



DIOCESE OF SIOUX CITY

Rev. Andrew J. Galles, *Director of Worship*

IMPORTANT DATES FOR LENT 2026

FEBRUARY 18: ASH WEDNESDAY

Remember, the distribution of ashes must be done either within the celebration of Mass or the celebration of a Liturgy of the Word. The distribution of ashes may only take place within a Liturgy of the Word or within Mass. Ashes are not to be imposed without a proper liturgy.

FEBRUARY 22: RITE OF ELECTION (FOR CATECHUMENS)

The Rite of Election will take place for Catechumens (those unbaptized) on **February 22 at 2 pm** at the Cathedral of the Epiphany. Just a reminder that the Rite of Election is **not optional** – the Catechumens must be “elected” for the Easter sacraments by the Bishop. Please notify the Office of the Bishop with the name of any Catechumen that will be unable to attend the Rite of Election. Please submit the names of your Catechumens on the diocesan website at:

<https://scdiocese.org/catechumen-registration-form>

FEBRUARY 22: RITE OF THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION (FOR CANDIDATES)

The Call to Continuing Conversion may be celebrated in individual parishes by the pastors. The Candidates (those baptized but have not yet received Confirmation or the Eucharist) can be received after the Homily during the celebration of any Mass of the First Sunday of Lent. Although the Candidates do not participate in the Rite of Election, the diocese still asks that you submit the names of your Candidates for statistical data on the diocesan website at:

<https://scdiocese.org/rite-of-the-call-to-continuing-conversion>

MARCH 3: THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU CONFESSIONS

Each parish or grouping will celebrate this event by offering 2 hours of uninterrupted confessions, typically from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, though the times can be adjusted as needed to best suit the needs and convenience of the parish. These confessions should be directed especially towards those who have fallen away from the sacrament or who are on the fringes of practicing their faith.

MARCH 8, MARCH 15, AND MARCH 22: THE SCRUTINIES

On the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, the Scrutinies are celebrated for the Elect (previously known as Catechumens prior to the Rite of Election). These required rites take place within the ritual Mass “For the Celebration of the Scrutinies” and use the Lectionary readings for Year A, which is already the current lectionary cycle for 2026. Please remember that the Scrutinies are **not optional** – requests to dispense an individual from a Scrutiny must be made in writing to Bishop Keehner.

MARCH 30: CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass will take place on the Monday of Holy Week at **11:00 am** at the Cathedral of the Epiphany. Please note that going forward, the Holy Oils will be bottled **after** the Chrism Mass. Therefore, the Holy Oils will not be available until the end of the sit-down dinner in the Cathedral Hall for the priests to celebrate their priesthood and the renewal of their priestly promises.

If you need more or less oil than what you received last year, please contact Maria Garcia at mariag@scdiocese.org by Monday, March 16. Each parish will receive a set quantity of oils in larger bottles based on the data of previous years unless a different quantity is requested by the parish. **All active priests in ministry are expected to be present.** If any active priest is unable to be present at the Chrism Mass, he must contact the Office of the Bishop.