



## What Happens on Holy Saturday?

### Brief Instructions for RCIA Elect and Candidates

#### Morning Presentation Rites (Rite of Preparation)

8:00 a.m. in Church

Followed by Rehearsal (we'll be finished by 9:00 a.m.)

##### 1. Ephphatha Rite

Please prepare for this *before* Saturday by reading Mark 7:31-37. This will explain what "ephphatha" means and what will happen to your ability to hear God when the priest prays this over you.

After the homily, the priest will invite the Elect, Candidates, and Sponsors to come forward. Sponsors place a hand on their shoulder.

##### 2. Rite of Recitation of the Creed

This rite prepares the Elect for the Profession of Faith that they will make immediately before they are baptized. This rite also prepares them to fulfill their Christian duty to proclaim the message of the Gospel. The Candidates who were baptized in other faith traditions are also invited to renew their baptismal commitment by professing their faith in the recitation of the Creed.

##### 3. Rite of Choosing a Baptismal Name

Throughout the Bible, men and women were often given new names when they entered a covenant relationship with God. Abram became Abraham (read Genesis 17:4ff) and Simon became known as Peter (read Matthew 16:17). Likewise, Revelation 3:12 speaks of the redeemed receiving a new name.

The priest will ask the Elect to explain their new baptismal name and why it was chosen for their new life as a Christian. This is the name you have chosen for Confirmation. Suggestion: You chose this name because you wanted a certain Saint to be the Patron Saint of your life. Why this particular Saint?

Then the priest will ask the Candidates to share their Confirmation name and why it was chosen.

##### 4. Concluding Rites

The priest will pray first for the Elect, then the Candidates. Listen carefully to his words. It's a powerful moment!

**Rehearsal for the Easter Vigil Mass follows.**

##### After Rehearsal

Candidates and Sponsors may avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

*Please rest quietly at home* between the morning Preparation Rite / Rehearsal and the evening Mass. Holy Saturday is not a day for shopping or yard work or other busy activities. Use this time to fast and to read the attached "**Introduction to the Easter Vigil**" or to catch up on class materials or to read scripture or other books on the faith. This will help you save stamina for the late night (Mass is extra long this night), but the most important reason for protecting this as a day of rest is to fully enter into the spiritual value of Holy Saturday, giving respect to Jesus in observance of the time His Body lay dead in the tomb. Please remain in a reflective, preparatory mood all day.



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#### Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass

1. If you have young children who are not being baptized this night, have a babysitter take care of them at home, because this will be a long night.
2. Dress in Sunday best. White is preferred but not required.
3. Elect: Since you're being baptized, come dressed in a T-shirt and shorts or a swim suit and sandals, in other words, clothes that can get wet and can be easily changed. Bring your good clothes and shoes in a travel bag; they should be easy to get into quickly. Goss: Avoid wearing panty hose, and keep your hair style simple. There will be no time to fix out hair after baptism. You will be changing quickly in the Ladies Room to prepare for the next part of the Mass.
4. Elect: Arrive at 7:30 in room \_\_\_\_\_ to get the robes you'll wear.
5. Candidates & all Sponsors/Godparents: Arrive at 7:45.
6. Everyone: Get your seat reservation signs for everyone (including family members). Extra friends and family members will need to arrive early, too, if they want to sit anywhere near you.
7. Candidates only (not the Elect): Pick up an unlit candle.
8. As soon as possible, go outside to stand near the bonfire pit or brazier for the Service of Light. You'll want an unblocked view of what happens there. This will be the start of an awesome night for you!
9. **The Service of Light begins** at 8:30. As it comes to a close, a procession is formed to enter the church. First the incense leads the way, then the Easter candle, followed by everyone else.
10. **Mass begins**, and everyone takes their seats.
11. **Baptisms** will take place after the Liturgy of the Word.
  - The priest will call the Elect forward. Godparents will present them to the priest, placing a hand on their shoulder. Babies to be baptized will be carried by their parents or godparents.
  - After blessing the water, the priest will lead the Elect in the renunciation of sin and the profession of faith. He will ask: "*Do you reject Satan?*" and the Elect will all answer "*I do.*" For each question that follows, the answer is always "*I do.*"
  - The RCIA Director will introduce each of the Elect to the priest. When the person's name is called, the godparent assists them in entering the baptismal pool.
  - Another team member will assist the person out of the water after the baptism and hand them a towel. Godparents will help them dry off. The wet name tags are to be replaced with new ones made especially for Confirmation.
  - After the newly baptized (now called "Confirmandi") have changed into dry clothes, they will don a white garment.
  - The godparents will give them a candle, which they will light from the Easter Candle and present to their Confirmandi.
  - *And so on with the rest of the instructions.....*