

# RCIA Newsletter

## February



### ONLINE RCIA GATHERING

Thursday February 17th

12:00-12:45 PM & 6:30-7:15 PM

We will be offering two opportunities, via Zoom, to discuss the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion and the parish Rite of Sending, and the importance of discernment (both on the part of our catechumens/candidates, and on the part of the Church) in preparing for a fruitful celebration of these rites. Please join us for a conversation about the significance of these rites, and of the Period of Purification and Enlightenment that follows, within the RCIA process.

### UPCOMING DATES:

#### Rite of Sending

- Celebrated in the parish at a suitable time prior to the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

#### Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion

- Sunday, March 6th, 3:00 pm
- Queen of Angels Parish, Austin

### REMINDER:

Forms are due by February 11th!

Office of RCIA

Todd Graff / tgraft@dowr.org & Camille Withrow / cwithrow@dowr.org

Greetings RCIA Leaders! We hope that you are staying warm in these cold winter days! As many of us start to prepare for our catechumens and candidates to enter into the Period of Purification and Enlightenment we wanted to take some time to reflect on the rites that assist those in RCIA as they continue on their journey toward the Easter sacraments.



## Rite of Sending:

During the celebration of this rite, the pastor, deacon, members of the RCIA team, and all members of the parish community are asked to reflect upon the catechumens' and candidates' state of formation along with their progress through the RCIA. This rite offers the parish community an opportunity to show their approval of those in the RCIA process and to come together as a whole to pray for those on this journey. Through this rite, the catechumens and candidates are sent forth to the Rite of Election with the assurance of the parish's support and care for each of them.

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## Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion:



Celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent, the rite also "marks the beginning of the period of final, more intense preparation ... during which the elect [which they are now called] will be encouraged to follow Christ with greater generosity." ("RCIA," #121) For the baptized candidates as well, this rite marks the beginning of their final preparation to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, and to enter into the full communion of the Church.

The faith community plays an important role in this rite as well. During the rite, the bishop asks parish members present if they support the testimonies of both the catechumens and the candidates. Not only is it important that we take the time to come to know those who are going through the RCIA process so that we can confidently answer this question, but we are also charged with an even greater task – to support them with our prayers and to accompany them as they journey closer to the Easter Sacraments.