changes among the catechumens or candidates?**

**I**f you know of the changes now, please call the Office of Worship (608.821.3080). If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message. You may do this until noon on Friday, February 28, 2020.

### **In case of inclement weather...**

We will do everything that we can to celebrate this diocesan liturgy. If it must be canceled due to the weather, we will post this information on our diocesan web page at

[www.madisondiocese.org/RiteOfElection](http://www.madisondiocese.org/RiteOfElection)

on the morning of March 1. We also will alert media outlets (TV and radio) as time allows. If this should happen, the liturgy will not be celebrated at the diocesan level, but may be celebrated the following week in the parish.

### **What ritual should we use in our parish prior to the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion?**

Since the enrollment of names, election, and call to continuing conversion take place at the diocesan celebration, the Rite of Sending is the appropriate liturgy for celebration prior to the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion. There are several variations of this rite in the ritual book:

**If you are sending *both catechumens and candidates*** see RCIA, numbers 530 and following: Parish Celebration for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop.

**If you are sending *only catechumens (no candidates)*** see RCIA, number 106 and following: Sending of the Catechumens for Election.

**If you are sending *only candidates (no catechumens)*** see RCIA, numbers 434 and following: Rite of Sending the Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop and for the Call to Continuing Conversion.