

A Pastor's Perspective

February 21, 2021 Bulletin



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On the First Sunday of Lent, the Most Reverend Robert P. Deeley, JCD, Roman Catholic Bishop of Portland, celebrates “The Rite of Election and The Call to Continuing Conversion.”

Through the celebration of this rite, the Bishop officially “elects” catechumens from around the Diocese of Portland to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion at the Easter Vigil. He also chooses candidates, who are already baptized, to be admitted to full communion in the Catholic Church, also at Easter.

This year, St. Mary’s Church of St. Paul the Apostle Parish is privileged to host Bishop Deeley, who will celebrate this rite for all catechumens and candidates who live in the central Maine area. Our parish is sending four catechumens (Gustav Blackwell; Melissa Huang; Garth McNally; Katarina Pinet) and one candidate (Courtney Perry) to take part in this special Mass (which will be livestreamed, beginning at 11 a.m. on Sunday, February 21). Once elected/chosen by the Bishop, the next forty days will be a period of intense study, worship, prayer, and service for them.

Please keep these men and women in your prayers. As the Body of Christ, each one of us must be icons or models of the Christian way of life to them. We do that by journeying together and fulfilling the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These penances are gifts from God that help us to embrace the Lord’s call to conversion, to grow in personal holiness, and to renew our commitment of charity and service to our neighbor. Have a grace-filled Lent.

Peace and blessings,

Msgr. Andrew