

FIRST SCRUTINY

Third Sunday of Lent

LITURGY OF THE WORD

150 The texts and the readings for Mass are always those given for the first scrutiny in the *Missal* and the *Lectionary for Mass* among the ritual Masses, “Christian Initiation: For the Celebration of the Scrutinies.”

HOMILY

151 After the readings and guided by them, the celebrant explains in the homily the meaning of the first scrutiny in the light of the Lenten liturgy and of the spiritual journey of the elect.

INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER

152 After the homily, the elect with their godparents come forward and stand before the celebrant.

Celebrant: **I now invite the Elect with their Godparents to come forward.**

The celebrant first addresses the assembly of the faithful, inviting them to pray in silence and to ask that the elect will be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God.

Celebrant: **Today the Church calls the Elect to conversion.
To deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ
and to carry out the decision to love
God above all.**

**Let us all pray at this time in silence for them
to be given a spirit of repentance,
a sense of sin
and strength of will to live in true freedom as children
of God.**

The celebrant then addresses the elect, inviting them also to pray in silence and suggesting that as a sign of their inner spirit of repentance they bow their heads or kneel; he concludes his remarks with the following or similar words:

Celebrant addresses the Elect:

My dear Elect, I invite you to join your prayers to this community of faith, and to bow your heads [kneel down] as we intercede to God on your behalf.

The elect bow their heads or kneel, and all **pray for some time in silence.**

(silent prayer)

After the period of silent prayer, the celebrant invites the people to join in the intercessions.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE ELECT

N.B. there are two series of the intercessions, 'A' and 'B'. For more, or alternate intercessions see RCIA 153-ff.

153 During the intercessions godparents should stand behind the Elect and place their right hand on the right shoulder of the Elect during the intercessions.

Celebrant: **Let us pray for these elect whom the Church has confidently chosen.
May they successfully complete their long preparation and at the Paschal Feast find Christ in his sacraments.**

Deacon, Lector, or another minister:

That they may ponder the word of God in their hearts and savor its meaning more fully day by day, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may learn to know Christ, who came to save what was lost, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may humbly confess themselves to be sinners, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may sincerely reject everything in their lives that is displeasing and contrary to Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Holy Spirit, who searches every heart, may help them to overcome their weakness through his power, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That the same Holy Spirit may teach them to know the things of God and how to please him, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That their families also may put their hope in Christ and find peace and holiness in him, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That we ourselves in preparation for the Easter feast may seek a change of heart, give ourselves to prayer, and persevere in our good works, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That throughout the whole world whatever is weak may be strengthened, whatever is broken restored, whatever is lost found, and what is found redeemed, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

EXORCISM

N.B. there are two sets of the prayer of exorcism, 'A' and 'B'. Form 'A' appears below. For form 'B', see RCIA 154-ff.

After the intercessions, the rite continues with the exorcism.

After the intercessions godparents lift their right hand from the shoulder of the Elect.

The Celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:

Celebrant: **God of power,
You sent your Son to be our Savior.
Grant that these Elect,
who like the woman of Samaria, thirst for living
water,
may turn to the Lord as they hear his word
and acknowledge the sins and weaknesses that weigh
them down.**

**Protect them from vain reliance on self
and defend them from the power of Satan.**

**Free them from the spirit of deceit,
so that, admitting the wrong they have done,
they may attain purity of heart and advance on the
way to salvation.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

Here the celebrant **lays hands on the head of each of the candidates in silence.**

Then, with hands outstretched over all of them, he continues:

Celebrant: **Lord Jesus,
you are the fountain for which they thirst,
you are the Master whom they seek.
In your presence**

**they dare not claim to be without sin,
for you alone are the Holy One of God.**

**They open their hearts to you in faith,
they confess their faults
and lay bare their hidden wounds.
In your love free them from their infirmities,
heal their sickness,
quench their thirst, and give them peace.
In the power of your name,
which we call upon in faith,
stand by them now and heal them.
Rule over that spirit of evil,
conquered by your rising from the dead.**

**Show your Elect the way of salvation in the Holy
Spirit,
that they may come to worship the Father in truth,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.**

R. Amen

At this point, the Godparents assist the Elect in standing and briefly composing themselves.

DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT

N.B. there are 3 forms of the dismissal, 'A' and 'B' and 'C'. Form 'C' is used if the elect are not dismissed. For alternate forms, see RCIA 155-ff.

Form 'B'

**Celebrant: My dear friends, this community
now sends you forth**

**to reflect more deeply upon the word of God
which you have shared with us today.
Be assured of our loving support
and prayers for you.
We look forward to the day when you will share
fully in the Lord's Table.**

Form 'C'

**Celebrant: Although you cannot yet participate fully in the
Lord's eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our
hope that all God's children will eat and drink
with the Lord and work with his Spirit to re-
create the face of the earth.**

The dismissal song then begins. The catechist leading the Breaking Open the Word leads the procession of catechumens out of the church. Mass then continues with the Profession of the Faith and the Prayers of the Faithful.

OR

If the catechumens are not dismissed from the assembly, Liturgy of the Eucharist follows , beginning with intercessory prayer.