



COMBINED OCIA RITES IN 2025

*Celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens and
of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion
within a Liturgy of the Word*

Sunday, March 9, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.
(First Sunday of Lent)

The Cathedral of Mary Our Queen

5200 N. Charles Street; Baltimore, MD 21210

Archbishop William E. Lori, celebrant

Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, concelebrant

Dear Pastors and OCIA Coordinators:

Archbishop Lori will celebrate the 2025 *Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion* on the First Sunday of Lent (March 9, 2025) at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. The liturgy will be bi-lingual in English/Spanish. This will be the only location for the rites this year. Online registration is now open and can be accessed in one of two ways:

1. Click [HERE](#).
2. Copy and paste this link into your browser:
<https://archbalt.regfox.com/2025-combined-ocia-rites>

We look forward to celebrating this step in the initiation process with you. Informational virtual meetings to go over the rites and answer questions will be held in February (see page 2). You'll find information about this on the next page. For additional information or assistance with registration, please contact Kathi Schissler, Administrative Assistant, at worship@archbalt.org or call 410-547-5403.

Together in Christ,

Julie Grace Males, Director
Office of Divine Worship,
Archdiocesan and Cathedral Music Ministries
Archdiocese of Baltimore



INFORMATIONAL VIRTUAL MEETINGS IN PREPARATION FOR THE RITES

In preparation for the rites, please join us for a no cost informational session at either of the following times:

- Tuesday, February 18 at 2:00 p.m
- Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Click [HERE](#) to register for informational virtual meeting.

RITES REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration for the *Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion* is to be completed by all parishes that plan to participate. Please note the following:

1. The deadline for registration is **Friday, February 28, 2025.**
2. All parish OCIA Coordinators who register for the Combined OCIA Rites online will receive an automatic email notification if registration has been successful. If you do not receive this notification within three business days of submitting your registration, or if you are unable to register online for any reason, please contact Kathi Schissler, Administrative Assistant, at worship@archbalt.org or call 410-547-5403.
3. Due to capacity limits, we can only provide reserved seating for catechumens, candidates, their godparents/sponsors, and three team members per parish. Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate family or friends this year. However, the liturgy will be livestreamed on the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen website (<https://cathedralofmary.org/>). Thank you in advance for your assistance in communicating this information to your catechumens and candidates!

ON THE DAY OF THE RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS AND OF CALLING THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

1. If you have catechumens for the Rite of Election, bring your parish's signed **Book of the Elect** with you to the Combined OCIA Rites. (If your parish only has candidates for the Call to Continuing Conversion, you will not have a Book of the Elect.)
2. We ask parish representatives who will "call" the names of the catechumens during the Rite of Election or announce the name of the parish during the Call to Continuing Conversion, to arrive at least **45 minutes in advance.** Please sign in at the Registration Table near the main entrance. **Only the parish representative (usually the OCIA Coordinator) needs to sign in at the Registration Table.** You will receive additional instructions at the Registration Table.

Catechumens and candidates need not check in at the Registration Table.

3. Parish seating assignments will be available the day of the rites. They will be clearly designated



Additional Information:

RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS AND OF CALLING THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

The details of the celebration of this Combined Rite can be found in [OCIA 547-560]. **This celebration is NOT a Mass.** The liturgy will be bi-lingual in English/Spanish. Following the Liturgy of the Word the celebration of the rites will continue in this manner:

1. Celebration of Election [OCIA 551-554]

Unbaptized children (older than 7 years of age), youth, or adults preparing for Christian initiation through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are called **catechumens**. As they begin the next step on the journey, they are called forth to celebrate the ***Rite of Election of Catechumens***.

- a. At the appropriate time, the parish representative who will “call” the names of the catechumens, will be directed to the microphone. Please have them bring the ***Book of the Elect*** with them as they approach the microphone. There will be further instructions about this at the Registration Table.
- b. The parish representative announces the name of the parish and then reads each catechumen’s name. As each parish name is announced, all catechumens, with their godparents, enter the aisle and proceed toward the sanctuary.
- c. After reading the names in ***The Book of the Elect***, the parish representative presents the book to the Archbishop to sign. When the book is signed, the parish representative returns to their seat as directed.
- d. The Archbishop will then address the godparents and catechumens. Although the questions and responses appear in both the ritual text and the worship aid, please review this material with the catechumens and godparents in preparation. (Godparents [OCIA 552]; Catechumens [OCIA 553-554].)
- e. After the ***Rite of Election***, the catechumens--now called *the Elect*--and their godparents are seated.

2. Celebration of the Calling to Continuing Conversion [OCIA 555-557]

Baptized adults and youth who are preparing to complete their Christian initiation and/or be received into full communion with the Catholic Church are called **candidates**. As they transition to the next part of the journey, they will be called forth to celebrate the ***Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion***.



- a. As the parish representative announces the name of the parish, the candidates (with their sponsors) stand and enter the sanctuary. Candidates names are not called individually during this section. Only the name of the parish is announced.
- b. The Archbishop then addresses the sponsors and candidates. Although the questions and responses appear in both the ritual text and the worship aid, please review this material with sponsors and candidates in preparation for the Rites. (Sponsors [OCIA 556]; Candidates [OCIA 557])
- c. After the rite, the candidates and sponsors return to their seats.

Signing the Book of the Elect and the Parish Rite of Sending

PARISH RITE OF SENDING

We hope you will celebrate a rite of sending with your parish community prior to attending the Archdiocesan rites. The rites of sending are optional parish rites that take place after the homily. The distinction between catechumens and candidates is to be clearly established and expressed. It is within the parish community that the initial discernment is made concerning the catechumens' and candidates' state of formation and progress. The rites of sending offer the parish community the opportunity to express its affirmation of the catechumens and candidates and to assure them of their ongoing support.

There are three distinct Rites of Sending that may be used.

1. For parishes sending only catechumens (the unbaptized over the age of 7) to the Cathedral, use the *Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election* [OCIA 106]
2. For parishes sending only candidates (the baptized) to the Cathedral, use the *Rite of Sending the Candidates for the Calling to Continuing Conversion* [OCIA 434]
3. For parishes sending both catechumens and candidates to the Cathedral, use the *Rite of Sending the Catechumens for Election and Candidates for the Calling to Continuing Conversion* [OCIA 530]