

Archdiocese of Boston
2025 Rite of Election
First Memorandum
January 13, 2026

2026 Rite of Election: First Memorandum

Dear Pastors, OCIA Directors, and Catechists,

We are now well into our new liturgical and calendar years and Lent is fast approaching! Yes, it is time to begin preparations for the 2026 Rite of Election. Please read carefully to know what to expect.

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 usa pela parroquia)

Catechumens (Unbaptized) Only for 2026

As in 2022-2025, ***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 in 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: It is recommended that children who have reached the age of reason (and beyond) who are receiving Baptism at Easter attend the Rite of Election but they are not required to do so, per OCIA 253 and 277-280. 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 2026 will be held once again at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, 1400 Washington St., Boston, MA 02118. **This year, as in 2022-2025, 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. The proper celebration for parishes is the "[Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election](#)," an optional rite found in the OCIA, nos. 106-117.

Registration

The registration for the Rite of Election will open on January 20, 2026. In the meantime, please use the OCIA Parish Intake Form (available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Portuguese](#)) to collect the necessary information for all catechumens and candidates.

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). We have created this form for parish use to collect the information.
- **REGISTRATION:** **Registration for the Rite of Election will open on January, 20 2026.**
- **MARRIAGE ISSUES:** Check that marriage issues are resolved ***before*** you present people at the Rite of Election. This may include checking the marital history *of the spouses* of candidates and catechumens. Failure to deal with these cases has resulted in hurt and disappointment in the past.
- **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES:** Obtain and have on file in the parish a copy of the baptismal certificate from the church of Baptism for each candidate.

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Patrick Krisak

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