

## Rite of Welcoming the Candidates

*Suggested outline - Simple Version*

*For complete text with options... See RCIA 416 - 433*

**Note:** This optional Rite for the baptized is usually celebrated within a parish Sunday Mass... but may be celebrated within a parish Liturgy of the Word service. This Rite may be celebrated at any time of the year.

### If celebrated at a parish Sunday Mass... you may do the following:

**Entrance Hymn / Entrance Procession of Liturgical Ministers**

**Sign of the Cross**

**Greeting**

### **Presentation of the Candidates**

The Coordinator of the RCIA announces to the priest celebrant and to the community that there are inquirers present within the community (seated in a prominent place among the faithful) who wish to be welcomed in the Catechumenate Period.

The priest celebrant invites the candidates with their RCIA Sponsors to come forward.

### **Opening Dialogue**

**Addressing the inquirers individually:**

Celebrant: What is your name?

Inquirer: **N.**

Celebrant: What do you ask of God's Church?

Inquirer: To be accepted as a candidate for preparation leading to my  
**Confirmation and First Holy Communion.**

**Addressing the inquirers together:**

Celebrant: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth unto a living hope, a hope which draws its life from Christ's resurrection from the dead. By baptism into Christ Jesus, this hope of glory became our own. Christ opened for you the way of the Gospel that leads us to eternal life. Now, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, you desire to continue that journey of faith.

Are you prepared to reflect more deeply on the mystery of your baptism, to listen with us to the apostle's instruction, and to join with us in a life of prayer and service?

Inquirer(s): **I am.**

**Addressing the RCIA Sponsors together:**

Celebrant: Sponsors, you now present these candidates to us:  
are you and all who are gathered here with us, ready to help these candidates  
complete their Christian initiation?

All: **We are.**

Celebrant: Father of mercy, we thank you for these your servants.  
You have already consecrated them in baptism and now you call them to the fullness  
of the Church's sacramental life: we praise you, Lord, and we bless you.

All: **We praise you, Lord, and we bless you.**

**Signing of the Candidates with the Cross**

Celebrant: Dear candidates, you have expressed your desire to share fully in the life of the Catholic Church.  
I now mark you with the sign of Christ's cross and call upon your sponsors to do the same.

**Then the celebrant makes the sign of the cross over all together, as a cross is traced by a sponsor on the  
forehead of each candidate. The celebrant says:**

Celebrant: Receive the cross on your forehead as a reminder of your baptism  
into Christ's saving death and resurrection.

All: **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**For the signing of the other senses ...see RCIA 423**

**Concluding Prayer**

Celebrant: Let us pray,  
Almighty God, by the cross and resurrection of your Son you have given life to your people.  
In baptism these your servants accepted 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.**

**The Penitential Rite (may be omitted)**

**Gloria (may be omitted)**

**Opening Prayer (may be omitted)**

# Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Word follows as usual with all the readings of the particular Sunday Mass.

After the homily and the Prayer of the Faithful (the Creed) the following intentions for the candidates may be added to the intentions for the Church and the whole world:

## General Intercessions

- That God our Father may reveal his Christ to these candidates more and more with every passing day,  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That these candidates may come to a deeper appreciation of the gift of their baptism, which joined them to Christ,  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That they may find in our community compelling signs of unity and generous love,  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That their hearts and ours may become more responsive to the needs of others,  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That in due time these candidates may be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and know the joy of being one with us at the table of Christ's sacrifice,  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

## Prayer over the Candidates

With hands outstretched over the candidates.

Celebrant: Almighty and eternal God,  
whose love gathers us together as one,  
receive the prayers of your people.

Look kindly on these your servants,  
already consecrated to you in baptism,  
and draw them into the fullness of faith.

Keep your family one in the bonds of love  
through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins as usual with the offertory collection and procession.