

**ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP  
Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill, Director**

**JANUARY 2025**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
FOR THE RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS  
AND OF CALLING THE CANDIDATES  
TO CONTINUING CONVERSION**

- Please see below the schedule and other pertinent information for the 2025 celebration of the *Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion* at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia. This will be the only electronic communication prior to registration.
- Each parish and institution in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia should have one person designated as the Adult Christian Initiation Coordinator to complete the forms below. This may be the pastor, the parochial vicar, the deacon, the D/CRE, or someone designated by the pastor to do so.
- The Adult Christian Initiation Coordinator is asked to check with the parish religious education program, the school and ethnic communities involved in the formation of school-age children and other adults for the sacraments of Christian Initiation to provide a complete listing for the *Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion*.
- Everyone is reminded that only the revised 2024 *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* may be used at this point.
- Each parish and institution is to provide the *Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for the Calling to Continuing Conversion* prior to the celebration at the Cathedral as indicated in the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*.
- If a parish or institution cannot participate in the rites at the Cathedral Basilica, then delegation should be requested for these rites through the Office for Divine Worship.

## THE SCHEDULE

**Saturday, March 8, 2025, at 3:00 PM**

**Parishes and Institutions in Bucks, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties**

**Sunday, March 9, 2025, at 3:00 PM**

**Parishes and Institutions in Chester County and all of Philadelphia**

*It is possible for a parish or institution to switch days if necessary.*

*Catechumens, Godparents, Candidates, Sponsors, and Presenters of the Book of the Elect should arrive 45 minutes before the start of the celebration. A review of the Rite will take place 30 minutes before the start of the celebration.*

### REGISTRATION

*All three forms are required.*

*All registrations are handled electronically.*

To register your parish [CATECHUMENS](#), please [CLICK HERE](#)

- *Please provide a phonetic spelling of the name, if considered necessary.*
- *All names of the catechumens will be called during the celebration.*

*The Rite of Election is required for all catechumens 14 years and older.*

*Participation of school-age catechumens is optional.*

For Name Tags, please click, [Catechumens/Godparents Tags](#).

- *Please have name tags on upon entry into the Cathedral for seating purposes.*

To register your parish [CANDIDATES](#), please [CLICK HERE](#)

- *Please provide a phonetic spelling of the name, if considered necessary.*
- *All names of the candidates will be called during the celebration.*

*The Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion is meant for adults (and not children) who are baptized and will be received into Full Communion and/or receive Confirmation and/or Communion. This is especially for those who have*

*distanced themselves from the Christian faith and who were not regularly practicing this faith.*

For Name Tags, please click, [Candidates/Sponsors Tags](#).

- *Please have name tags on upon entry into the Cathedral for seating purposes.*

To register your parish [PARTICIPATION](#), please [CLICK HERE](#)

For additional information, <http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/sacred-liturgy/christian-initiation/>

*After submitting each form, you will receive a confirmation email with your submission details. Please ensure your email address is entered correctly. If you do not receive such an email within one week of registering, please contact the Office for Divine Worship at [worship@archphila.org](mailto:worship@archphila.org).*

**ALL FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY  
BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **SEATING**

- Catechumens and Godparents will be seated in a RESERVED SECTION on the left side of the main aisle facing the altar. Please be sure to have name tags on for quicker and easier seating.
- Candidates and sponsors will be seated in a RESERVED SECTION on the right side of the main aisle facing the altar. Please be sure to have name tags on for quicker and easier seating.
- There will be reserved seating for wheelchair users and deaf catechumens. Please indicate any additional special needs on the registration forms.
- A very limited amount of unreserved seating is available for additional family, friends, and parishioners.

## **THE BOOK OF THE ELECT**

- Each parish and institution must bring its own copy of the *Book of the Elect*.
- The signing of the *Book of the Elect* by catechumens takes place prior to the Rite of Election of Catechumens as indicated in the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*. The baptized do not sign the *Book of the Elect*.
- The name of the presenter of the *Book of the Elect* should be designated on the catechumen registration form.
- *The parish priests do not present the Book of the Elect.*
- The post-registration email will direct you to the Office for Worship Christian Initiation website to download the name tag for the Presenter of the *Book of the Elect*. Please include the parish or institution name on the name tag. Presenters of the *Book of Elect* please have your tag clipped on upon entry into the Cathedral. All Presenters of the *Book of the Elect* will be seated in a RESERVED SECTION. Instructions will be in the pews for review.

## **ATTENDING PRIESTS**

All attending priests are strongly encouraged to vest in surplice/alb in the Neumann Room of the Cathedral Basilica and prepare for the liturgical procession. The parish priests do not present the *Book of the Elect*.

## **ATTIRE**

The solemnity of this occasion, the *Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for the Calling to Continuing Conversion*, should be reflected in the choice of attire. *Recreational attire is not appropriate.*

## **INFORMATION TABLE**

There are limited emergency supplies at the information table, i.e., water, tissues, and paper towels, should an emergency arise. The information table is located near the baptismal font.

## **PARKING**

- There is limited parking in the Archdiocesan Parking Lot, which can be accessed from 17th Street.

- Most street parking is free on Sunday.
- Gateway Parking Garage is also available at 1540 Vine Street, Philadelphia 19103. Entrances on Spring and 16th Streets

**MASSES FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
AT THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA FOLLOWING THE RITES**

- Saturday, March 8, 2025  
4:15 PM Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation  
5:15 PM Anticipated Mass for the First Sunday of Lent
- Sunday, March 9, 2025  
5:30 PM Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation  
6:30 PM Mass for the First Sunday of Lent

**SNOW EMERGENCY POLICY**

- If the *Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for the Calling to Continuing Conversion* is cancelled due to inclement weather, an announcement (not a number) will be broadcast on KYW (1060 AM) or KYW 103.9 FM or go to [www.kyw1060.com](http://www.kyw1060.com).
- If a winter advisory exists in your area and travel to the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul is treacherous, parishes and institutions are advised to make an independent decision regarding their participation.

**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP**  
**Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill, Director**  
[worship@archphila.org](mailto:worship@archphila.org)  
215-587-3537