

March 15, 2020

***From Fr. Jim . . .***

One of our responsibilities on the Lenten journey is to walk with the catechumens and candidates in this time of preparation in order to receive the Easter Sacraments. We have 15 people (adults and children who are older than seven) who have been elected to receive the Easter Sacraments at the Easter Vigil this year. Their names are written in the Book of the Elect which is on a table in our sanctuary near the lectern.



We want to show our prayer support for them and for all the catechumens and candidates in our partner parishes who will be baptized or received into full communion with the church at the Easter Vigil this year. Their names are already included in our prayer wall and in our book of intentions. We have also sent them each a personal letter offering them our continued prayers and support and encouragement in this time of purification and enlightenment.

On the Third Sunday of Lent, the catechumens or the Elect, as they are now called, celebrate the First Scrutiny. Whenever the Rite of Scrutiny is celebrated, the Cycle A readings are used. The Cycle A reading for the First Scrutiny is the Woman at the Well. The Elect examine their lives under the lamp of this Gospel for a deeper purification of their call and a deeper awareness and enlightenment of the Faith they are receiving. The woman at the well invites them to conversion and to accept the Lord, Jesus Christ as living water for their lives. It also provides understanding for the Sacrament of Baptism that they want to receive and the life they are being called to live. We pray for them so that they can know the Lord as well as the Samaritan Woman and that they will allow the Lord to know them as fully and deeply as possible.

As we celebrate the Rite of Scrutiny with our elect, we prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter and we examine our lives, too, with the Cycle A Readings. How is Jesus living water? How has he been living water for you specifically? Recall a time of grace and a call to conversion and change. Give thanks for the freedom and new life you have received and are receiving.

**Parishioners Preparing for the Sacraments:** In addition to our 15 elects, we have forty adults and children who have already been baptized Catholic and are preparing to receive Confirmation and first Eucharist at our Saturday, May 23 Mass at 6pm. We also have three more children, above the age of seven, who will receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation at our 10:30am Mass on Sunday, May24. We needed to have two groups of catechumens/elect because of language differences. Please keep them in prayer. We pray for any of our parishioner children who are in Catholic schools, preparing for first Eucharist or Confirmation this year, also. The Church, through the community of St. Leo, continues to grow in holiness, age and grace. Thanks be to God!