

Rite of Acceptance
Sunday December 10, 2023
11:00 a.m. Mass

Catechumens, Candidates, and Sponsors: Please meet Emily in the back of Holy Redeemer (in the waiting area by the restrooms) no later than 10:20am on Sunday, December 10, 2023. There, you will receive any further instruction necessary. In the meantime, please read through the following pages. Please call or e-mail Emily if you have any questions or concerns: 810.244.1687 –formation.hrc@gmail.com

A Catechumen is one who has not received baptism or who was not baptized validly (name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, with water by immersion, sprinkling, or infusion).

A Candidate is one who has been validly baptized and now seeks to Confirmation and First Eucharist.

Catechumens and Candidates gather at the back of the church lined along the back wall.

After the gathering hymn and greeting, the celebrant explains to the assembly the rite they are about to witness.

He invites the congregation to be seated.

Celebrant: Dear friends, the Church joyfully welcomes today those who will be received into the order of Catechumens. In the months to come they will prepare for their initiation into the Christian faith by Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. We also greet those who, already one with us by Baptism, now wish to complete their Christian initiation through Confirmation and Eucharist or to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

For all of these, we give thanks and praise to the God who has led them by various paths to oneness in faith. My dear Candidates, you are welcomed in the name of Christ.

Celebrant: What are the names of the catechumens and candidates whom we are welcoming today?

At this time the candidates and catechumens will state their name, and pass the microphone to the next person in line.

Celebrant: *Catechumens*, what do you ask of God's Church?

Catechumens: FAITH.

Celebrant: What does faith offer you?

Catechumens: ETERNAL LIFE.

DECLARATION OF INTENT:

Fr Steve now asks the catechumens, candidates and church declare their intentions with the following questions:

Celebrant: *Catechumens:* God gives light to everyone who comes into this world; though unseen, He reveals Himself through the works of His hand, so that all people may learn to give thanks to their Creator. You have followed God's light and the way of the Gospel now lies open before you. Set your feet firmly on that path and acknowledge the living God, who truly speaks to everyone. Walk in the light of Christ and learn to trust in His wisdom. Commit your life daily to His care, so that you may come to believe in Him with all your heart. This is the way of faith along which Christ will lead you in love toward eternal life. Are you prepared to begin this journey today under the guidance of Christ?

Catechumens: I AM.

Celebrant: *(to candidates)* Those of you who seek to complete your Christian initiation—are you prepared to listen to the apostles' instruction, gather with us for prayer, and join us in the love and service of others?

Candidates: I AM.

Celebrant: We now present these candidates and catechumens. Are all you, who are gathered with us today, ready to help these candidates and catechumens, follow Christ?

All: WE ARE.

Celebrant: *(with hands joined)* Father of mercy, we thank you for these your servants. You have sought and summoned them in many ways and they have turned to seek You. You have called them today and they have answered in our presence:

Will you all say: we praise you Lord, and we bless You.

All: WE PRAISE YOU LORD, AND WE BLESS YOU.

SIGNING OF THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES:

Celebrant: Now, in the presence of the assembly, receive the sign of your new way of life as *catechumens* and the sign of your life in Christ as *candidates*.

Fr. Steve now approaches each catechumen and candidate individually and traces the sign of the cross on each one's forehead with the prayer:

Celebrant: **N**, receive the cross on your forehead. It is Christ Himself who now strengthens you with this sign of His love. Learn to know Him and follow Him.

Catechumen/Candidate: AMEN.

Fr. Steve returns to the middle aisle. The sponsors and team come forward around the right of the catechumens and Candidates and will sign them as follows:

Fr. Steve continues:

Celebrant: Receive the sign of the cross on your ears, that you may hear the voice of the Lord.

Receive the sign of the cross on your eyes, that you may see the glory of God.

Receive the sign of the cross on your lips, that you may respond to the word of God.

Receive the sign of the cross over your heart, that Christ may dwell there in faith.

Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders, that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.

Receive the sign of the cross on your hands, that Christ may be known in the work which you do.

Receive the sign of the cross on your feet, that you may walk in the way of Christ.

GIVING OF THE CRUCIFIX

In place without touching them, the celebrant alone makes the sign of the cross over all the catechumens and candidates at once, saying:

Celebrant: I sign you with the sign of eternal life in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Catechumens/Candidates: AMEN.

Celebrant: You have been marked with the cross of Christ: receive now the sign of His love.

The sponsors now place a crucifix over the heads of their catechumen/candidate.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.
Almighty God, by the cross and resurrection of your Son you have given life to your people. Your servants have received the sign of the cross: Make them living proof of its saving power and help them to persevere in the footsteps of Christ. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: AMEN.

Celebrant: And now, will you all welcome all of these men and women who are seeking Christ and the Catholic Church.

Please sit in the reserved pews at the front.

The Liturgy of the Word follows as usual. After the homily, RCIA students only will gather on the steps facing the altar with their belongings

Fr. Steve will again address the candidates and catechumens.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: My dear friends, this community now sends you forth to reflect more deeply upon the word of God which you have shared with us today. Be assured of our loving support and prayers for you. We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord's table.

When dismissed, please go to the **ADORATION CHAPEL** for scripture reflection.

As they recess, music is played