

**YOU ARE INVITED AS MEMBERS  
OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**

to gather with those  
to be chosen by the Church for Baptism  
at the Easter Vigil 2018  
and with the baptized who seek full communion  
with the Catholic Church

**on the First Sunday of Lent  
February 18, 2018  
at St. Helena Cathedral, Helena, MT  
at 3:00 in the afternoon.**

The Catechumens and Candidates throughout the  
Diocese of Helena  
will be chosen and called to begin  
their final preparation  
for the Sacraments of Initiation.

**WE WHO ARE THE CHURCH  
need to be present to support and welcome  
these catechumens and candidates  
who seek to be one with us in our Catholic faith.**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO SHARE YOUR FAITH,  
offer your prayerful support  
and be part of the Welcoming Church!**

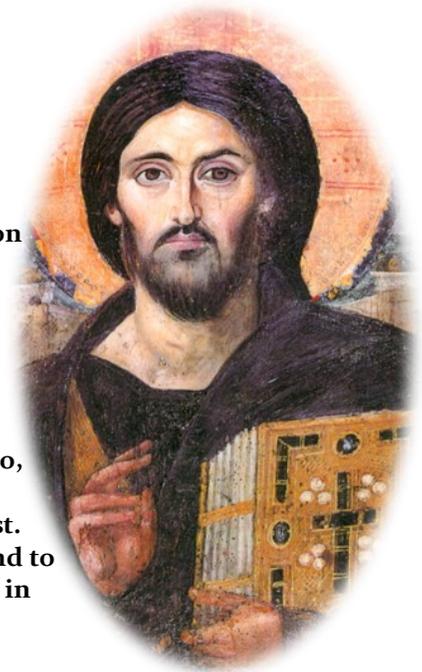
Diocese of Helena Liturgical Commission



Rite of Election ~ Call To Continuing Conversion  
**Bulletin Announcement #1** for all parishes of the Diocese

**DIOCESE OF HELENA LITURGICAL COMMISSION**

## What is the RITE OF ELECTION and the CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION?



**T**HE RITE OF ELECTION is the second step on the catechumens journey toward Baptism. The Church chooses those it deems ready for initiation and leads them into the more intense period of lenten preparation. Those chosen inscribe their names in the BOOK OF THE ELECT as a promise of faithfulness to the call they have received from Christ. At the Easter Vigil, they will be baptized, confirmed and receive Eucharist. Thus they will be fully initiated into the Body of Christ.

THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION is the final preparation for those who, already baptized in another Christian faith, wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. The Church invites them to hear anew the Lord's call to continual conversion and to be faithful to their Baptism. At the Easter Vigil these candidates will share fully in the Sacramental life of the Catholic Church.

**SINCE THEY ARE BECOMING ONE WITH US IN OUR CATHOLIC FAITH,  
it is only fitting that we should be present at this celebration  
to welcome and support them.**

These celebrations occur every year in our Diocese at the beginning of Lent in our Cathedral Church.

The Cathedral of St. Helena on the First Sunday of Lent, February 18 at 3:00 p.m.

**YOUR PRESENCE WILL LEND SUPPORT AND WELCOME!**

Diocese of Helena Liturgical Commission



Rite of Election ~ Call To Continuing Conversion  
**Bulletin Announcement #2** for all parishes of the Diocese  
**DIocese of Helena Liturgical Commission**

# The Rite of Election

How strange this title sounds to us! While many of us would probably agree that our national, state and local elections are rituals of a special breed, we hardly expect to find a “rite of election” in church. But long before any of our ancestors thought of electing their leaders, God was electing a people, selecting Israel, a rag-tag clan in a tiny corner of the earth, to be special, holy, a chosen people. God did not choose them because they were noteworthy in any way; they were not powerful, strong or particularly clever. But once they were chosen, they were God’s forever. Even when they strayed, looking to other gods for hope or help, God clung to them fiercely, calling them back again and again when anyone else would have gladly let them go.

It is the same with us. God chooses us, elects us, in Christ, to be a holy people, to be a church, to be signs of the reign of God on earth. The catechumens who have been preparing for baptism and those who have been working with them for months and years believe that God has chosen them to be one of us, the baptized. At the Rite of Election, their godparents, sponsors, catechists, pastors and friends will testify before the bishop, or his delegate, that God has chosen these people. They will offer the evidence of their lives among us, hearing and following God’s word, praying with God’s people and taking part in the work and the communal life of God’s church. After listening to this testimony, the bishop will declare that they are elected for baptism, chosen to be God’s own in Christ Jesus—not because they earned it, but because God wants it. And that is election by a landslide!

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**Celebrated in the Diocese of Helena  
on the First Sunday of Lent, February 18, 2018  
at Saint Helena Cathedral, Helena, MT  
at 3:00 in the afternoon**

**YOU are invited!**

Diocese of Helena Liturgical Commission



Rite of Election ~ Call To Continuing Conversion

**Bulletin Announcement #3** for all parishes of the Diocese

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