



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

Office of Religious Education

Rite of Election – March 1, 2020 at 2:30pm, Epiphany Cathedral

Please read this entire document carefully, as some items have changed from previous years.

When is the Rite of Election?

First Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2020 at 2:30 P.M.

Where is the Rite of Election?

Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Ave., Venice, Florida 34285

Who should attend?

- **Parish RCIA Team Leader** – This can be the pastor, associate pastor, staff member, or other lay leader who can lead the participants in the ceremony.
- **Catechumens** – Those who are unbaptized and plan to be received into the Catholic Church at Easter.
- **Catechumen Godparents (Sponsors)** – Each Catechumen should have at least one Godparent (sponsor).
- **Candidates** – Those who are previously baptized in a Protestant denomination and who plan to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church at Easter.
- **Candidate Sponsors** – Each Candidate should have at least one sponsor.
- **Parish Banner Carrier** – Each Parish will process into the Rite with a banner. Please designate one person from your Parish (NOT one of the Catechumens or Candidates) to carry your banner.
- **RCIA Team members, Family and Friends** – All are invited to this important ceremony, but note that only the Priest, Team Leader, Catechumens, Candidates and their sponsors will have reserved seating.

Who should not attend?

Baptized Catholics who are only requiring Confirmation.

What do we need to submit in advance?

- **Rite of Election List of Catechumens Form** (enclosed): Fill out the form with the names of Catechumens and their sponsors.
- **Rite of Election Seating Reservation Form** (enclosed): Complete the reservation form indicating the approximate number from your parish who will be present at the Cathedral.



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

Office of Religious Education

Where can I find the forms needed?

- Online at <https://dioceseofvenice.org/parish-connect/all-diocesan-policies-and-forms/> listed alphabetical under “Rite of Election.”

Where should we send the forms?

- **Email:** Download the forms from the website (see above), save to your computer with a new name, type in the information, save it and send it as an attachment by e-mail to lalor@epiphanycathedral.org
- **Mail:**
Sister Frances Lalor
Epiphany Cathedral
310 Sarasota Street
Venice, Florida 34285

What is the deadline for submitting the forms?

Deadline for forms to be sent to Epiphany Cathedral: **February 14, 2020**

What do we need to bring?

- **Completed Rite of Election Catechumen Parchment Form:** Have your Catechumens and pastor sign the Parchment during the Rite of Sending at your Parish and bring to the Rite of Election.
- **Name Tags:** All candidates, catechumens and sponsors must wear plain white name tags (shipping size). The name tag should have the first and last name, designation (“Candidate”, “Catechumen”, “Sponsor”) and Parish name.
- **Parish Banner**

| |
|---|
| <p>John Smith Candidate St. Cecilia Parish</p> |
|---|

Will I receive anything from the Diocese beforehand?

Epiphany Cathedral will send the Reserved seating information by e-mail. Reserved seating is for Catechumens, Candidates and Sponsors/Godparents. All others will be seated in general seating.

What will happen at the Rite?

Parish RCIA Team Leader

- When you arrive at the Cathedral for the Rite of Election, please look around the Cathedral for signs to find your seating. (Example: A, B, C)



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

Office of Religious Education

Catechumens (Unbaptized)

- Please follow the directions of your RCIA Team Leader to sit in your reserved seating.
- Catechumens will be in reserved seating with **one** sponsor. Each Parish will be called forward individually. The catechumens and their Godparents (Sponsors) process down the center aisle 2 X 2. The Team Leader in your parish will give the parchment to the deacon. Individual parishes should form a semi-circle in front of the Bishop. Each Catechumen will be called from the ambo by name. The Bishop will bow first, after which the catechumens and sponsors should bow in unison. Exit to the side in which you are seated. Practice at the home parish.
- **ONE Sponsor and no others should accompany each catechumen to the altar.**
- The Catechumens/Godparents should be alert to the directions of the usher.

Candidates (Baptized)

- Please follow the directions of your RCIA Team Leader to sit in your reserved seating.
- Candidates will be in reserved seating with **one** sponsor. After the celebration of election and Catechumens have returned to their seats, the Candidates (Baptized) will be invited to come forward and take the water, making the Sign of the Cross as a reminder of their Baptism and as an expression of their desire for full initiation into the Catholic Church. **(Please insure that they all know how to make the Sign of the Cross properly)**. After blessing themselves, the candidates should immediately return to seats from where they came. Any other necessary instructions will be given by the Master of Ceremonies prior to the Rite.
- **One Sponsor should accompany the candidates to the holy water.**

Banner Carriers

- *All parishes should have banners displayed on a single pole.*
- The procession into the Cathedral will include the banner carriers who will process before the Bishop down the center aisle and then return to the back of the Cathedral by the far side aisle, depositing the banners at the back of the church. The next time you carry the banner will be at the end for picture taking. While the last song is sung, all banner carriers should go to the back of the church. When your parish is called for pictures, line up with your group in the middle aisle. Parishes are called by Farthest to Nearest traveling distance to the Cathedral.

Questions?

- **Questions about Seating or Epiphany Cathedral:** Rite of Election Coordinator (941) 485-2325.
- **All other questions:** Office of Religious Education at the Diocese of Venice (941) 484-9543.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in making the Rite of Election a memorable experience for our Catechumens and Candidates.