

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Parish bulletins

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Rite of Election to be celebrated

- Those catechumens preparing to enter the Church at Easter through the initiation Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist will participate in the Rite of Election on the first Sunday of Lent. The rite also recognizes the candidates who seek to enter into full communion with the Church by their profession of faith. Pastors, parish catechumenate leaders, godparents, sponsors, and family members will be present to witness this next step in the final stage of preparation.
- The Rite of Election will be celebrated in the Diocese of Victoria, **Sunday, February 22, 2026** at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria, Texas at **2:00 p.m.** The Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, presiding.
- The Rite of Election, celebrated in the presence of the Bishop, acknowledges that one enters the universal faith community of the Church in addition to the particular parish faith community. Prior to the diocesan celebration, parishes will celebrate the Rite of Sending. The Rite of Sending addresses "the entire community of the faithful, so that all will be encouraged to give good example and to accompany the candidates along the path of the paschal mystery." All of the liturgical rites associated with the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* (OCIA) remind parishioners of their responsibility to assist in the preparation of those joining the Church. It also serves to remind parishioners of their own continuing faith journey. The names of the elect will be inscribed in the parish Book of the Elect, and the Book will be presented to the Bishop at the diocesan ceremony.
- The Rite of Election will be set within the Liturgy of the Hours; Midafternoon prayer, and include: Readings from Sacred Scripture, a Homily, the Presentation and reading of the names of the Catechumens, and affirmation and support by their godparents and those gathered who represent the entire church, the Presentation and reading of the names of the Candidates planning to enter into full communion with the Church, and affirmation and support by their Sponsors and Assembly, and Prayers of intercession for Catechumens and Candidates.