



Office for
Liturgy and Spirituality

MEMORANDUM

To: Priests, Deacons, and DRE's

From: Noreen McInnes

Date: June 25, 2020

Re: RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS OUTSIDE THE EASTER VIGIL

It is with great joy that our churches have reopened, and we are now able to celebrate the sacraments of initiation for our elect and candidates. Below are some notes regarding the rites celebrated outside the Easter Vigil that may provide helpful guidance at this time.

COVID-19 ACOMMODATIONS

Indoor celebrations are to be limited to a maximum number of 100 people or 25% of capacity, whichever is less. Though outdoor celebrations do not have a headcount restriction, they are to be discouraged for the rites due to logistical issues. To limit numbers, consider having two celebrations, one for adults to be fully initiated, and the other for candidates. For liturgical considerations for the Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church within Mass, see the section below.

There must be 6-foot distancing between household members and face masks are required for anyone over 2 years of age. Parents may be a proxy for sponsors.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS OUTSIDE THE EASTER VIGIL

WHEN CAN THE RITE BE CELEBRATED?

Consider celebrating the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults apart from a regularly scheduled Mass to accommodate the restrictions on the number of attendees.

(RCIA, 26) Even when the usual time has other wise been observed, it is permissible, but only for serious pastoral needs (for example, if there are a great many people to be baptized), to choose a day other than the Easter Vigil or Easter Sunday, by preferably one during the Easter season, to celebrate the sacraments of initiation; the program of initiation during Lent however must be maintained.

When the time is changed in either way, even though the rite of Christian Initiation occurs at a different point in the liturgical year, the structure of the entire rite, with its properly spaced intervals, remains the same.

SCRUTINIES

The obligation for the celebration of the second and third scrutiny has been dispensed. (RCIA, 34.3) It pertains to the bishop for his own diocese: 3. to dispense, on the basis of some serious obstacle, from one scrutiny or, in extraordinary circumstances, even from two.

RITE: Use RCIA, 213-245, with the following exceptions:

Prayer over the Water: Blessing options A, B, or C. The Easter Candle is not lowered into the baptismal water. The celebrant simply touches the water with his right hand.

Permission has been given to use a cotton ball or swab to anoint with Chrism (a fresh one for each confirmand).

After Confirmation the neophytes are led to their places among the faithful immediately after confirmation. The General Intercessions then begin.

READINGS:

The choice of readings should be in keeping with the character of the celebration; they may be either those of the day or those in the Lectionary for Mass, ritual Mass, "Christian Initiation apart from the Easter Vigil". See Lectionary Volume IV nos. 751-755.

MASS:

The Ritual Mass: I. For the Conferral of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, 3. For the Conferral of Baptism A or B.

PREFACE:

Preface I of the Sundays in Ordinary Time, The Paschal Mystery and the People of God.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

Include inserts from the Ritual Mass 3 A. For the Conferral of Baptism

PENITENTIAL ACT: omitted

GLORIA: included

THE CREED: omitted

UNIVERSAL PRAYER: Begin when the neophytes are seated with the faithful after confirmation.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE REACHED CARTECHETICAL AGE OUTSIDE THE EASTER VIGIL

All adaptations listed above for RCIA Outside the Easter Vigil apply to RCIC with the following modifications:

RITE: Use **RCIC, 309-329**, noting the following adaptations:

Prayer over the Water: Blessing option A, or no. 222 options B or C. The Easter Candle is not lowered into the baptismal water. The celebrant simply touches the water with his right hand.

Permission has been given to use a cotton ball or swab to anoint with Chrism (a fresh one for each confirmand).

After Confirmation the neophytes are led to their places among the faithful immediately after confirmation. The General Intercessions then begin.

THE CREED: optional inclusion only after the Prayer over the water.

THE RECEPTION OF BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS INTO THE FULL COMMUNION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WITHIN MASS

RITE: Use RCIA, 487-498.

Permission has been given to use a cotton ball or swab to anoint with Chrism (a fresh one for each confirmand).

READINGS:

The readings may be taken in whole or in part from those provided in the Lectionary for Mass for the day, for the rite of reception into full communion, or for the Mass “For the Unity of Christians” (RCIA, 488).

MASS:

If the rite of reception into full communion takes place on a solemnity or on a Sunday, the Mass of the day should be celebrated; on other days it is permissible to celebrate the Mass “For the Unity of Christians” from the Masses for Various Needs. (RCIA, 487). The Proper Preface is used. The Mass is celebrated as usual other than the inclusion of the celebration of the reception after the homily.

If you need further assistance, please contact me at 858-490-8291 or nmcinnes@sdatholic.org.