*Please copy and distribute to all Catechumens.*

**RITE OF ELECTION - 2024\***

**Guide for Catechumens (unbaptized)**

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 celebrating the Rite of Election and other information you'll want to know about.

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 Catechumens (unbaptized), Candidates (baptized), sponsors, and godparents from a parish will be seated together. (Please try to situate yourself in the pew so that all Catechumens from your parish and godparents 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.

4. The catechumens will be presented to the Bishop after the homily. You will be seated at this time. The coordinators of the catechumenate from each parish will stand at the microphone and call out the names of the Catechumens from that parish. As your name is called, stand and look at the Bishop. It is an introduction -- respond as you would to an introduction, with a smile or a nod. Remain standing. After all have been called from your parish, be seated again. The next coordinator will call the names from that parish, etc., until all have been presented to the Bishop.

5. After all Catechumens have been presented to the Bishop, the godparents 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 allow them to offer personal testimony for the Catechumen they are sponsoring.

6. After the testimony, Catechumens will be asked to stand. The Bishop will address himself to you and ask, "Do you wish to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist?" You answer, "I do." Then, pew by pew, Catechumens, and godparents come forward through the center aisle, and you will sign the Book of the Elect.

7. After all Catechumens have signed the Book of the Elect, the Bishop will ask all Catechumens and their godparents to stand. At that point, he will declare you members of the elect to be initiated fully at the Easter Vigil. When the Bishop has finished addressing the Catechumens and their godparents, all are seated, and the Candidates (baptized) are then presented to the Bishop.

*\*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.*