

Archdiocese of Boston  
2026 Rite of Election  
Final Reminders Memorandum  
February 17, 2026

### **Rite of Election: Final Reminders Memorandum**

Dear Pastors, OCIA Directors, and Catechists,

Here are some essential reminders as we approach the Rite of Election at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross this Sunday, February 22, 2026. Remember, this is **not a Mass**, only a Liturgy of the Word with the Rite of Election - so go to Mass before or after! Please also note that last year's over 400 catechumens was a significant increase from previous years – and **this year we expect well over 600 catechumens!**

#### REGISTRATION:

- If you have NOT received a reply from Diane Campbell in response to your registration email, please RE-SEND your Excel spreadsheet to [RiteofElection@rcab.org](mailto:RiteofElection@rcab.org) with parish names and catechumens' names ASAP so we can be sure to include your catechumens. [Excel registration sheet here.](#)

#### BEFORE YOU GO:

- Have your catechumens (only those to be baptized) **sign your parish or collaborative Book of the Elect**, either at Sunday Mass this weekend as part of the optional Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election (OCIA nos. 106-117), OR any other time before coming to the cathedral.
- [Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election OCIA Excerpt](#)
- **Bring your signed BOOK of the ELECT** with you!

#### WHO:

- **All catechumens\***, their **sponsors**, and **OCIA directors**
  - If a sponsor cannot attend, a proxy may stand in their place.
  - \*Catechumens aged 7-17 are encouraged but not required to attend the Rite of Election per OCIA 253 and 277-280.
  - ***If a catechumen is not able to attend then please contact us to request delegation from the archbishop for your parish to hold the Rite of Election for the catechumen.***
- Family and friends are of course welcome to attend in support!

#### WHEN:

- **Arrive at the cathedral at 1:30pm** to allow time for registration, seating, and using the bathrooms.
- **We expect that the cathedral will be standing room only this year so please consider arriving earlier than usual – keeping in mind that the 11:30am Mass at the Cathedral concludes between 12:30pm and 12:45pm and our team needs time after Mass to set up the registration tables.**
- **2:00pm Liturgy begins** (lasting 75-90 minutes)

#### WHAT:

- Find the **right registration table** by TOWN NAME/S.
- Only one person per group (ideally the OCIA group leader from a community, parish, or collaborative) needs to check in at the registration tables.

#### SEATING:

- Parish OCIA groups may sit anywhere; there is no reserved or assigned seating.

#### OUTLINE OF THE LITURGY:

Here is a simple outline of the parts of the afternoon requiring specific participation:

- Liturgy of the Word, including the homily
- **Presentation of the Catechumens:**
  - A reader will call a parish name, followed by the names of each of that parish's catechumens, who will rise from their places with their sponsors and **remain in place. This change from previous years is to account for the high number of catechumens this year.**
  - That parish or collaborative's OCIA coordinator/director/catechist/designate **should rise to accompany the parish catechumens & sponsors AND have the group's pre-signed Book of the Elect.**
  - Once all catechumens, sponsors, and OCIA leaders are standing, someone will say: "I invite all parish catechists to hold their Books of the Elect up for the bishop to see."
  - Once all parish catechists hold their Books of the Elects up, someone will address the bishop: "Your Excellency, these are the names of the candidates." He will then declare them to be members of the Elect!
- Intercessions, Blessing, and Dismissal

#### WHERE:

- Cathedral of the Holy Cross
  - 1400 Washington St.
  - Boston, MA 02118
  - <https://bostoncathedral.com/>

#### TO TAKE THE T:

- *SILVER LINE (SL4)* Exit at Union Park Street Station;
  - Walk west down Washington Street and the cathedral is just ahead.
- *ORANGE LINE* Exit at Back Bay Station;
  - Walk south down Dartmouth Street;
  - Continue south on West Dedham Street.
  - The cathedral is about a half-mile walk from Back Bay Station.

**PARKING INFO:**

- There is no lot at the cathedral itself, but there are several pay parking lots nearby.
  
- Put any of these addresses into your GPS for easy parking on arrival.
  - 500 Harrison Ave, Boston, MA 02118
  - 274 Albany St, Boston, MA 02118, (under the expressway)
  - 324 Albany St, Boston, MA 02118, (under the expressway)
  
- At the discretion of the parking management company, any lot may become unavailable because of snow.
- Rates are subject to change.
- If some lots are closed because of snow, the lots under the Expressway remain available.
  
- Please allow 5-10 minutes to walk over to the cathedral from these lots. Those needing ramp and elevator access into the cathedral may be dropped off on Union Park St.; it is the one-way street between Harrison Ave. and Washington St.

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.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Patrick Krisak**

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