**SECOND SCRUTINY**

**(Fourth Sunday of Lent)**

**OUTLINE OF THE RITE**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

* Readings
* Homily
* Invitation to silent Prayer
* Intercessions for the elect
* Exorcism
* Dismissal of the Elect

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

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**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**READINGS:**

**The texts and readings for Mass are always those given for the second 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 second 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.**

**Note: There are two options that may be used for the intercessions for the elect and both the introduction and the intentions may be adapted to fit various circumstances. During the intercessions the godparents stand with their right hand on the shoulder of the elect.**

**(Option B has been selected here, but you may feel free to use Option A from the Rite.)**

**Celebrant:**

**Let us pray for these elect whom God has called, that they may remain faithful to him and boldly give witness to the words of eternal life.**

**Assisting Minister:**

**That God may dispel darkness and be the light that shines in the hearts of our elect, let us pray to the Lord.**

**R Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That he may gently lead them to Christ, the light of the world, let us pray to the Lord.**

**R**

**That our elect may open their hearts to God and acknowledge him as the source of light and the witness of truth, let us pray to the Lord.**

**R**

**That he may heal them and preserve them from the unbelief of this world, let us pray to the Lord.**

**R**

**That, saved by him who takes away the sin of the world, they may be freed from the contagion and forces of sin, let us pray to the Lord.**

**R**

**That, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they may never fail to profess the good News of salvation and share it with others, let us pray to the Lord.**

**R**

**That all of us, by the example of our lives, may become in Christ the light of the world, let us pray to the Lord.**

**R**

**That every inhabitant of the earth may acknowledge the true God, the Creator of all things, who bestows upon us the gift of Spirit and life, let us pray to the Lord.**

**R**

**EXORCISM**

**After the intercessions, the rite continues with one of the following exorcisms.**

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

**Father of mercy,**

**You led the man born blind**

**to the kingdom of light**

**through the gift of faith in your Son.**

**Free these elect**

**from the false values that surround and blind them.**

**Set them firmly in your truth,**

**children of the light for ever.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**R Amen**

**Here, if this can be done conveniently, the celebrant lays hands on each one of the elect.**

**Then, with hands outstretched over all the elect, he continues:**

**Lord Jesus,**

**You are the true light that enlightens the world.**

**Through your Spirit of truth**

**free those who are enslaved by the father of lies.**

**Stir up the desire for good in these elect,**

**whom you have chosen for your sacraments.**

**Let them rejoice in your light, that they may see,**

**and, like the man born blind whose sight you restored,**

**let them prove to be staunch and fearless witnesses to the faith,**

**for you are Lord for ever and ever.**

**R. Amen.**

**An appropriate song may be sung, for example, Psalm 6, 26, 32, 38,39, 40, 51, 116:1-9, 130, 139, or 142**

**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.**

**A: The celebrant dismisses the elect in these or similar words:**

**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 baptized, they are to be instructed that though they are present at the eucharist, they cannot take part in it as the baptized do. They may be reminded of this by the celebrant in these or similar words.**

**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: the celebrant dismisses those present, using these or similar words.**

**Go in peace,**

**And may the Lord remain with you always.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**An appropriate song may conclude the celebration.**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHAIRST**

**When the eucharist is to follow, intercessory prayer is resumed with the usual general intercessions for the needs of the Church and the whole world; then, if required, the profession of faith is said. But for pastoral reasons these general intercessions and the profession of faith may be omitted. The liturgy of the eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts. In the Eucharistic prayer there is to be a remembrance of the elect and their godparents. (see “Ritual Mass “Christian Initiation: the Scrutinies.”)**