

# Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Overview



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## Acknowledgements

*In the creation of this PowerPoint presentation I have borrowed from the following excellent website: <http://www.stmarydekab.org/rcia/index.html>. This is the website for St Mary Parish, DeKalb, Illinois.*

*Many of the graphics come from Thomas Scharbach beautiful website:  
[http://members.aol.com/tombecket/ts\\_graph.htm](http://members.aol.com/tombecket/ts_graph.htm)*

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*This presentation is based upon the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) together with additional rites approved for use in the diocese of the United States of America (USA).*

*The numbers shown in the presentation relate to the relevant sections of the USA RCIA document.*

*Chris Sloan  
February 2007*

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## The Third Period: **The Period of Purification and Enlightenment [138 – 149]**

The Period of Purification and Enlightenment is a time for:

- Repentance
- Examining areas of sinfulness and weakness in our lives
- Asking for God's help in healing these areas
- Prayer, fasting and almsgiving
- Preparation for receiving the Sacraments of Initiation

This period tends to correspond with Lent and is intended to be a period of increased introspection and coming closer to God. The aim of this period is to eliminate what is weak and sinful; and affirm what is holy. During this period the Catechumens undertake a number of rites, including the three Scrutinies [150 – 156, 164 - 170, 171 – 177] and two Presentations [157 – 163, 178 – 184]. The Candidates meanwhile prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation with an optional Penitential Rite Scrutiny [459 – 472].



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## The Third Period: The Period of Purification and Enlightenment, cont...

### The Scrutinies and Presentations

The Scrutinies [150 – 156, 164 - 170, 171 – 177] and Presentations [157 – 163, 178 – 184] are mainly designed for **The Elect**. The Scrutinies take place at three separate Masses on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays in Lent. The Presentation of the Creed [157 – 163], takes place during a weekday Mass sometime during the 3rd week of Lent and the Presentation of the Our Father [178 – 184] takes place during a weekday Mass sometime during the 5th week of Lent.

The optional Penitential Rite Scrutiny [459 – 472] for the **Candidates** takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent.



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## The Third Period: The Period of Purification and Enlightenment, cont...

### Preparation Rites on Holy Saturday

These are optional rites which can be undertaken by **The Elect** on Holy Saturday:

- \* Recitation of the Creed [193 - 196]
- \* Ephphetha [197 - 199]
- \* [Choosing a Baptismal Name] [200 - 202]
- \* Concluding Rites [203 - 205]



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## The Third Period: The Period of Purification and Enlightenment, cont...

### The Penitential Rite and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Candidates participate in the Penitential Rite (Scrutiny) [459 – 472] during a Mass on the 2nd Sunday in Lent. They also undertake the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their preparation towards the celebration of The Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the full Communion of the Catholic Church.

This Scrutiny, and reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation [for the Candidates] marks the movement from sin to grace, from old life to new life.

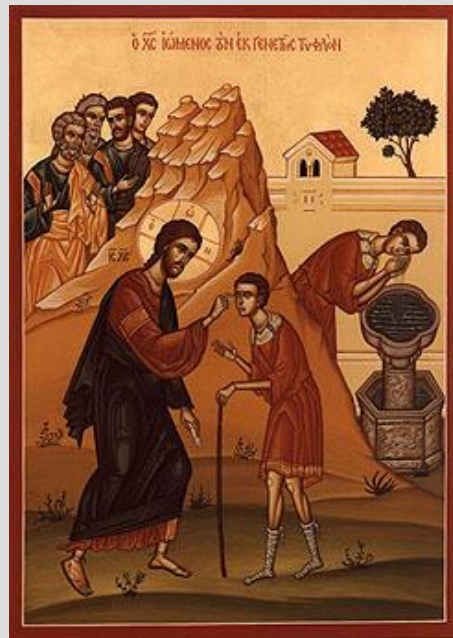


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## The Third Period: The Period of Purification and Enlightenment

The Lenten **Gospels from Year A** are often explored during this period:

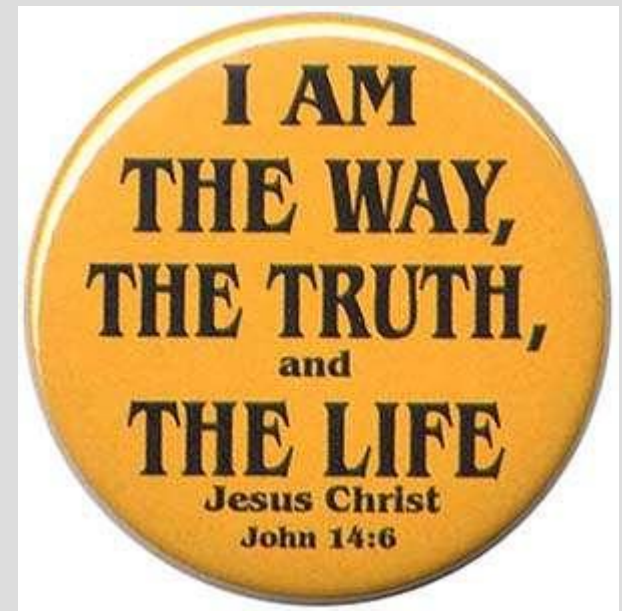
- The Temptation of Jesus in the Desert (Matthew 4:1-11)
- The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9)
- The Woman at the Well (John 4:4 -42)
- The Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41)
- The Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45)



# Period Summary

## The Third Period: The Period of Purification and Enlightenment

<u>Periods and Steps</u>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Period</b> = Period of Purification and Enlightenment
<u>Titles Used</u>	The Catechumens are called the Elect; Candidates are still known as Candidates
<u>General Theme</u>	Preparation / Retreat
<u>Keyword /s</u>	Integration
<u>Leading Party</u>	Parish
<u>Length of Time / Dates</u>	Lasts for the whole season of Lent
<u>Aim</u>	Intense spiritual preparation for the Easter sacraments; examination and reflection of life
<u>Content</u>	Prayer, fasting, alms giving; Lenten Scriptural reflection; Sacramental reflection
<u>Rites</u>	<u>The Elect</u> -Scrutinies and Exorcisms; Presentation of the Creed and Lord's Prayer; <u>Candidates</u> - Penitential Rite (Scrutiny) and Sacrament of Reconciliation





An aerial, grayscale photograph of a city, likely Rome, showing a large stadium in the foreground. The stadium has a prominent circular structure and a large, ornate facade. The surrounding city is densely packed with buildings and streets.

The Roman Catholic

RCIA Resource Site:

<http://www.catechumen.org.uk>

email: [catholic@catechumen.org.uk](mailto:catholic@catechumen.org.uk)