

# Instructions for the rites of Christian Initiation

## Apart from the Easter Vigil

(See RCIA no. 208)

1. If any of the Scrutinies have not already been celebrated, then the Third Scrutiny w/exorcism using option ‘B’ (Bishop’s Decree April 7, 2020) is to be celebrated prior to Mass.
2. The rite should have “a markedly Paschal character.”
3. White or other festive color is used.
4. Use one of the ritual Masses for “Christian Initiation: Baptism” in the Roman Missal (pg 973 ff)
5. Readings: Lectionary for Mass, vol. IV; at least one reading from the Old Testament, Responsorial Psalm; one reading from the New Testament; Gospel.

### Outline of the Rite:

Entrance (the entrance antiphon is said or sung)

Mass begins in the usual way; however, the Penitential Act and Kyrie are omitted.

The Gloria is said or sung, followed by the Collect.

Liturgy of the Word

Homily

### **Baptismal liturgy** (Roman Missal pg. 222; no. 37 ff; Easter Vigil, Third Part)

37. After the Homily the Baptismal Liturgy begins. The Priest goes with the ministers to the baptismal font, if this can be seen by the faithful. Otherwise a vessel with water is placed in the sanctuary.
38. Catechumens, if there are any, are called forward by presider and presented by their godparents in front of the assembled Church or, if they are small children, are carried by their parents and godparents.
39. Then, if there is to be a procession to the baptistery or to the font, it forms immediately. A minister with the paschal candle leads off, and those to be baptized follow him with their godparents, then the ministers, the Deacon, and the Priest. During the procession,



Saint Benedict	pray for us
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic	pray for us
Saint Francis Xavier	pray for us
Saint John Vianney	pray for us
Saint Catherine of Siena	pray for us
Saint Teresa of Jesus	pray for us
All holy men and women, Saints of God	pray for us

Lord, be merciful	Lord, deliver us, we pray,
From all evil	“
From every sin	“
From everlasting death	“

By your Incarnation	Lord, deliver us, we pray,
By your Death and Resurrection	“
By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit	“

Be merciful to us sinners	Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer
Bring those chosen ones to new birth	
through the grace of Baptism	“
Jesus, Son of the living God	“
Christ hear us	Christ hear us
Christ graciously hear us	Christ graciously hear us.

If there are candidates to be baptized, the Priest, with hands extended, says the following prayer:

**Almighty ever-living God,  
be present by the mysteries of your great love  
and send forth the spirit of adoption  
to create the new peoples  
brought to birth for you in the font of Baptism,  
so that what is to be carried out by our humble service  
may be brought to fulfillment by your mighty power.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

R. Amen.

The Priest then blesses the baptismal water, saying the following prayer with hands extended:

46.

**O God, who by invisible power  
accomplish a wondrous effect  
through the sacramental signs  
and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation,  
to show forth the grace of Baptism;**

**O God, whose Spirit  
in the first moments of the world's creation  
hovered over the waters,  
so that the very substance of water  
would even then take to itself the power to sanctify;**

**O God, who by the outpouring of the flood  
foreshadowed regeneration,  
so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water  
would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;**

**O God, who caused the children of Abraham  
to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea,  
so that the chosen people,  
set free from slavery to Pharaoh,  
would prefigure the people of the baptized;**

**O God, whose Son,  
baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan,  
was anointed with the Holy Spirit,  
and, as he hung upon the Cross,  
gave forth water from his side along with blood,  
and after his resurrection, commanded his disciples:  
"Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them  
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"  
look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church  
and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.**

**May this water receive by the Holy Spirit  
the grace of your Only Begotten Son,  
so that human nature, created in your image  
and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism  
from all the squalor of the life of old,  
may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children  
through water and the Holy Spirit.**

**Celebrant touches the water with his right hand and continues:**

**May the power of the Holy Spirit,  
O Lord, we pray,  
come down through you Son  
into the fullness of this font,  
so that all who have been buried with Christ  
by Baptism into death  
may rise again to life with him.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
on God, for ever and ever.  
R. Amen**

**Acclamation of the people:  
Springs of water, bless the Lord;  
praise and exalt him above all forever.**

- 47. After the blessing of baptismal water and the acclamation of the people, the Priest, standing, puts the prescribed questions to the adults and the parents or godparents of the children, as is set out in the respective Rites of the Roman Rituals, in order for them to make the required renunciation.**

**If the anointing of the adults with the Oil of Catechumens has not taken place beforehand as part of the immediately preparatory rites, it occurs at this moment.**

#### **RENUNCIATION OF SIN**

**Priest: Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children?**  
**Elect: I do.**

**Priest:**        **Do you reject the glamour of evil and refuse to be mastered by sin?**

**Elect:**        **I do.**

**Priest:**        **Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?**

**Elect:**        **I do.**

48. Then the Priest questions the adults individually about the faith and, if there are children to be baptized, he requests the triple profession of faith from all parents and godparents together, as is indicated in the respective Rites.

Where many are to be baptized, it is possible to arrange the rite so that, immediately after the response of those to be baptized and of the godparents and the parents, the Celebrant asks for and receives the renewal of baptismal promises of all present.

#### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**Priest:**        **Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?**

**Elect:**        **I do.**

**Priest:**        **Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?**

**Elect:**        **I do.**

**Priest:**        **Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?**

**Elect:**        **I do.**

49. When the interrogation is concluded, the Priest baptizes the elect adults and children.

o *Godparents are handed white robes for the newly baptized.*

**Priest:**        **I baptize you in the name of the Father,**

He pours water over the candidate the first time.

**and of the Son,**

He pours water over the candidate the second time.

**and of the Holy Spirit.**

He pours water over the candidate the third time.

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## **THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES (ASSEMBLY)**

**The Priest addresses the faithful in these or similar words:**

**Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life, and so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promise of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I as you:**

**Priest: Do you renounce Satan?**

**All: I do.**

**Priest: And all his works?**

**All: I do.**

**Priest: And all his empty promises?**

**All: I do.**

**Then the Priest continues:**

**Priest: Do you believe in God,  
The Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth?**

**All: I do.**

**Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered death and was buried,  
rose from the dead**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father?**

**All:** I do.

**Priest:** **Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting?**

**All:** I do.

**And the Priest concludes:**

**And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit  
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,  
keep us by his grace,  
in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
for eternal life.**

**All:** Amen.

55. The Priest sprinkles the people with the blessed water, while all sing an appropriate baptismal chant.

○ *Godparents light baptismal candles from the Paschal Candle.*

50. A white garment has been given to each, whether adults or children.

**Priest:** **My sisters and brothers, you have become a new creation  
and have clothed yourselves in Christ.  
Receive this baptismal garment  
and bring it unstained to the judgment seat  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
so that you may have everlasting life.**

**Newly baptized: Amen.**

Then the priest says to the newly baptized:

**You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as children of the  
light and keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts. When the Lord  
comes, may you go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly**



**kingdom.**

**Newly baptized:** Amen.

## **CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION**

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation (may take place either at the baptismal font or in the sanctuary, RCIA 215; 231 ff.)

53. If adults have been baptized, the Bishop or, in his absence, the Priest who has conferred Baptism, should at once administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to them in the sanctuary, as is indicated in the Roman Pontifical or Roman Ritual.

### **INVITATION**

587 The newly baptized with their godparents and, if they have not received the sacrament of confirmation, the newly received with their sponsors, stand before the celebrant. He first speaks briefly to the newly baptized and the newly received in these or similar words.

**My dear candidates for confirmation, by your baptism you have been born again in Christ and you have become members of Christ and of his priestly people. Now you are to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us, the Spirit sent by the Lord upon his apostles at Pentecost and given by them and their successors to the baptized.**

**The promised strength of the Holy Spirit, which you are to receive, will make you more like Christ and help you to be witnesses to his suffering, death, and resurrection. It will strengthen you to be active members of the Church and to build up the Body of Christ in faith and love.**

**With hands joined, the celebrant next addresses the people:**

**My dear friends, let us pray to God our Father, that he will pour out the Holy Spirit on these candidates for confirmation to strengthen them with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ, the Son of God.**

**All pray briefly in silence.**

## LAYING ON OF HANDS

The celebrant holds his hands outstretched over the entire group of those to be confirmed and says the following prayer OR may lay hands on each individually.

[In silence the priests associated as ministers of the sacrament also hold their hands outstretched over the candidates.]

**All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
By water and the Holy Spirit  
You freed your sons and daughters from sin  
And gave them new life.**

**Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide.**

**Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The spirit of right judgment and courage,  
The spirit of knowledge and reverence.  
Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord,**

**All: Amen.**

## ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

591 A minister brings the chrisam to the celebrant.

Each candidate, with godparent or godparents or with sponsors, goes to the celebrant (or to an associated minister of the sacrament); or, if circumstances require, the celebrant (associated ministers) may go to the candidates.

Either or both godparents and sponsors place the right hand on the shoulder of the candidate; a godparent or sponsor or the candidate gives the candidate's name to the minister of the sacrament. During the conferral of the sacrament an appropriate song may be sung.

The minister of the sacrament dips his right thumb in the chrisam and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed as he says:

**Priest: N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**Newly confirmed: Amen.**

**Priest: Peace be with you.**

**Newly confirmed: And with your spirit.**

After all have received the sacrament, the newly confirmed as well as the godparents and sponsors are led to their places in the assembly.

56. After cleansing his fingers, the presider returns to the chair where, omitting the Creed, he directs the **Universal Prayers**, in which the newly baptized participate for the first time.

### **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

Ritual Mass for the conferral of Baptism (A or B; note the proper intercessions)

During Easter Time Preface II of Easter (p. 412) may be used. Outside Easter Time Preface I of the Proper Sunday in Ordinary Time is used (p. 424)

Before saying “This is the Lamb of God,” the celebrant may briefly remind the neophytes of the preeminence of the eucharist, which is the climax of their initiation and the center of the whole Christian life. He may also mention that for those received into full communion this first full sharing with the Catholic community in Eucharistic communion is the high point of their reception. (RCIA 594)