



ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE
The Pastoral Center
Office of Worship

February 16, 2026

Dear Reverend Pastors and OCIA Coordinators,

As we approach the Rite of Election, we know that you are in the midst of many preparations as you journey with the Catechumens and Candidates preparing for their full reception into the Catholic Church.

This letter is to provide you with the final details regarding the upcoming Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion. Please take the time to read through this letter to ensure you are aware of the expectations and revisions to the process.

Below are the steps you need to take to prepare for the Rite of Election 2026.

BEFORE the day of the Rite:

1. Go over the liturgy with your participants (OCIA #547-561).
2. During your parish Rite of Sending have the Catechumens sign your parish Book of the Elect (Rite of Sending - OCIA #106-117 or #530-546). Your Pastor can sign your parish book. You will **not need** to bring this book to the Rite of Election. (See #2 in the section below, "On the Day of the Rite".)
3. Prepare your nametags
You **MUST** use colored paper for Catechumens/Candidates.
 - a. **Light blue** paper for Catechumens (First Name **MUST** be 32 to 36 font)
 - b. **Yellow** paper for Candidates (First Name **MUST** be 32 to 36 font)
 - i. **Or you can use the templates that are already in color.**
 - c. White for Sponsors and OCIA Ministers (Ministers can use their official nametags)

Please make sure your Catechumens (those who will receive all three sacraments) and Candidates (those who have been baptized and will receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation) and Sponsors know which title applies to their situation.

On the Day of the Rite:

1. Arrive **Promptly** for Rehearsal -- **ONLY for OCIA Coordinators.**
 - a. **Sunday, February 22, 2026 – Cathedral Basilica, Santa Fe, New Mexico**
 - i. Rehearsal – 1:00 p.m.
 - ii. Doors open – 2:00 p.m.
 - iii. Rite of Election 3:00 p.m.
 - b. **Saturday, February 28, 2026 – St. Helen’s Church, Portales, New Mexico**
 - i. Rehearsal – 10:30 a.m.
 - ii. Doors open – 11:30 a.m.
 - iii. Rite of Election – 12:30 p.m.
 - c. **Monday, March 2, 2026 – St. Jude Thaddeus, Albuquerque, New Mexico**
 - i. Rehearsal – 4:30 p.m.
 - ii. Doors open – 5:30 p.m.
 - iii. Rite of Election – 6:30 p.m.
2. **Please note:** There will be ONE Book of the Elect that will be used at each of the Archdiocesan celebration of the Rite. The Catechumens and Archbishop Wester will sign this book during the Rite. We recommend continuing to sign your Parish Book of the Elect that the Pastor can sign at your parish. So, you do **not need** to bring your Parish Book of the Elect to the Rite.
3. Bring your list of Catechumens and Candidates to call out, placed in a suitable binder. This is the same list of Catechumens and Candidates that you submitted. **Please make sure your Catechumens and Candidates and Sponsors know which title applies to their situation.**

4. A parish presenter, the person you list on your Parish Response form, will be reading all the names from your parish, so make sure to sit your parish group together in two groups: first group - all the catechumens together with their sponsors and second group - all candidates together with their sponsors. Each group will be called separately to come forward. You will be seated in your parish assigned pews. Please make sure all nametags are visible. Remind those coming to the Rite of Election to dress appropriately (Sunday best, no jeans or sneakers); They will be meeting the Archbishop!
5. Parish Group Photos: This is optional. If your parish group would like to take a group photo with Archbishop Wester, please have your parish group remain seated in their pews at the conclusion of the Rite of Election. Your parish will be invited forward to take your parish group photo in front of the altar.

The Office of Worship, Liturgical Commission and the Christian Initiation Leadership Committee and the hosting parishes look forward to joining you for this liturgy in the days ahead. May God bless you and those you are preparing to receive their sacraments at Easter.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel Gabaldon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gabriel Gabaldon
Interim Director
Office of Worship