

## **RCIA RITES: LITURGICAL CALENDAR OPTIONS** Year C 2009-2010

### **RITE OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS AND/OR RITE OF WELCOMING THE CANDIDATES**

#### **11/29** The First Sunday of Advent – *Lectionary #3C*

- Jeremiah 33:14-16 The days are coming when I will fulfill the promise.
- Luke 21:25-28; 34-36 The day of the Lord's coming requires vigilance and prayer.
- **Caution:** While the ritual text calls for a celebration of the Rite of Acceptance on this date, what it is signifying by this is that catechumens should have one full liturgical year in the catechumenate process. By welcoming them on the First Sunday of Advent, their dismissal and extended catechesis then begins as the liturgical year begins. For liturgical purposes, however, this is not an optimal choice. The changes in liturgical season, the addition of rituals like Advent wreath candle-lighting, and the related changes in the assembly's levels of participation make adding an initiation rite to this liturgy somewhat burdensome.

#### **1/31** The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time *Lectionary #72C*

- Jeremiah 1:4-5;17-19 I knew you in your mother's womb
- Corinthians 12:31-13:13 Love is patient, kind etc.
- Luke 4:21-30 To follow Jesus means to not be accepted even by those who know you well

#### **2/7** The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time *Lectionary #75C*

- Isaiah 6:1-2a; 3-8 "Here I am, send me!"
- Luke 5:1-11 "They left everything and followed him."

General Consideration for using Sundays in the Easter Season: Since many other sacraments of initiation are celebrated on the Sundays of the Easter season, make sure to schedule this rite so as not to conflict with other sacramental celebrations.

#### **4/11** Second Sunday of Easter *Lectionary #45C* Divine Mercy Sunday

- Acts 5:12-16 "Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles."
- John 20:19-31 Thomas' profession of faith: My Lord and my God.
- **Consideration:** If your parish has special devotions on Divine Mercy Sunday, this may not be a good choice for you.

#### **4/25** Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday *Lectionary #51C*

- John 10:27-30 No one can take those Jesus knows from his hand.

#### **5/2** Fifth Sunday of Easter *Lectionary #54C*

- John 13:31-33a;34-35 “This is how they will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

**6/13** Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time *Lectionary #93C*

- Galatians 2:16, 19-21 Paul proclaims that the cross of Christ accomplishes in the life of believers what attempts at fidelity to the law of Moses could not.
- Luke 7:36-8:3 Jesus has forgiven our sins by his death on the cross.

**7/4** Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time *Lectionary #102C*

- Isaiah 66:10-14C The Church is like a mother, nourishing her children.
- Galatians 6: 14-18 Paul boasts in the cross of Christ
- Luke 10:1-12;17-20 Rejoice in the inscription of our names in heaven

**8/1** Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – *Lectionary # 114C*

- Colossians 3:1-5; 9-11 Put to death that which is earthly and turn to life in Christ
- Luke 12:13-21 Store up treasures in heaven

**9/12** Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time *Lectionary #132C*

- 1 Timothy 1:12-17 God transformed Paul and so can transform us
- Luke 15: 1-32 Lost coins and lost sheep

**11/1** All Saint’s Day *Lectionary # 667*

- Being welcomed into the communion of saints can be most powerful. Using a holy day of obligation also draws the intentional community, so full, conscious and active participation of the assembly is often the case.
- Consideration: This falls on a Monday this year, thus making it a less favorable choice for the celebration of a Rite, although it is still a powerful sign of inclusion to be welcomed into the Order of Catechumens or as a candidate on this day.

**11/21** The Feast of Christ the King *Lectionary # 162C*

- Again, using special feast days to celebrate these rites can give an added dimension to the rite and to the feast day.

**RITE OF RECEPTION INTO THE FULL COMMUNION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults has National Statutes approved by the US Bishops to govern the manner in which this Rite is implemented in the United States. NS 32 says, “The reception of candidates into the communion of the Catholic Church should ordinarily take place at the Sunday Eucharist of the parish community...” NS 33 says, “It is preferable that reception into full communion not take place at the Easter Vigil lest there be any confusion of such baptized Christians with the candidates for baptism...” In keeping with these National Statutes, below are dates when the Sunday Readings or the liturgical rhythm (for Year C) lend themselves to bringing baptized and catechized candidates into full communion.

**Note: The ritual text presumes the candidates for full communion have had a suitable formation in the Catholic way of life and that outward signs of their incorporation of this life have been discerned by those involved in initiation. When discerned to be ready, and all impediments are clear, candidates should be initiated.**

**12/8** The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary *Lectionary # 689*

- Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12 “In love, he destined us for adoption.”
- Luke 1:26-38 “I am the handmaid of the Lord.”
- Consideration: This falls on a Tuesday this year. Determine how the parish will celebrate this holy day and see if this is a suitable time for bringing a candidate into full communion based on the time and scale of the liturgy, the availability of the initiation team/sponsor, and the candidate and his/her family.

**12/12** The Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe *Lectionary #690A, 707-712*

- Zechariah 2:10-13 The presence of God evokes song and awe-filled silence.
- Luke 1:39-47 The Visitation where Mary and Elizabeth affirm one another’s experience of God’s presence
- Consideration: This feast falls on a Saturday and affords communities with members from Mexico and Central and South America a wonderful time to bring members into full communion who come from this heritage. Imagine initiation that is fully enculturated, and the festival that can accompany it!

**1/1** The Octave of Christmas: The Blessed Virgin, Mary the Mother of God  
*Lectionary # 18ABC*

- Numbers 6:22-27 Aaronic blessings
- Luke 2:16-21 The naming of Jesus, which means God saves
- Consideration: This falls on a Friday. Determine how the parish will celebrate this holy day and see if this is a suitable time for bringing a candidate into full communion based on the time and scale of the liturgy, the availability of the candidate and his/her family, the sponsor and the initiation team.

**1/10** The Baptism of the Lord *Lectionary # 21C*

- Isaiah 42:1-4; 6-7 “Here is my servant with whom I am well pleased.”
- Luke 3:15-16; 21-22 “You are my beloved son, with you I am well pleased.”
- The connection with baptism and its dignity can work well here.
- Caution: If this weekend is used to celebrate infant baptisms, do not also bring someone into full communion unless that person is the parent of an infant being baptized.
- Consideration: If it is necessary to initiate a catechumen at a time other than the Easter Vigil, this is an appropriate feast upon which to do it.

**1/24** Third Sunday in Ordinary Time *Lectionary 69C*

- 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30 Many gifts and one body

- Luke 1: 1-4; 4:14-21 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.”

#### 4/3 Holy Saturday

- Given the National Statutes’ clear preference for this not to be the time candidates are brought into full communion, some pastoral exceptions to this might include the family members of a child over the age of seven being initiated, someone facing imminent deployment for an extended period of time, or medical reasons.

**4/14 Easter Sunday and any of the Sundays of the Easter season** are appropriate for bringing candidates into full communion.

- **Consideration:** Since many other sacraments of initiation are celebrated on the Sundays of the Easter season, make sure to schedule this rite so as not to conflict with other sacramental celebrations.

#### 5/30 The Vigil of Pentecost *Lectionary # 62ABC*

- The extended readings and their expansive story of the movement of God throughout creation make this a wonderful time to bring people into full communion.
- **Consideration:** If choosing to use this extended celebration of the Pentecost Vigil, make sure to catechize the assembly appropriately, so they will come prepared for an extended liturgy and the Rite of Reception, followed perhaps by a community celebration. Make sure to use the extended readings.

#### 6/6 Corpus Christi/ The Body and Blood of Christ *Lectionary # 169C*

- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 “I received from the Lord what I handed on to you”
- Luke 9:11b-17 “They all ate and were satisfied”
- **Note: Since becoming one with us at the Eucharistic table has been the desire of people preparing for full communion, this feast is a particularly well-suited one for bringing people to the table.**
- **Caution:** If this is the occasion chosen to celebrate first Holy Communion, do not try and do both sacramental celebrations at one liturgy, unless they include members of the same family. Then you may choose to do a combined initiatory liturgy at one mass and use the other masses for the celebration of First Eucharists.

#### 7/11 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time *Lectionary #105C*

- Deuteronomy 30:10-14 The Lord’s command is already in their hearts and all they have to do is to carry it out
- The Great Commandment and the Good Samaritan

#### 7/25 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time *Lectionary #111C*

- Colossians 2:12-14 You were buried with him in baptism and by faith you were also raised with him
- Luke 11:1-13 The Lord’s Prayer and Gospel living

**8/8** Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time *Lectionary 117C*

- Hebrews 11:1-2; 8-19 Faith is the realization of things hoped for
- Luke 12:32-48 Do not be afraid to follow Christ

**10/3** Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time *Lectionary 141C*

- 2 Timothy 1:6-8;13-14 Stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands.
- Luke 17:5-10 The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.”

**10/17** Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time *Lectionary 147C*

- 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2 Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed
- Luke 18:1-8 Pray always without becoming weary

The Parish Feast Day is also a good choice for bringing people into full communion.

*To be avoided:* Certain Sundays of the year should be avoided when it comes to celebrating the Rite of Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church, or Rites of Acceptance or Welcome. These include:

- Catechetical Sunday
- Missionary Co-op Sunday
- Sundays with visiting priests
- 2-4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Advent
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- The Sundays of Lent
- Passion Sunday

In addition, Ash Wednesday liturgies are not appropriate for the celebration of these Rites.