



## St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

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### The RCIA Process Rite of Election

*It is now the first Sunday of Lent.  
The Alleluia has been buried,  
shades of purple veil the Church,  
and a mass of bramble is carefully bent to  
resemble the crown of thorns – a crown  
worn without complaint,  
a solemn reminder of the Kingship,  
of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The passion  
of Jesus must ultimately bring us to  
our knees, at the foot of the cross.*

During their Lenten journey the elect are called to a more intense time of retreat and spiritual formation. This period is called "purification and enlightenment," a time to purify their minds and hearts as they search their consciences and do penance. It is also a time when the elect will be enlightened with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior. The celebration of the scrutinies and the presentations enrich this experience for our elect.

#### **"The Rite"**

*"These Catechumens whom I now present to you have completed their period of preparation. They have found strength in God's grace, And support in our community's prayer and example. They would now like to enter their final period of Scrutiny and participate in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist."* (Adapted from the RCIA Rite book)

Sent from the parish community, the catechumens and candidates are received by the Bishop in procession as they walk forward into a new life with Christ. The Book of the Elect precedes them into the church as a presentation of their intention to continue their journey. At this moment in their lives they are affirming their earlier promises to know, love and follow Christ. It is also the time when their sponsors, team, and parish community say, "Yes these Catechumens and Candidates are ready to move into their final preparation period. They have experienced true conversion of heart, mind and soul."

It has been a conversion experience not only for the newly elect, but also for each person who has traveled this road with them. Each has been truly blessed and touched by the Spirit of God. They have grown in faith, and we have encountered Jesus in those assembled in His name.

During the Rite, one of the team members will come forward and call the candidates' names for enrollment to the Easter Vigil Rite. After the bishop asks a few questions of them, their sponsors are asked to stand with them as they are recognized. The sponsors' testimony is the final affirmation to the bishop. They are now the 'Elect of God' and return to the parish as disciples ready to say "yes" to all Jesus asks of them. Soon they will join the community at the Eucharistic table and proclaim their "Amen". This is the Body of Christ with whom I am in communion!