

The Penitential Rite – REVISED RITUAL TEXT
Notes

- OCIA, 459: The penitential rite can serve to mark the Lenten purification of baptized but uncatechized adults who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist or to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. It is held within the Celebration of the Word of God as a kind of Scrutiny, similar to the Scrutinies for catechumens.
- OCIA, 461: This Penitential Rite may also help to prepare the candidates to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance.
- OCIA, 462: The Penitential Rite may be celebrated on the Second Sunday of Lent or on a weekday of Lent, if the candidates are to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist or be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church at Easter; if not, at the most suitable time.
- OCIA, 463: This rite is NOT for the ELECT – they have the three scrutinies. “Those Scrutinies of the Elect and this Penitential Rite for those preparing for Confirmation and the Eucharist have been kept separate and distinct.” DO NOT COMBINE THESE RITES.

THE RITE

- *Note: The ritual text assumes this rite takes place outside of Mass, so how it begins in the book may be a bit odd if you are celebrating this in Mass. If you are celebrating this outside of Mass, follow the ritual book (OCIA 464-465):*
 - o *Open with a song, and then begin with the Sign of the Cross and a liturgical greeting.*
 - o *The Priest then welcomes the assembly and in a few words explains that the rite will have different meanings for different participants.*
 - o *The Priest offers the Prayer: either Option A (if celebrating this on the Second Sunday of Lent) or Option B (if celebrating this any other time).*
 - o *Readings from Scripture follow (OCIA 466). On the Second Sunday of Lent, the Sunday readings are used. On other days, other appropriate readings may be considered. Consider readings from the Order of Penance. The homily follows the readings.*
 - o *The Rite continues as indicated below.*
- *If celebrated within Mass, the Mass is as usual up until after the Homily. If celebrated on the Second Sunday of Lent, the readings of the day are used. If celebrated on another day, use the readings of the day, or (if allowed by the Lectionary): other appropriate readings may be selected (see the Order of Penance for reading suggestions).*
 - o *The candidates and sponsors are seated in the pews. They may be in the opening procession if desired, but then they go to their pews and remain there until after the homily.*
- *After the homily: the candidates come up (as a group – no names are called) and stand before the celebrant at the sanctuary steps.*
- *Once the candidates are in place, the celebrant, in his own words, addresses the assembly, encouraging them to pray for the Candidates: that they may be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God. Suggested to have this text written out.*
- *He then addresses the candidates (again, in his own words), inviting them to pray in silence and asking them to bow or kneel and pray. Suggested to have this text written out. The presider may*

need to turn toward the candidates to address them if he has his back to them when address the assembly previously.

- *There is a period of silent prayer. Candidates bow or kneel during this prayer. Sponsors may place their hands on the shoulder of their candidates. The assembly remains seated.*
- *Then the introduction to the intercessions take place. The celebrant invites ALL to stand (including the Candidates). However, the prayers are for the Candidates, so it would also be appropriate for the Candidates to remain kneeling throughout the intercessions and for the entire ritual.*
- *The intercessions are an integral part of Candidates ritual and should not be shortened. Include all (or as many as you can) intercessions for the Candidates (which are given in the ritual). One suggestion: put the intercessions for Candidates FIRST – beginning each petition with: “For our Candidates, that...” After these, list the regular intercessions for Mass.*
- *The concluding prayer of the Intercessions is the Prayer over the Candidates of which there are two options (the first – Option A - is based on the Gospel of the Second Sunday of Lent – the Transfiguration; Option B can be used at any time). Each option consists of two parts, which may be divided by an optional, and silent, laying on of hands. The laying on of hands is an important and powerful symbol/gesture and should not be omitted lightly.*
- *The celebrant prays the first part with hands joined and the second part with hands outstretched over all the Candidates.*
- *After the prayer, candidates and sponsors return to their pews.*
- *If Mass is celebrated*
 - *An appropriate song may be sung at this point to conclude this rite (suggestions are given at OCIA 470), but if Mass is celebrated, this song is usually omitted as the song for the Preparation of the Altar and Gifts may begin shortly when the Creed is omitted.*
 - *When Mass is celebrated, Mass continues the usual way with the Creed and Preparation of the Altar and Gifts (OCIA 472). The Creed may be omitted for Pastoral Reasons (again, keeping the format of the ritual simple so as not to confuse the assembly. The Creed usually comes before the Intercessions, not vice-versa). If you have catechumens or Elect in the assembly, they are dismissed, but the CANDIDATES remain for the entirety of the Mass.*
 - *It is NOT appropriate for Candidates to bring forward the gifts. Sponsors may...*
- *If Mass is not celebrated*
 - *All are dismissed at this point (OCIA 471).*