



## SECOND SCRUTINY: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

*After the Homily priest begins:* Brothers and Sisters: In the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the season of Lent takes on special importance. Those adults who are asking to share in the life of our risen Savior through the sacrament of baptism have entered the final stage of preparation. And so it is for the elect of our parish. Today, we pray with them and for them, asking that they be given the strength to accept God's grace as fully as possible, and to set aside whatever in their lives will hinder them from fully entering into the Christian life. Our Elect also serve as a reminder and a challenge to us. Our baptism is not something for us to take for granted; our lives as Christians are to always move toward greater conversion and acceptance of the fullness of the Gospel. So our elect stand before us today to call us to the renewal that is the reason for the Lenten season. We pray for God's grace for them and for ourselves.

### Part 1 of 2: Candidates (already baptized)

**M.C.:** Candidates, please come forward. *[Will read all the names of candidates but don't wait to be called; all come forward with sponsors (if possible) to stand in front of the altar with your sponsors behind with their right hand on right shoulder of candidate.]*

**M.C.:** When Christ departed at the Ascension, He did not leave a Bible; He left a Church. While the books of the Old Testament were in place before the time of Christ, the Bible as we know it today was not officially compiled until the late fourth century. It was the Roman Catholic Church, at the Council of Rome in 382, that promulgated the 73 book scriptural canon. As Catholics,

we abide by what St. Jerome proclaimed: Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of God. Also/and as Catholics, we affirm One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic Church as we profess in our Creed.

**PRIEST:** Candidates, as you stand before us today, know that we welcome you with open arms. Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing:

**[Prayer over Candidates]** Lord Jesus, we ask your blessings on these men and women who aspire to join your One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic Church. As they ponder your Word and share their stories may the fabric of their lives become interwoven just as our lives are-- into the very Body of Christ, your Church. AMEN

### Part 2 of 2: Catechumens (not baptized)

**M.C.:** Would our elect Catechumens and their Godparents please come forward. *[Will read all the names of the catechumens but don't wait to be called; all come forward with sponsors (if possible) to stand in front of the altar with your sponsors behind with their right hand on right shoulder of catechumen.]*

**PRIEST:** Elect of God, bow your heads and pray in silence for the true spirit of repentance. (Pause for silent prayer)

#### *Prayers of Intercession*

**PRIEST (to congregation):** Would you all please stand. 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 (M.C.):** That God may dispel darkness and be the light that shines in the hearts of our elect, we pray to the Lord... **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

>That the Spirit may gently lead them to Christ, the light of the world, we pray to the Lord... **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

>That our elect may open their hearts, acknowledging God as the source of light and the witness of truth, we pray to the Lord... **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

>That God may heal them and preserve them From the unbelief of this world, we pray to the Lord... **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

>That, saved by him who takes away the sin of the world, they may be free from the contagion and forces of sin, we pray to the Lord... **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

>That, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they may never fail to profess the Good News of salvation and share it with others, we pray to the Lord... **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

>That all of us, by the example of our lives, be the light of the world that leads others to Christ, we pray to the Lord... **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

>That all the people of the world may acknowledge the true God, the Creator of all things, who bestows upon us the gift of Spirit and life, we pray to the Lord... **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

**PRIEST [Exorcism]:** 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 forever. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

**PRIEST. [Extends his hands]:** 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 probe to be staunch and fearless witnesses to the faith, for you are Lord for even and ever. **Amen.**

**PRIEST:** Heavenly Father, we entrust these our brothers and sisters in baptism to your loving care and protection. Strengthen them as they live lives of conversion. Protect them from the temptations of life. Draw them close to you, that as they approach the Easter Vigil when they will join the Church in Full Communion, they may be strengthened with your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God**

*[All turn and return to pews. Presentation of gifts and the mass continue]*

## Next week: the Third Scrutiny

### Why the Scrutinies?

☞ **The scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ." At its core, the scrutinies are not about the sinfulness of the elect but about the overwhelming grace of God in Christ.**

### **Nicene Creed**

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation, he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.*

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**  
*We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*