

Celebrant: *(addressing Catechumens, Candidates, and Sponsors)*
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...

Then, after the Creed (or if omitted) **after the Homily...**

Candidates, Catechumens, and Sponsors are called to stand
before the Sanctuary Steps

Celebrant: *(addressing the congregation)*
These catechumens 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..

- INTERCESSORY PRAYERS 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 -----

The Mass continues with: the **Offertory**

COMBINED RITE of ENTRANCE and WELCOME
Catechumens and Candidates
 (8AM, December 7, 2025)

Catechumens, Candidates and their **Sponsors** are seated in the reserved front pews. After the Entrance Procession, the Celebrant begins by explaining to the congregation what is now taking place.

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 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**.*

Michelle Krumm-Tutko, John Strouth Jr., Tyler K Boucicaut, *(Catechumens)*

Allen Howard, Mary Tondreau, Ashley Walters, Georgena Stahl,
Elaine St. Pierre, Alison Hooper, Lydia Gonzalez, David Mattson, Matthew Hall, Bethany Hall *(Candidates)*

--- OPENING DIALOGUE ---

Celebrant: *(addressing each Catechumen (unbaptized) candidate by name (N)*

Candidate (N) what do you ask God's Church?

Candidate responds: Faith

Celebrant: *What does faith offer you?*

Candidate responds: Eternal Life

Celebrant: *(addressing post-baptismal candidates)*
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 the full communion of the Catholic Church.'

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 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 prays)*
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 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 a Catechumen.

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 the sign of his love. Learn to know and follow him..

-- **SIGNING OF THE FOREHEAD OF THE CANDIDATES** --

Celebrant: *Dear Candidates for reception into full communion, now with your sponsors 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, who through 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.**

Celebrant: *We welcome you to our worshipping community at this Mass. (Catechumens & Candidates along with their sponsors go to their seats)*