

Preparation of an Adult for Holy Baptism: The Catechuminate

Admission of Catechumens

The admission of catechumens may take place at any time of the year, within a principal Sunday liturgy.

After the sermon (or after the Creed) the Celebrant invites those to be admitted as catechumens to come forward with their sponsors.

The Celebrant then asks the following question of those to be admitted. If desired, the question may be asked of each person individually.

What do you seek?

Answer **Life in Christ.**

The Celebrant then says,

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” Do you accept these commandments?

Answer **I do.**

Celebrant Do you promise to be regular in attending the worship of God and in receiving instruction?

Answer **I do.**

Celebrant Will you open your ears to hear the Word of God and your heart and mind to receive the Lord Jesus?

Answer **I will, with God’s help.**

The Celebrant then addresses the sponsor

Will you who sponsor these persons support them by prayer and example and help them to grow in the knowledge and love of God?

Sponsor **I will.**

(Over)

Those to be admitted kneel. The sponsors remain standing, and place a hand upon the shoulder of the one they are sponsoring, while the Celebrant extends a hand toward them and says

May Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who has put the desire into your hearts to seek the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, grant you the power of the Holy Spirit to persevere in this intention and to grow in faith and understanding.

People **Amen.**

Each of those to be admitted is presented by name to the Celebrant, who, with the thumb, marks a cross on the forehead of each, saying

N., receive the sign of the Cross on your forehead and in your heart, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

The Sponsor also mark a cross on the foreheads of the catechumen.