**Period of Purification and Enlightenment**

**First Scrutiny: (3rd Sunday of Lent)**

**Outline of the Rite**

**Liturgy of the Word**

**Readings**

The texts and the readings for Mass are always those given for the first scrutiny in the Missal and the Lectionary for Mass among the ritual Masses, “Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies.”

Homily

After the readings and guided by them, the celebrant explains in the homily the meaning of the first scrutiny in the light of the Lenten liturgy and of the spiritual journey of the elect.

**Invitation to silent Prayer**

After the homily, the elect with their godparents come forward and stand before the celebrant.

The celebrant first addresses the assembly of the faithful, inviting them to pray in silence and to ask that the elect will be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God.

The celebrant then addresses the elect, inviting them also to pray in silence and suggesting that as a sign of their inner spirit of repentance they bow their heads or kneel; he concludes his remarks with the following or similar words.

**Elect of God, bow your heads (kneel down) and pray.**

The elect bow their heads or kneel, and all pray for some time in silence. After the period of silent prayer, the community and the elect stand for the intercessions.

**Intercessions for the elect**

**Celebrant:**

**Let us pray for these elect whom the church has confidently chosen. May they successfully complete their long preparation and at the paschal feast find Christ in his sacraments.**

**Reader:**

**That they may ponder the word of God in their hearts and savour its meaning more fully day by day, let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:**

**That they may learn to know Christ, who came to save what was lost, let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:**

**That they may humbly confess themselves to be sinners, let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:**

**That they may sincerely reject everything in their lives that is displeasing and contrary to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:**

**That the Holy Spirit, who searches every heart, may help them to overcome their weakness through his power, let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:**

**That the same Holy Spirit may teach them to know the things of God and how to please him, let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:**

That their families also may put their hope in Christ and find peace and holiness in him, let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:**

That we ourselves in preparation for the Easter feast may seek a change of heart, give ourselves to prayer, and persevere in our good works, let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:**

That throughout the whole world whatever is weak may be strengthened, whatever is broken restored, whatever is lost found, and what is found, redeemed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Exorcism:**

**After the Intercessions, the celebrant faces the elect and with joined hands, says:**

God of power, you sent your Son to be our Saviour:

Grant that these catechumens,

who, like the woman of Samaria, thirst for living water,

My turn to the Lord as they hear his word

And acknowledge the sins and weaknesses that weigh them down.

Protect them from vain reliance on self and defend them from the power of Satan.

Free them from the spirit of deceit, so that, admitting the wrong they have done, they may attain purity of heart and advance on the way to salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R: Amen.**

**Dismissal of the elect:**

**If the eucharist is to be celebrated, the elect are normally dismissed at this point by use of option A; if the elect are to stay for the celebration of the eucharist, option B is used; if the eucharist is not to be celebrated, the entire assembly is dismissed by use of option C.**

**Celebrant:**

**A:**

Dear elect, go in peace, and join us again at the next scrutiny.

May the Lord remain with you always.

**Elect: Amen.**

**B: If for serious reasons the elect cannot leave and must remain with the baptised, they are to be instructed that though they are present at the eucharist, they cannot take part in it as the baptised do. They may be reminded of this by the celebrant in these or similar words.**

**Celebrant:**

Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord’s eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God’s children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with his Spirit to re-create the face of the earth.

**C:**

**Celebrant:**

**Go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.**

**All: thanks be to God.**

**Liturgy of the Eucharist**