

# SECOND SCRUTINY

Fourth Sunday of Lent

---

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

## HOMILY

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

## INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER FOR ELECT

166 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 addresses assembly:

**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.**

After the period of silent prayer, the community and the elect stand for 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 167-ff.

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

**Celebrant:** **Let us pray for these elect whom God has called, that they may remain faithful to him and boldly give witness to the words of eternal life.**

Deacon, Lector, or another minister:

That, trusting in the truth of Christ, they may find freedom of mind and heart and preserve it always, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That, preferring the folly of the cross to the wisdom of the world, they may glory in God alone, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That, freed by the power of the Spirit, they may put all fear behind them and press forward with confidence, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That, transformed in the Spirit, they may seek those things that are holy and just, let us pray to the Lord:

**R./** Lord, hear our prayer.

That all who suffer persecution for Christ's name may find their strength in him, let us pray to the Lord:

**R./** Lord, hear our prayer.

That those families and nations prevented from embracing the faith may be granted freedom to believe the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

**R./** Lord, hear our prayer.

That we who are faced with the values of the world may remain faithful to the spirit of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

**R./** Lord, hear our prayer.

That the whole world, which the Father so loves, may attain in the Church complete spiritual freedom, let us pray to the Lord:

**R./** Lord, hear our prayer.

## EXORCISM

**N.B.** there are two options for the prayer of exorcism, 'A' and 'B'. Form 'A' appears below. For form 'B', see RCIA 168-ff.

After the intercessions, the rite continues with the exorcism. Godparents lift their right hand from the shoulder of the Elect.

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

**Father of mercy,  
you led the man born blind  
to the kingdom of light  
through the gift of faith in your Son.**

**Free these elect  
from the false values that surround  
and blind them.  
Set them firmly in your truth,**

**children of the light for ever.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

R./ Amen

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

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

**Celebrant:**      **Lord Jesus,  
you are the true light that enlightens the world.  
Through your Spirit of truth  
free those who are enslaved by the father of lies.**

**Stir up the desire for good in these elect,  
whom you have chosen for your sacraments.**

**Let them rejoice in your light,  
that they may see,  
and, like the man born blind  
whose sight you restored,  
let them prove to be staunch and fearless witnesses  
to the faith,  
for you are Lord 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 169-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.**

170 When the eucharist is to follow, intercessory prayer is resumed with the usual general intercessions for the needs of the Church and the whole world; then, if required, the profession of faith is said. But for pastoral reasons these general intercessions and the profession of faith may be omitted. The liturgy of the eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts. In the eucharistic prayer there is to be a remembrance of the elect and their godparents (see ritual Mass "Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies").