

SCRUTINY: Pastoral Notes on the Liturgies

WHAT IT IS

A series of liturgical rites:

- ◆ "...to UNCOVER, then HEAL
all that is weak, defective, or sinful..."
- ◆ "...to BRING OUT, then STRENGTHEN
all that is upright, strong, and good."
- ◆ For self-searching and repentance and have a spiritual purpose
- ◆ RCIA, no. 141

**WHEN
CELEBRATED**

During Lent:

- ◆ On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the proper days
- ◆ For pastoral reasons on other Sundays of Lent
- ◆ Or on convenient days during the week
- ◆ RCIA, nos. 141, 146

Outside Lent for unusual circumstances and pastoral needs

- ◆ On Sundays or even on weekdays with the usual intervals
- ◆ Not on solemnities
- ◆ RCIA, no. 146

- ◆ Requires permission of the Diocesan Bishop
- ◆ RCIA, nos. 30, 34, 331

**PROGRESSIVE
NATURE**

- ◆ Elect instructed gradually about the mystery of sin
- ◆ Elect filled with Christ the Redeemer, who is
the living water,
the light of the world,
the resurrection and the life
- ◆ Elect progress in perception
of sin,
of desire for salvation
- ◆ RCIA, no. 143

- ◆ Therefore, three scrutinies are so necessary for the elect,
only the bishop can dispense
from one for a "serious obstacle",
or from two in "extraordinary circumstances"
- ◆ RCIA, no. 34.3

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- FOR WHOM**
- ◆ The elect but not the baptized candidates
 - ◆ There is no combined rite for use in the United States of America
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- MINISTERS**
- ◆ Presider is Priest or Deacon (outside Mass)
 - ◆ Faithful also derive benefit and join in the intercessions for the elect
 - ◆ RCIA, no. 145
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- TEXTS**
- ◆ Always use the ritual Masses “I. For the Conferral of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation – 2. For the Celebration of the Scrutinies”
 - ◆ *Roman Missal, Third Edition:*
 - presidential prayers (collect, over the gifts, after communion)
found in the Ritual Masses section
 - special prefaces for the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent
found in the Proper of Time section for each Sunday
 - ◆ *Lectionary for Mass*, nos. 745-747 equal nos. 28, 31, 34 for Lent, Year A
 - ◆ Always celebrate in the order given
 - ◆ RCIA, no. 146

 - ◆ Note: Readings for the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, Year A may always be used in Year B and Year C even when the scrutinies are not celebrated
 - ◆ LM, nos. 29B, 30C, 32B, 33C, 35B, 36C
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- BASIC PREMISE**
- ◆ Sin and evil are real; its power is strong
 - ◆ Salvation is real;
 - Christ’s power to save, protect, strengthen is stronger
 - ◆ Sin, however, is only recognized in the light of grace
 - ◆ Scrutinies ritually celebrate
 - the mystery of life, death, and resurrection.
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