

THIRD SCRUTINY

Fifth Sunday of Lent

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

HOMILY

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

INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER FOR ELECT

173 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.

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 celebrant invites the people to join in the intercessions.

During the intercessions godparents should stand behind the Elect and place their right hand on the right shoulder of the Elect during 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 174-ff.

174 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
God has chosen.
May the grace of the sacraments
conform them to Christ
in his passion and resurrection and enable them
to triumph over the bitter fate of death.**

Deacon, Lector, or another minister:

That faith may strengthen them against worldly deceits of every kind, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may always thank God, who has chosen to rescue them from their ignorance of eternal life and to set them on the way of salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That the example and prayers of catechumens who have shed their blood for Christ may encourage these elect in their hope of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may all have a horror of sin, which distorts life, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who are saddened by the death of family or friends may find comfort in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That we, too, at Easter may again be confirmed in our hope of rising to life with Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That the whole world, which God has created in love, may flower in faith and charity and so receive new life, 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 174-ff.

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

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

Celebrant: **Father of life
and God not of the dead
but of the living,
you sent your Son to proclaim life,
to snatch us from the realm of death,
and to lead us to the resurrection.**

**Free these elect
from the death-dealing power of
the spirit of evil,**

**so that they may bear witness
to their new life in the risen Christ,
for he lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

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,
by raising Lazarus from the dead
you showed that you came that we
might have life
and have it more abundantly.
Free from the grasp of death
those who await your life-giving sacraments
and deliver them from the spirit of corruption.
Through your Spirit, who gives life,
fill them with faith, hope, and charity,
that they may live with you always in the glory
of your resurrection,
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 176-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.**

177 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").