*Please copy and distribute to all Candidates.*

**RITE OF ELECTION - 2024\***

**Guide for Candidates (baptized)**

Welcome to the Rite of Election! Please do not worry whether you will know what to do or fear that you might act incorrectly. Feel at ease! You will be given directions at each stage of the ceremony. The ceremony is for you to participate in and to enjoy.

What follows is a step-by-step guide for the celebration of the Rite of Election and other information you'll want to be aware of.

1. You should arrive at the church 30 minutes before the ceremony.

2. The pews will be marked with the names of the parishes. All candidates (baptized), catechumens (unbaptized), sponsors, and godparents from a parish will be seated together. (Please situate yourself in the pew so that all Candidates from your parish and their sponsors are seated together as a group.) Ushers will be available to help with seating.

3. The ceremony will begin with a Liturgy of the Word—readings from Scripture and a homily. The Catechumens will then be presented to the Bishop, and they will sign the Book of the Elect.

4. After the Catechumens have signed the Book of the Elect, the Candidates for Confirmation and Eucharist will be presented to the Bishop. When the name of your parish is called out, the Candidates and sponsors come as a group through the center aisle to the Bishop. Your sponsor will introduce you to the Bishop. When the introductions for your parish are finished, you'll return to your place.

5. After all the Candidates have been introduced to the bishop, the sponsors will be asked to stand. The Bishop will address himself to them and then ask them several questions to which they will respond appropriately. He will then ask them to be seated and give them the opportunity to offer personal testimony for the Candidate they are sponsoring.

6. At the end of this period, the bishop will ask the Candidates and their sponsors to stand, at which point he will recognize your desire to enter into full communion.

7. Catechumens and their godparents will join you in standing, and the community will pray intercessory prayer for all Catechumens and Candidates. Your sponsor should put their right hand on your shoulder during the prayer. After the petitions, the Bishop will pray over the whole group with outstretched arms. This will be followed by a sign of peace to those around you.

*\*Rite of Election will be held at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Paducah on Sunday, February 11, at 2:00 p.m. and St. Stephen Cathedral on Sunday, February 18, at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.*