

Quick Reference Timeline for Celebrating RCIA Outside of the Usual Time

Given that we now have a date for Christian initiation, we have to remember that initiation is not just baptism. Rather, Christian initiation is an entire series of rites that prepare the Elect for sacramental union with Christ and it is our responsibility to ensure the preservation and integrity of the Rite. That is, because each stage of the RCIA progressively moves the Catechumen/Elect closer to the waters of Baptism, it is important to maintain the rhythm of the Rite by observing the periods and rites of the entire process.

Sunday, July 19 (OT 16 A)

First Scrutiny (John 4 – The Woman at the Well)

16th Week in Ordinary Time

Presentation of the Creed

Sunday, July 27 (OT 17 A)

Second Scrutiny (John 9 – The Man Born Blind)

Sunday, August 2 (OT 18 A)

Third Scrutiny (John 11 – The Raising of Lazarus)

Sunday, August 9 (OT 19 A)

Presentation of the Lord's Prayer

Friday, August 14 Day of Prayer and Fasting

Like Good Friday, the day before Christian initiation, is a day of paschal fasting; therefore, you may suggest to the Elect that they spend as much of the day as possible in fasting and prayer. This is not the same as the Lenten fast in that it is not penitential, but rather, it is a day of preparation as they anticipate their full initiation into the Christian community.

Saturday, August 15

Archbishop ListECKi has determined this the date for Christian initiation of the Elect. You may choose to do the Preparation Rites in the morning, prior to the afternoon/evening's celebration of initiation.

Period of Postbaptismal Catechesis or Mystagogy

RCIA 247 – Since the distinctive spirit and power of the period of postbaptismal catechesis or mystagogy derive from the new, personal experience of the sacraments and of the community, its main setting is the so-called Masses for neophytes, that is, the Sunday Masses of the Easter Season. Besides being occasions for the newly baptized to gather with the community and share in the mysteries, these celebrations include particularly suitable readings from the Lectionary, especially the readings for Year A. **Even when Christian Initiation has been celebrated outside the usual times, the texts for these Sunday Masses of the Easter season may be used.**