

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may find the following helpful as you prepare your parish bulletins or announcements. Please adapt them as is appropriate for your parish.

RCIA: Rite of Sending / Election (1st Sunday of Lent; 2nd Sunday for those attending the Rite in Ottumwa)

This Sunday, we celebrate the Rite of Sending, formally asking the Church of Davenport to accept our catechumens as members of the Elect—those chosen by God for baptism—and to pray for our candidates' continued growth in the Spirit. We will then journey to (Davenport/Ottumwa) to celebrate the Rite of Election (of the catechumens) and the Rite of Recognition (of the candidates) with our Bishop.

RCIA: Penitential Rite for Candidates (2nd Sunday of Lent)

This Sunday, we celebrate a special penitential rite for our Candidates for full communion. Recognizing that these candidates are already baptized, we pray for the grace of further conversion of life.

RCIA: First Scrutiny of the Elect (3rd Sunday of Lent)

This Sunday, and for the next two Sundays, we will celebrate the Scrutinies. According to the Church's Rites, "the scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good." Later this week, we will also "hand over" (*traditio*) the Creed to our catechumens, which they will then "hand back" at the Easter Vigil when they make their Baptismal Promises. Please keep all the Elect in your prayers as they make their final journey to the Easter Sacraments. Because we are celebrating the Scrutinies, the readings will be taken from Cycle A of the Lectionary for this and the next two Sundays.

RCIA: Second Scrutiny of the Elect (4th Sunday of Lent)

This Sunday, we continue the celebration of the Scrutinies. On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent we pray in a particular way for those who are to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. We pray that any attachment to evil might be removed, and that they be truly converted to Christ. Again, because we are celebrating the Scrutinies, the readings will be taken from Cycle A of the Lectionary.

RCIA: Third Scrutiny of the Elect (5th Sunday of Lent)

This Sunday, we continue the celebration of the Scrutinies. On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent we pray in a particular way for those who are to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. We pray that any attachment to evil might be removed, and that they be truly converted to Christ. Later this week, we will also hand over the Lord's Prayer to the Elect—and "wait in joyful hope" until they can pray it with us as one of the Faithful at the Easter Vigil. Because we are celebrating the Scrutinies, the readings will be taken from Cycle A of the Lectionary.

CHRISM MASS (Please insert Place / Date / Time here)

You are invited to take part in one of the most special liturgies in the life of a diocese—the Chrism Mass. At this liturgy, the bishop gathers the faithful of the diocese—priests and deacons,

religious and laity—around him for the blessing and consecration of the oils that will be used in all our parishes in the coming year. Here the Oil of the Sick, used to strengthen and console and heal those who are infirm, will be blessed. Here the Oil of Catechumens, used to strengthen and free those who are preparing for baptism, will be blessed. Here the Sacred Chrism, used to ordain bishops and priests, to confirm, and to dedicate churches and altars, will be consecrated. And here, too, we will witness the Rite of Recommitment to Ministry by our priests. May our presence at the Chrism Mass be a sign of our support and gratitude for their ministry—and a reminder that baptism calls all of us to lives of service.