

Celebrant:

We welcome you to our worshipping community at this Mass.

Catechumens, Candidates and Sponsors, return to your seats.

The Mass continues with the Liturgy of the Word

– AFTER THE CREED (OR IF OMITTED) AFTER THE HOMILY –

Candidates and Catechumens stand before the Sanctuary Steps

Celebrant: (addressing the congregation)

These catechumen and candidates, our brothers and sisters, have already traveled far. We rejoice with them in the gentle guidance of God, which has brought them to this day. Let us pray for them that they may have strength to complete the great journey that lies ahead toward full participation in our way of life.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS FOR CANDIDATES AND CATECHUMENS

Celebrant: (hands outstretched toward catechumens and candidates)

Let us pray: Almighty ever-living God, Father of all creation, who made man and woman in your own image, welcome these beloved ones who have taken this step, and grant that, hearing the word of your Christ among us, they may be made new by its power, and by your grace attain at last complete conformity with him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **R. Amen**

Celebrant: (addressing the catechumens and candidates)

Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord's Eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God's children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with his Holy Spirit to recreate the face of the earth.

Catechumens, Candidates and Sponsors, return to your seats.

----- **THIS CONCLUDES THE RITE OF ENTRANCE** -----

Mass continues with: *Offertory*

COMBINED RITE of ENTRANCE

Catechumens and Candidates

(10AM, December 8, 2024)

Catechumens, Candidates and their Sponsors seated in reserved front pews.

Celebrant: (addresses the candidates)

Dear friends, the Church joyfully welcomes today those who are entering the catechumenate. In the months to come they will prepare for their Initiation into the Christian faith by Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

We also greet those who, already one with us by Baptism, now wish to complete their Christian Initiation through Confirmation and the Eucharist or to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

For all of these, we give thanks and praise to the God who has led them by various paths to oneness in faith. My dear friends, you are welcomed in the name of Christ.

Celebrant: Would the following Catechumens and Candidates please come forward with your sponsors.

Olivia Lee, Aida Cabrera (Catechumens)

Lisa Tessitore, William Blount, James Marshall, Raymond Leather, Angela Almeyda, Samantha Holland, Jordan Cruz, Michael DeLillo (Candidates)

--- OPENING DIALOGUE ---

*Celebrant to each **Catechumen** by name:*

Celebrant (N) 'What do you ask of God's Church?'

Candidate (N) responds: **'Faith'**

Celebrant: (N) 'What does faith offer you?'

Candidate (N) responds: **'Eternal Life'**

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

All Candidates respond:

'To be accepted as a candidate for catechetical instruction leading to reception into reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church, or Confirmation and Eucharist'

Celebrant: (now addressing the candidates for the catechumenate) God, who made the world and all of us and in whom all living things have their being, enlightens our minds, so that we may come to know and worship him. He has sent Jesus Christ, his faithful witness, to announce to us what he has seen in heaven and on earth. Therefore it is now time for you who rejoice at Christ's coming, to listen to his word and to love your neighbor, so that you may possess the life of heaven.

Are you ready to lead this life with the help of God?

Candidates respond: 'I am.'

*Celebrant: (now addressing the candidates for post-baptismal catechesis) Those of you who seek to complete your Christian Initiation or to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church, **are you prepared** to listen with us to the Apostles' instructions, and to be with us in a life of prayer and service?*

Candidates respond: 'I am.'

*Celebrant: (now addressing the sponsors and the congregation) You, the sponsors who are now presenting these men and women to us, and all of you brothers and sisters gathered here, **are you prepared** to help them find Christ and follow him?*

All Sponsors respond: 'We are.'

Celebrant: (with hands joined, the celebrant says) To you, most merciful Father, we give thanks for these your servants, because they have already been searching for you, who in diverse ways have gone ahead of them and knocked at their door, and because they have answered your call today in our presence. Therefore we all praise and bless you, Lord.

All respond: 'We praise and bless you, Lord.'

--- SIGNING OF THE FOREHEAD OF THE CATECHUMENS ---

*Celebrant: **Catechumens**, now with your sponsors receive the sign of your new status as catechumens.*

*Celebrant: (physically) traces the cross on the forehead of each catechumen with his thumb and then invites the **sponsor to do the same.***

*Celebrant **prays** the following:*

(N).. Receive the cross on your forehead. Christ himself strengthens you with this sign of his love. Learn to know him and follow him.

-- SIGNING OF THE FOREHEAD OF THE CANDIDATES --

*Celebrant: **Dear Candidates** for Confirmation and the Eucharist or reception into full communion, now with your Sponsor receive the sign of your life in Christ.*

*Celebrant: (physically) traces the cross on the forehead of each candidate with his thumb and then invites the **sponsor to do the same.***

Celebrant: Prays the following:

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

-- CONCLUDING PRAYER --

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty God, by the cross and resurrection of your Son, have given life to your people, grant we pray that following in the footsteps of Christ, your servants, whom we have signed with the Cross, may possess its saving power in their lives and show it forth in their deeds. Through Christ our Lord.

All respond: Amen.