**THIRD SCRUTINY**

**(Fifth 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**

**THIRD SCRUTINY**

**(Fifth Sunday of Lent)**

**READINGS:**

**The texts and readings for Mass are always those given for the third 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 third 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 (or 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:**

**(Note: there is another option for these prayers available in the rite.)**

**A: Celebrant:**

**Let us pray for these elect whom God has chosen. May the grace of the sacraments conform them to Christ in his passion and resurrection and enable them to triumph over the bitter face of death.**

**Assisting Minister:**

**That faith may strengthen them against worldly deceits of every kind, let us pray to the Lord.**

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

**Assisting Minister:**

**That they may always thanks God, who has chosen to rescue them from their ignorance of eternal life and to set them on the way of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.**

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

**Assisting Minister:**

**That the example and prayers of the catechumens who have shed their blood for Christ may encourage these elect in their hope of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.**

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

**Assisting minister:**

**That they may all have a horror of sin, which distorts life, let us pray to the Lord.**

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

**Assisting Minister:**

**That those who are saddened by the death of family or friends may find comfort in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.**

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

**Assisting Minister:**

**That we too at Easter may again be confirmed in our hope of rising to life with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.**

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

**Assisting Minister:**

**That the whole world, which God has created in love, may flower in faith and charity and so receive new life, let us pray to the Lord.**

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

**EXORCISM:**

**After the intercessions, the rite continues with an exorcism ( see rite for further option)**

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

**Father of life and God not of the dead but of the living,**

**You sent your Son to proclaim life,**

**to snatch us from the realm of death,**

**and to lead us to resurrection.**

**Free these elect**

**from the death-dealing power of the spirit of evil,**

**so that they may bear witness**

**to their new life in the risen Christ,**

**for he lives for ever and ever.**

**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,**

**by raising Lazarus from the dead**

**you showed that you came that we might have life**

**and have it more abundantly.**

**Free from the grasp of death**

**those who await your life-giving sacraments**

**and deliver them from the spirit of corruption.**

**Through your Spirit, who gives life,**

**fill them with faith, hope, and charity,**

**that they may live with you always**

**in the glory of your resurrection,**

**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 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:**

**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 EUCHARIST**

**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 eucharisti c prayer there is to be a remembrance of the elect and their godparents. (See ritual Mass “Christian Initiation: the Scrutinies.”)**

**Taken from The Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults**