



49 ELM STREET ■ WORCESTER, MA 01609 ■ (508) 929-4303

www.worcesterdiocese.org/religious-education

Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion Information and Registration Form

On the First Sunday of Lent, Bishop McManus will celebrate the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion for the catechumens and candidates of our diocesan parishes who expect to be initiated into the Church this Easter.

The rite will be celebrated within a Liturgy of the Word on Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 3:00 pm at the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul. *The Eucharist will not be celebrated.*

Submit registrations *ONLINE* now through Monday, February 9, 2026

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The following have active roles in the rite:

- **Catechumens – MANDATORY! Catechumens must be elected.**
 - unbaptized persons who will be fully initiated into the Church at the Easter Vigil
- **Godparents/Sponsors**
 - persons who will support and guide catechumens and candidates through the February 22nd rite and during the rest of their formation. They need to give testimony.
- **Candidates** – not mandatory for these previously baptized candidates
 - baptized Catholic adults who are preparing for confirmation and eucharist
 - baptized non-catholics who will be welcomed into the full communion of the Church

ALSO

- Family, friends, parish staff members and parishioners are welcome to attend and support catechumens and candidates by their prayerful participation in the rites.
- Parish priests and other clergy are welcome to vest in alb and purple stole. Vesting will be on the lower level of the Cathedral.

N.B. Reserved seating will be provided for catechumens, candidates, godparent or sponsor and one team member. Family members and other guests may sit anywhere in the church not designated as reserved. Parishes presenting children will be seated in the front.

This rite is **NOT** for baptized children under 18 who will be just celebrating First Communion.

SPECIAL PREPARATIONS

AT THE PARISH

A parish **Rite of Sending** may be celebrated in your parish at some convenient time prior to the Cathedral rite on February 22nd. If you are sending **catechumens only**, use the rite found in the OCIA ritual at paragraphs 106 through 116. If you are sending **only candidates** (previously baptized Catholics and non-catholics), use the rite found in the OCIA ritual at paragraphs 434 through 444. If you are sending a mixed group of **catechumens and candidates**, use the rite found in the OCIA ritual at paragraphs 530 through 545.

AT THE CATHEDRAL

Families -- Family members would be well advised to make arrangements for the care of their infants and small children. Unfortunately, the Cathedral lacks appropriate facilities for them.

Rest Rooms and Handicap Entrance -- Located on the lower level of the Cathedral. The handicap entrance may be accessed from Chatham St. (lower level). An elevator is located inside this side entrance to the Cathedral.

Parking

- Cathedral Parking Lot
- Federal Plaza Garage, located at 570 Main St. behind the Cathedral
- On-street parking on Chatham and High Streets is permitted
- Please **do not** park in the Center for Performing Arts' lot across from the Cathedral's main entrance or in any other lots that are restricted.

Online Registration

Website: worcesterdiocese.org/rite-of-election-registration

ENTER *information for all participating catechumens and candidates*
When complete, CLICK on *SUBMIT*

1. Contact Person -- This person may be contacted before the Rite of Election for guidance on pronunciation of names. Please include phone number, email address, **as well as emergency weekend cell phone number**.
2. Please give **full legal name** as it will appear in sacramental register.
3. The diocese is frequently asked for more precise information on those celebrating this Rite e.g., how many candidates for full communion (baptized non-catholics), how many candidates who are Catholics completing their initiation, how many children, etc. This registration form is our only source of such information. Please attend to all the information requested. **Please CHECK ONLY ONE of the following options for each person: Catechumen OR Candidate for Full Communion OR Candidate/Baptized Catholic.**

ANY QUESTIONS regarding the ceremony or registration form, call the Office of Religious Education: (508) 929-4303 or tromeo@worcesterdiocese.org

**RITE OF ELECTION –
CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION – February 22, 2026**

Deadline February 9, 2026

REGISTER ONLINE–INSTRUCTIONS BELOW:

Website: worcesterdiocese.org/rite-of-election-registration. Enter information for all participating catechumens and candidates. When complete, Click on SUBMIT

CITY:

Contact Person:

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER:

FULL NAME (Include Mr., Mrs., Ms., etc.)	ADDRESS Include Zip	CATECHUMEN (Unbaptized)	CANDIDATE for Full Communion	CANDIDATE Baptized Catholic	CHILD under 14	GODPARENT/ SPONSOR
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Use this form to gather information for your candidates and register online as instructed above.
Do not fax or mail registrations.

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***In case of cancellations or other emergency, we need a phone number where we can reach you *on the weekend*.