

Archdiocese of Boston
2026 Rite of Election
Second Memorandum
January 20, 2026

2026 Rite of Election: Registration Open!

Dear Pastors, OCIA Directors, and Catechists,

It is now time to open registration for the 2026 Rite of Election! Please read carefully for instructions on how to proceed.

Helpful documents for parish use:

- [OCIA Parish Intake Form](#) (for parish use only)
- [OCIA Hoja de Información General](#) (solo para uso parroquial)
- [OCIA Fiche De Informacoes Gerais](#) (apenas para uso pela parroquia)

Catechumens (Unbaptized) Only for 2026

For 2026, **only** the Rite of Election (for unbaptized catechumens) will be celebrated at the cathedral, and **NOT** the Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion that is celebrated for already Baptized Christians. This will assist in limiting the size of the assembly at the Cathedral, while still allowing OCIA catechists, every catechumen's sponsor, and catechumens' families or other designated guests to attend. The Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion may be celebrated **in a parish** that has Candidates for reception into full communion.

Please note: Children who are at the age of reason (and beyond) and are being baptized are encouraged to attend the Rite of Election but are not required to do so, per OCIA 253. Additionally, they should receive all the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil or on a Sunday per OCIA 304-305. Please contact me for more information or information on exceptions to this norm.

2026 Rite of Election at the Cathedral

The Rite of Election for 2025 will be held once again at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, 1400 Washington St., Boston, MA 02118. **This year there will only be ONE celebration of the Rite of Election at 2:00pm Sunday, February 22, 2026**, since the cathedral can accommodate an assembly of this size.

An Archdiocesan Liturgy

The Rite of Election is a rite which is proper to the Archbishop. Every catechumen in the Archdiocese of Boston should participate in the Rite of Election with the archbishop on the First Sunday of Lent. Additionally, parishes may celebrate the "[Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election](#)," an optional rite found in the OCIA, nos. 106-117.

Registration

Registration for the Rite of Election is now open!

Registration steps:

1. Download the Excel registration form and save it
2. Enter the required information, noting that there are two tabs at the bottom of the Excel sheet:
Instructions and Catechumens
3. Save your completed registration form
4. Email the Excel file as an attachment to RiteofElection@rcab.org
5. Be sure to be clear about the full name and city/town of your parish
6. **Registration is due by February 6, 2026**

Parish-based Books of the Elect

Since 2020, each parish (or multi-parish collaborative) has been asked to have its own Book of the Elect. If parishes already have one to use, this may be used. For collaboratives or parishes that have recently merged, and which already have a Book of the Elect, this same book may be used. The simple solution is to write the name of the newly merged parish at the top of the page to be used this year. **Any parish or collaborative that does not have a Book of the Elect should purchase one as soon as possible.**

IMPORTANT:

- **PARISH INTAKE INFO:** If you haven't done so already, please be sure to gather proper information for each catechumen and candidate using the OCIA Parish Intake Form (see above).
- **REGISTRATION:** [Download the Excel form and save it, then enter the required information, save it again, and email it as an attachment to RiteofElection@rcab.org](#)
- **MARRIAGE:** Check that outstanding marriage questions are resolved **before** you present people at the Rite of Election at the Cathedral or invite them to participate in the Rite of Calling Candidates to Continuing Conversion in the parish. This may include checking the marital history *of the spouses* of candidates and catechumens. Emailing your completed Registration Form indicates to us that you **have addressed** any marriage issues.
- **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES:** Obtain and have on file in the parish a copy of the baptismal certificate from the church of Baptism for each candidate for full communion.

Recommendations for In-Parish Rites

[**RITE OF CALLING CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION:**](#) This rite for Baptized Christian candidates **may be celebrated locally in the parish** or in one of the parishes of a multi-parish collaborative at the discretion of the pastor or administrator. Please see OCIA nos. 446-458. The Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion in the parish "may be celebrated at the beginning of Lent" per OCIA no. 448.

Note also that **none of the optional rites** related to Christian candidates are required to be celebrated, neither by the OCIA itself, nor by the Archdiocese of Boston. Pastors and administrators are free to choose from the options offered by the OCIA for these cases. The Office of Divine Worship offers consultation with any pastor or OCIA director who would like to explore the possibilities.

OCIA EXCERPT ATTACHED FOR THE IN-PARISH CELEBRATION OF THE RITE OF CALLING THE CANDIDATES

TO CONTINUING CONVERSION: We have provided [an editable excerpt from the OCIA for use in the liturgy when celebrating the Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion](#) highlighting all prayers, other texts, and rubrics for celebrant, OCIA director, candidates, sponsors, assembly, and lector. You may wish to copy and paste some of the needed texts in the creation of pew worship aids, or if you wish to include the people's responses in a page of your parish bulletin, as you may already do with your music or readings. Note that not all of the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) options need be used; rather, select one or more and add them to your usual Sunday Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) to be read by the deacon or lector. Note also that in the setting of the parish, the names of Christian candidates may be called aloud as they are invited forward for the rite.

RITE OF SENDING CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION: An optional rite found in OCIA, nos. 106-117, this rite provides a time for catechumens to sign the Book of the Elect. **It is necessary that catechumens sign the Book of the Elect prior to coming to the cathedral for the Rite of Election, since signing the books is no longer part of the archdiocesan celebration of the Rite of Election.** Additionally, celebrating this rite at the principal parish Mass allows the faithful gathered to participate in the journey of the catechumens toward Christian initiation by means of their visible support and prayers, prayers which will undoubtedly benefit each catechumen.

If a parish or collaborative chooses to celebrate this rite, it may do so at a suitable time prior to the Rite of Election, whether on the First Sunday of Lent at a morning Mass (or Saturday Vigil Mass), or on the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday. If including the signing of the Book of the Elect within the rite at Mass, this may be done as specified in OCIA #113 where it reads: **"113. If the signing of the Book of the Elect is to take place in the presence of the Bishop, it is omitted here. However, if the signed Book of the Elect is to be presented to the Bishop in the Rite of Election, the catechumens may now come forward to sign it or they should sign it after the celebration or at another time prior to the Rite of Election."**

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions via email or phone! Please know of our prayers for you, your catechumens, and candidates.

You can find all of this information and more at bit.ly/OCIA.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Patrick Krisak

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