



RCIA GLOSSARY OF TERMS

BOOK OF THE ELECT: The book that is signed by the Catechumens at the Rite of Sending in their parish. This book is presented to the bishop at the Rite of Election on the first Sunday of Lent, from there they are sent to the Easter sacraments.

CANDIDATE: a baptized person from another Christian tradition, who is preparing for reception into the full communion of the Roman Catholic Church.

CATECHESIS: The instruction and spiritual formation of the catechumens, neophytes and candidates.

CATECHUMEN: An unbaptized person who is seeking initiation into the church and who has been accepted into the order of catechumens.

CATECHUMENATE: The process by which the Catholic Church brings unbaptized children and adults to Christian initiation.

CHRISM: A combination of oil and sweet balsam or perfume that is mixed and consecrated by the bishop and used to anoint newly baptized people and newly ordained priests and bishops. Chrism is also used in the consecration of churches and altars.

ELECT: Catechumens who have been found ready by the community of faith to take part in the next celebration of the sacraments of initiation.

ELECTION: The process of selecting those catechumens who are considered ready to take part in the next celebration of the sacraments of initiation. The celebration of the Rite of Election takes place the first Sunday of Lent. The bishop declares in the name of the Church that particular catechumens are ready and chosen for the sacraments at Easter. The Book of the Elect is presented to the bishop at this celebration.

ENLIGHTENMENT: The period of Lent during which the elect are involved in the final stage of preparation for celebrating the rites of initiation. (This period may also be called illumination and purification).



Saint Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

"Go, set the world on fire!"

— St. Ignatius of Loyola

EXORCISMS: Prayers that are part of the rites of scrutiny that are said for deliverance from the powers of evil and falsehood and for the reception of the gifts of the Lord, especially the Holy Spirit.

EVANGELIZATION: The activity by which the church proclaims the gospel in word and in deed.

GODPARENT(S): This is the person who will accompany the catechumen on his/her journey through the rites and periods of the catechumenate through the time of mystagogy (the time after Easter). This person is selected by the catechumen with the approval of the parish priest.

INITIATION: The process by which a person enters the faith life of the church. The process extends from the person's first inquiry through the completion of mystagogy.

INQUIRERS: Persons who sincerely seek to learn about the faith of the church.

LECTIONARY: A book containing the assigned scripture readings for the celebration of the Eucharist and the other sacraments.

MYSTAGOGY (MYSTAGOGIA): The period of time following initiation, usually the Easter season, which centers on catechesis in the meaning and experience of the mysteries of baptismal faith.

NEOPHYTE: A newly baptized person who is in the final period of Christian initiation, mystagogy.

OIL OF CATECHUMENS: The blessed oil used in anointing catechumens as a sign of their need for and God's offer of strength in overcoming all opposition to the faith they will profess throughout their lives.

PASCHAL TRIDUUM: The three days from Holy Thursday evening through Easter Sunday during which Christians celebrate the Passover of Israel from slavery to freedom, the Passover of Jesus Christ from death to life, our own Passover from sin to grace and the world's Passover from darkness to light.



Saint Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

"Go, set the world on fire!"

— St. Ignatius of Loyola

PERIODS: Times of growth in the initiation process:

- (1) Inquiry or precatechumenate
- (2) catechumenate
- (3) purification and enlightenment
- (4) mystagogy

PRECATECHUMENATE (PRE-CAT): The time of initial evangelization.

PRESENTATIONS: The rites during the period of purification and enlightenment when the church passes on to the elect the Creed and the Lord's Prayer, the cherished documents of the church, and the traditions they represent: the way Christians believe and the way Christians pray.

SCRUTINIES: Rites celebrated with the elect, usually at the Sunday liturgy on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent where the catechumen is seeking the spirit of repentance, an understanding of sin and the experience of the true freedom of the children of God.

SPONSORS: Also called Parish companions, persons (from this parish) who accompany the inquirers when they seek acceptance into the order of catechumens and who remain with them as companions during the catechumenate until the rite of election. (the candidate may choose to have this person as their sponsor at the Easter Vigil also).