**Rite of Election**

**Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph 2021**

**Preparations**

Please prepare your parish name tags for all catechumens and one RCIA director or team member attending this year’s Rite of Election. Number the name tags so catechumens can line themselves up properly for the procession. (This is especially helpful for large groups.)

Please send an email listing the names of the catechumens and their procession order to Lorie Sage sage@diocesekcsj.org by Thursday, February 18,2020.

**Due to the pandemic, each catechumen will need to bring their own ink pen to write their name into the Book of Elect. Masks are required for all attending the Rite of Election. Live streaming will be an option for those unable to attend due to the limited seating.**

**Arrival**

As your group arrives, an usher will direct all to the pews reserved for your parish. Pews will be marked with the parish name. The Office of Divine Worship will try to accommodate your request for seating, but participation will be limited due to the pandemic. You, or the person leading the group forward, are asked to sit on the side aisle of the last pew assigned to your parish as the group will exit from the side aisle for procession.

There will be no shuttle running this year. Parking space is available at the Cathedral or the side streets leading to the Cathedral

**During the Rite**

The ceremony begins with the Liturgy of the Word, including the Bishop’s homily. After the homily, the Catechumens and their godparents are questioned and respond in unison. The procession follows. Ushers will direct the procession of the catechumens from the side aisles, to the back of the cathedral and up the center aisle. You, or a parish representative will lead the group. Reminder, each catechumen will need to bring their own ink pen with them in procession. Simply follow the direction of the ushers and procession coordinator. They will let you know when to go.

If there is a catechumen who cannot physically get up into the sanctuary, they may proceed in procession and the Book of the Elect will be brought down to them. There will be no greeting of the Bishop this year due to the pandemic.

Catechumens will process into the sanctuary, stopping to sign the Book of the Elect, as their names are read. The Elect now exit to the back of the sanctuary, returning to their pews by the side aisle. An usher will assist.

After all the names have been read and all have returned to their places, The Elect (and their godparents) will be asked to stand for the Act of Admission or Election. The Elect respond, “Thanks be to God” as directed in the program.

 Intercessions for the Elect will be prayed, followed by the final blessing and dismissal.

There will be no individual or groups pictures taken with Bishop Johnston this year, following the ceremony, due to the pandemic. Also, no printed programs will be handed out at the Cathedral. A printable copy will be sent to the director’s email that may be forwarded to each of the Catechumens, who may print and bring with them to follow along. The program will be posted on the Cathedral website for mobile accessibility as well. Thank you for your understanding and continued service in keeping everyone safe.

Blessings,

Lorie Sage

Office of Divine Worship

P.S. One final reminder, please arrive early enough for check-in, depending on your scheduled time, so that this liturgy may be full of grace and meaning for you and your community.