

WITH HUMBLE SPIRIT

MARCH 2025

CALENDAR NOTES

MAR 5

Ash Wednesday

- **NO PENITENTIAL ACT:** The penitential act is omitted. After the greeting, the priest says, "Let us Pray" and prays the Collect.
- **2 MASSES:** According to Canon 905 and pursuant to our priest policies, a priest may only licitly celebrate two Masses on Ash Wednesday. Consider using the "Blessing and Distribution of Ashes" from Book of Blessings, #1656 ff.
- The Revised translation of the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* must be used beginning today.

MAR 9

First Sunday of Lent

- **RITE OF ELECTION**
The Rite of Election will be held at the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine at 3:30pm.

MAR 19

Solemnity of St. Joseph

- **PRINCIPAL PATRON:** St. Joseph is the principal patron of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Consider praying in a special way for the Archdiocese in the Universal Prayers.
- **GLORIA AND CREED:** Both the Gloria and Creed are said.

MAR 23

Third Sunday of Lent

There are several liturgical notes regarding Masses where the First Scrutiny is Celebrated:

- **ORATIONS:** Prayers are found in the Roman Missal, Ritual Masses, #2. A.
- **PREFACE:** The preface is proper as found for this Sunday of Lent.
- **READINGS:** The Year A readings are used.
- **RITE OF SCRUTINY:** The Rite of the First Scrutiny is found in OCIA, #150ff.

ARS CELEBRANDI

OCIA: PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

We continue a series on the revised *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, which must be used beginning Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

The period of purification and enlightenment is a 40-day journey that leads catechumens to the Easter Triduum, the memorial of the Lord's Passion, death, and Resurrection, which is the heart of the mystery of salvation. This time is characterized by intense prayer, reflection, and a commitment to conversion. It is a moment for catechumens to deepen their understanding of the faith and to prepare their hearts for the sacraments of initiation, which will be celebrated at the Easter Vigil. The entire Church journeys with catechumens in this period of Lent, and every one of the faithful should be praying for catechumens and those being received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Scrutinies are essential rites that take place during the period of purification and enlightenment. They serve as a means of spiritual preparation, allowing catechumens to confront their weaknesses, sins, and the obstacles that may hinder their relationship with God. The scrutinies are not merely rituals; they are opportunities for catechumens to experience the healing grace of Christ and to be strengthened in their resolve to live according to the Gospel. These rites emphasize the importance of self-examination and the need for conversion, inviting catechumens to embrace the transformative power of God's love.

Catechumens normally are to celebrate the 3 scrutinies on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, but they can be celebrated during those weeks or on other days during Lent. When the scrutinies are celebrated during Mass, the Mass prayers are from the Ritual Mass (#2. a, b, c). The readings are always to be those from year A.

Each celebration of the scrutiny maintains an identical structure. After the homily, there is a time of prayer in silence. This is an invitation to the catechumen and the community to pray for a "spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God" (OCIA #152). If possible, this happens with the elect bowing their heads or kneeling.

Following the prayer in silence, the intercessions for the elect are introduced by the priest and led by a deacon or a lector. During that time, the sponsors are to place their hand on the shoulders of the elect. These may replace the Universal Prayer of the Mass. The intercessions conclude with the prayer of exorcism. These prayers are offered to strengthen catechumens against the forces of evil and to prepare them for the grace of the sacraments. They serve as a reminder of the spiritual battle that accompanies the journey of faith.

There are 2 options for the exorcism prayer at each scrutiny. Each exorcism has two prayers. One which prays to cast out the power of the devil and the other which prays for the strengthening of the elect with the Holy Spirit. After the first prayer with hands joined, "if this can be done conveniently, the celebrant lays hands in silence on each one of the elect" (OCIA #154). Then the second prayer is prayed with the hands extended over all the elect. Then the elect are dismissed, normally, but there are options in case they cannot be dismissed.

There are also two "handing on" rites during the period of

CALENDAR NOTES, CONT'D

- **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:** Note the interpolations of the Eucharistic Prayer as indicated in the Missal.

MAR 30

Fourth Sunday of Lent

The notes above for the First Scrutiny apply when the Second Scrutiny is celebrated. The Rite of the Second Scrutiny is found in OCIA, #164ff.

LOOKING AHEAD

- **EASTER VIGIL (APR 20)**
According to the Roman Missal, the Easter Vigil must begin in the dark. The norm for the beginning of the Easter Vigil is 8:30pm. It is prohibited to start before 8:00pm without the explicit permission of Archbishop Coakley.
- **OCTAVE OF EASTER (Apr 20-27).** At every weekday Mass (except Funeral Masses), the Gloria is said, but the Creed is omitted.
- **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (Apr 27).** The opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence should be announced and the appropriate prayers should be led after Mass or at another time.



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Pilgrimage**

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 31 — JUNE 3

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage is coming through the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City from May 31 to June 3. Several events are being planned and will be open to the public! We hope you can join us as we celebrate our Catholic Faith with others around the country!



Go Make Disciples

DIVINE WORSHIP

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Purification and Enlightenment. After the first scrutiny, the Handing on of the Creed is to be celebrated during the week (not at the same Mass). This rite includes a liturgy of the word and a homily. Then the priest introduces the creed for the elect. The priest prays the creed (either Apostle's or Niceno-Constantinopolitan) with the elect. Finally, the priest invites the faithful to pray for the elect; he prays over them and then dismisses them. The Handing on of the Lord's Prayer happens after the Third Scrutiny or even in the Rite of Immediate Preparation. This includes the presentation of the Lord's Prayer as found in Matthew 6:9-13. It concludes with a prayer over the elect and dismissal as in the Handing on of the Creed.

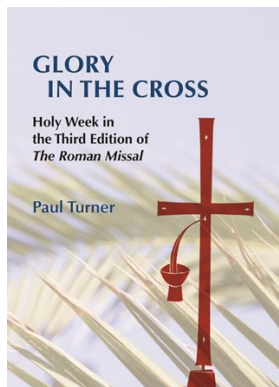
The time of purification and enlightenment is an essential period of proximate preparation. Emphasis should be given to repentance for sins which are remitted in baptism. The Christian community joins the catechumens through their Lenten observance, itself ordered to purification and enlightenment.

Candidates for confirmation and/or reception into full communion with the Catholic Church may celebrate an analogous penitential rite (Part II, Chapter V, D.) during the Lenten season or at a time before they are confirmed. This rite, however, may not be combined with the scrutinies celebrated with the catechumens. Furthermore, this rite does not include the Sacrament of Penance with absolution which a candidate for confirmation should celebrate before being confirmed.

The rites of immediate preparation will be discussed in the next column which addresses the celebration of the sacraments of initiation.

Rev. Zachary M. Boazman

RESOURCES FROM OUR OFFICE

**Glory in the Cross**

Holy Week in the Third Edition of the
Roman Missal

Michael Ruzicki

The principal liturgies of Holy Week underwent a series of revisions between 1951 and 2011. In this book, noted liturgist Paul Turner charts the rubrics and prayers of the current rites paragraph by paragraph, explaining the historical development of individual components, how and why the post-Vatican II

liturgical reform made its revisions, and where the Roman Missal, Third Edition has added nuances. This book will help ministers, liturgists, catechists, and all the faithful enter more deeply into the mystery of the cross of Christ, their glory and their hope.

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