



Liturgy of the Word for Sundays of Lent: **Scrutinies**

O CIA at Saint Sylvester

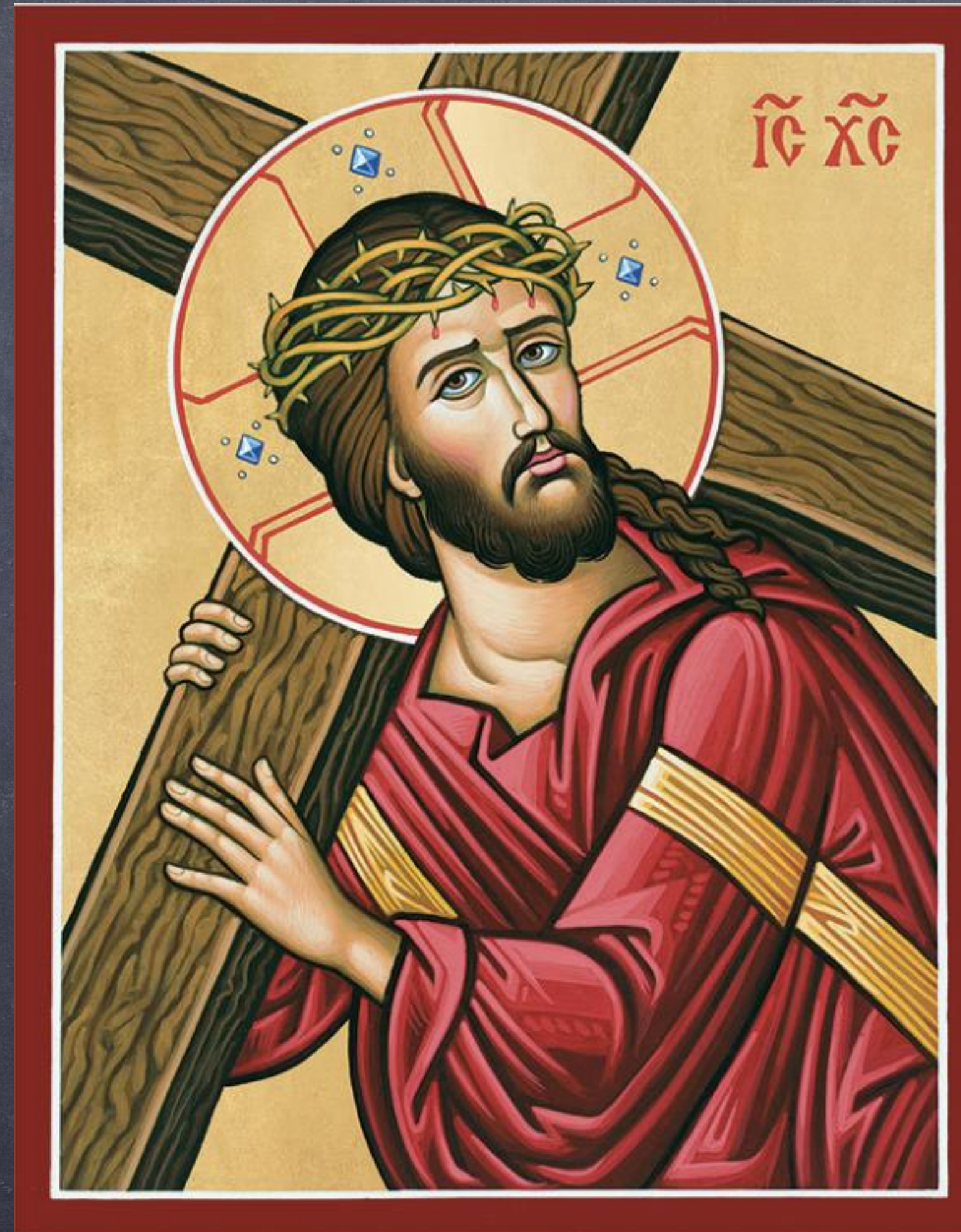


Opening Prayer

God of Mercy and Understanding,
we know that with Your help we can open our
hearts more fully to the mysteries of the
suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus
Christ. Help us to be humble in our Lenten
journey and to remember that any mercy and
compassion we feel is a gift from You.
May we await the joy of Easter with new
longing and patience.

AMEN

How is your Lenten journey progressing ?



Scrutinies

WHO are Scrutinies for ?

WHAT are Scrutinies ?

WHY are Scrutinies part of OCIA ?

WHERE do Scrutinies take place ?

WHEN do Scrutinies occur ?

HOW do we celebrate and benefit from Scrutinies ?

Who are Scrutinies for ?



After the Rite of Election, those wishing to become full members of the Church, now known as the Elect [or chosen], enter into the third stage of OCIA known as the Period of Purification and Enlightenment.

This stage coincides with the Season of Lent, the 40 day period of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

During this period, the Elect go through a more intense spiritual preparation which is “intended to purify the minds and hearts of the Elect as they search their own consciences and do penance.” [RCIA, 139]



It is at this time that the Rites of Scrutiny are celebrated.

What is a Scrutiny ?

scru·ti·ny
/'skrōōtənē/
noun
critical observation or examination.
"the policy came **under scrutiny** last month"

Similar: careful examination inspection survey scan study perusal

The Scrutinies are... "rites for self-searching and repentance" [RCIA, 141]

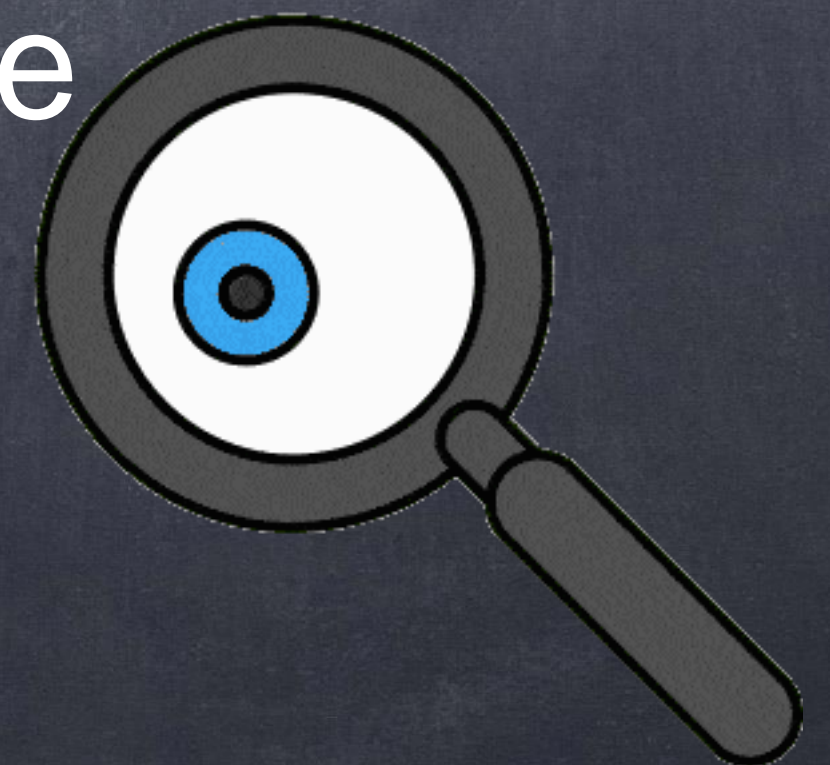
They are meant to... "uncover, then heal, all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the Elect, then to strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good." [RCIA, 141]

Scrutinies connotes probing and critical examination of one's life.

Why are Scrutinies celebrated ?

For most people, the word 'scrutiny' means the act of investigating or looking closely into something.

When viewed in this way, the rite of scrutiny may be seen as a form of public investigation or interrogation regarding the sincerity or worthiness of the Elect to receive the Sacraments of Initiation.



Why do we have Scrutinies ?

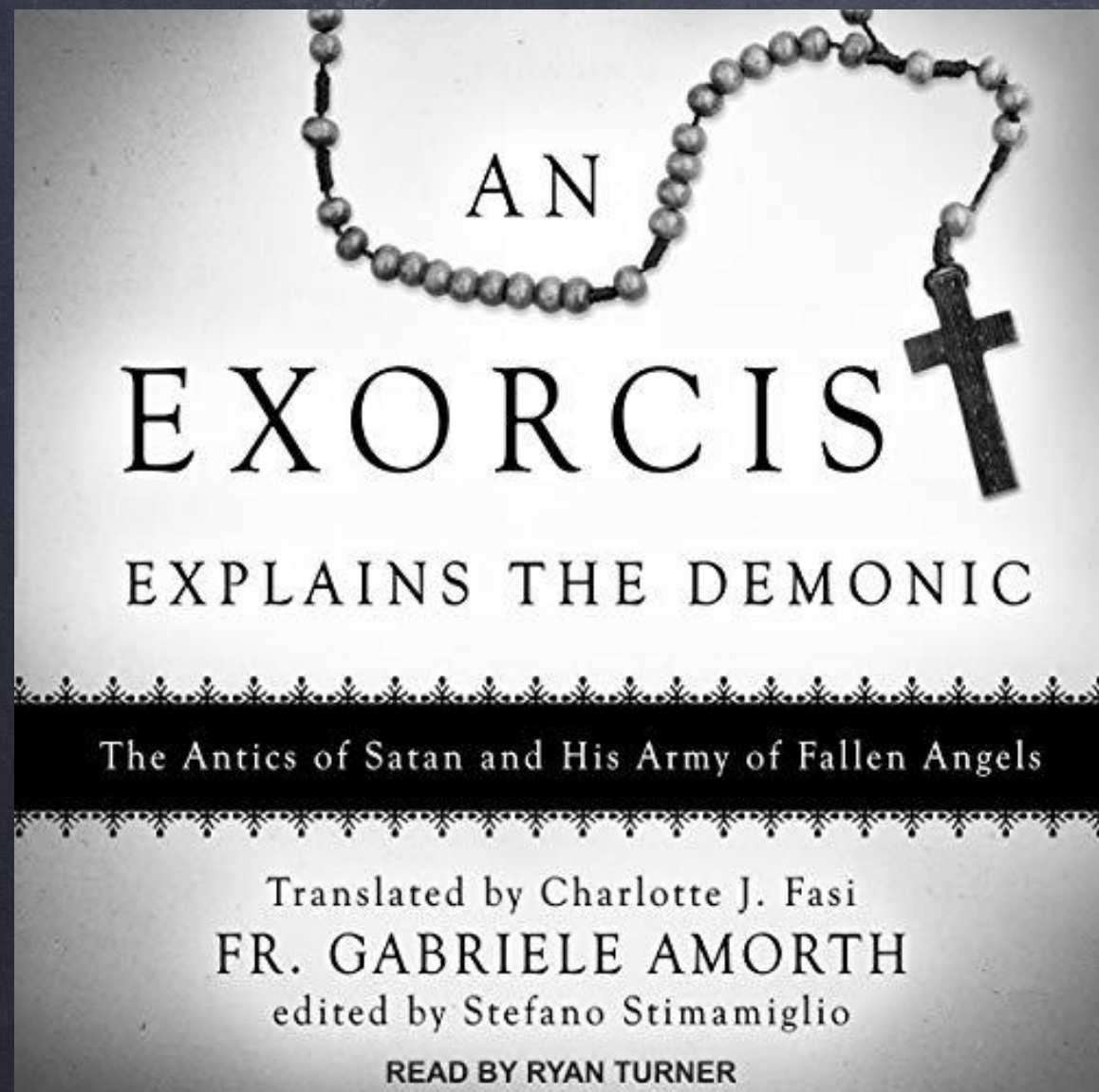
The Scrutinies are celebrated in order to...

‘deliver the Elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ.’ [RCIA, 141]

The unbaptized do not yet fully experience that sacramental grace. So the scrutinies, and particularly exorcisms, are employed to strengthen the unbaptized Elect on the final leg of their journey to initiation.



Exorcism ?!?



Scrutinies

Exorcisms:

- ✿ Are not fear-laden bouts with Satan, but are grace-filled encounters with the healing power of the Holy Spirit.
- ✿ In a baptismal context, the unbaptized person is susceptible to the temptations to evil that surround us every day.
- ✿ The baptized, however, are strengthened by the grace of the sacraments to overcome their temptations—especially through the gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

When are the Scrutinies celebrated ?

The Scrutinies are usually held during the Mass.

In all there are three scrutinies, each of which is celebrated on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sunday of Lent respectively.

They are based on the Gospel readings for each of those weeks of Liturgical Year A.

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+++ [However, this year Father will be reading those from Year B] +++

The rite begins after the homily when the Elect, together with their godparents or sponsor[s], come forward and kneel [or stand] before the priest|celebrant.

How are Scrutinies celebrated ?

- * The priest invites the assembly and Elect to pray silently for a brief period of time that the Elect may be freed of the evil one's influence, and for their continued protection.
- * After the moment of silent prayer, the entire community and the Elect stand for the Prayers of Intercession.
- * The focus of the Prayers of Intercession is mainly on the deliverance of the Elect from sin, and to express the concern and care of the entire community for them.

The Prayers of Intercession are followed by an exorcism led by the priest. It is composed of three parts:

First, a prayer is addressed to God the Father, calling on His power to heal and protect the Elect.

This is followed by the laying of hands on the Elect by the priest.

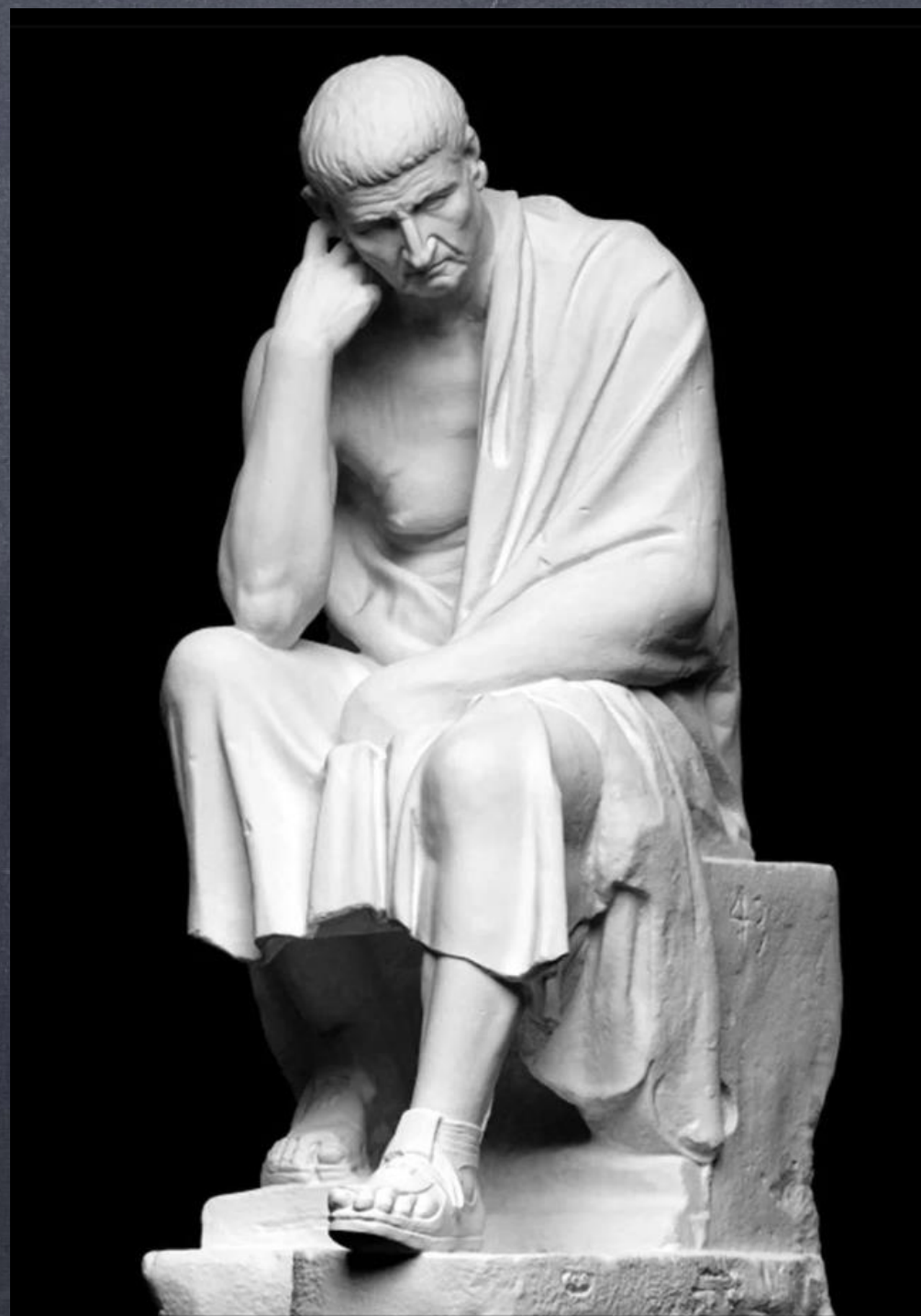
Then finally a prayer is addressed to Christ.

In the Rite of Exorcism, the Elect are freed from the effects of sin and from the influence of the devil.

They receive new strength for their spiritual journey and they open their hearts to receive the gifts of God the Father, The Holy Spirit, and Jesus, our Savior.

During the Scrutinies, the community prays to God for the Elect. By the power of God, and supported by the prayers of the community, it is the Elect themselves who make the sincere effort to scrutinize their own lives.

It is more like an exercise of self-awareness or self-examination.



Through the Scrutinies, the elect are instructed gradually about the mystery of sin and their spirit is filled with Christ who is:

...the Living Water: The Samaritan woman at the well

...the Light of the World: The man born blind

...the Resurrection and Life: The raising of Lazarus from the dead

Third Sunday of Lent

John 4:5-42 or 5-15

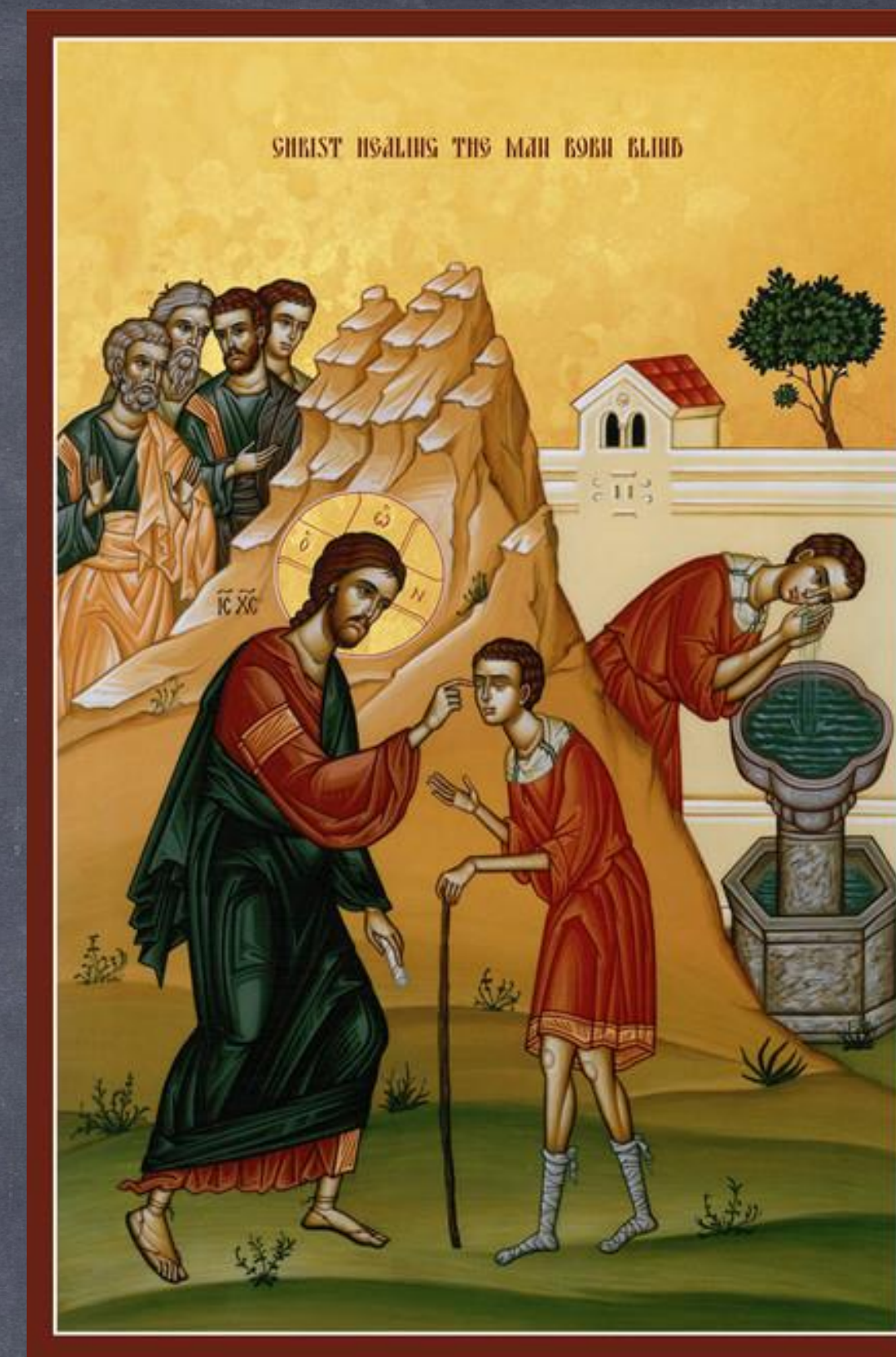
We follow Jesus to the well and Samaritan woman.

and forgiveness is given to us as well through the parable. And it is again rec



Fourth Sunday of Lent

John 9:1-4



A man born blind receives sight.

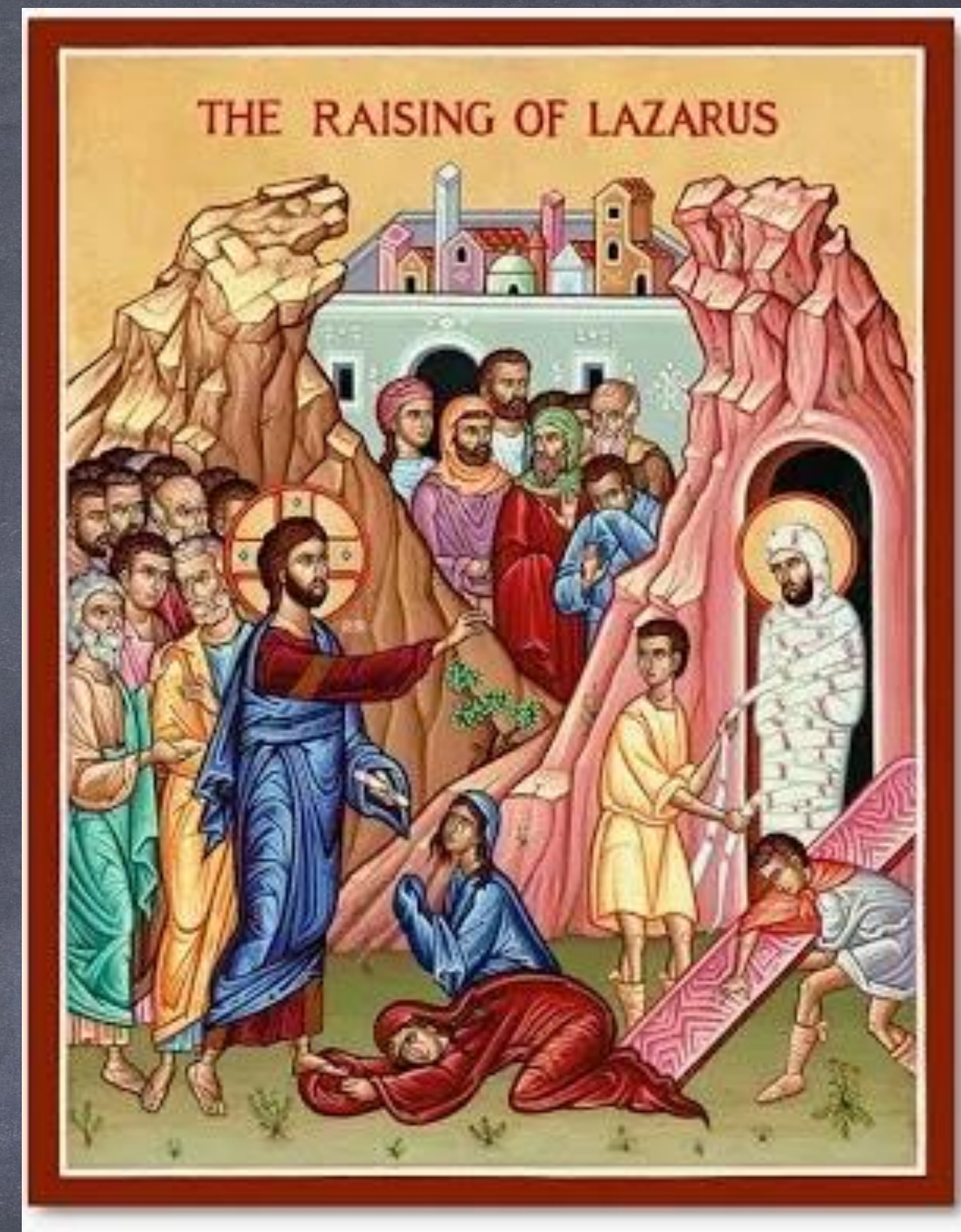
less and unconditional mercy in our minds, our hearts and our attitudes. It

Fifth Sunday of Lent

John 11:1-45

The story of Lazarus

We can see ourselves in Lazarus and see the restoration of the physical life as the beginning of our entry into eternal life the moment we accept Jesus' offer of a relationship with us.



Scrutinies

- The proclamation of Scripture, especially the Gospel, serves to scrutinize the elect, for it is in the Word proclaimed that we encounter Christ.
- The ritual symbols of silence, posture, litany, and hand-laying along with one's own patience and prayer throughout the week are an important part of the Scrutinies and their effect.
- They focus as much on the grace of God as on the sin of humanity.

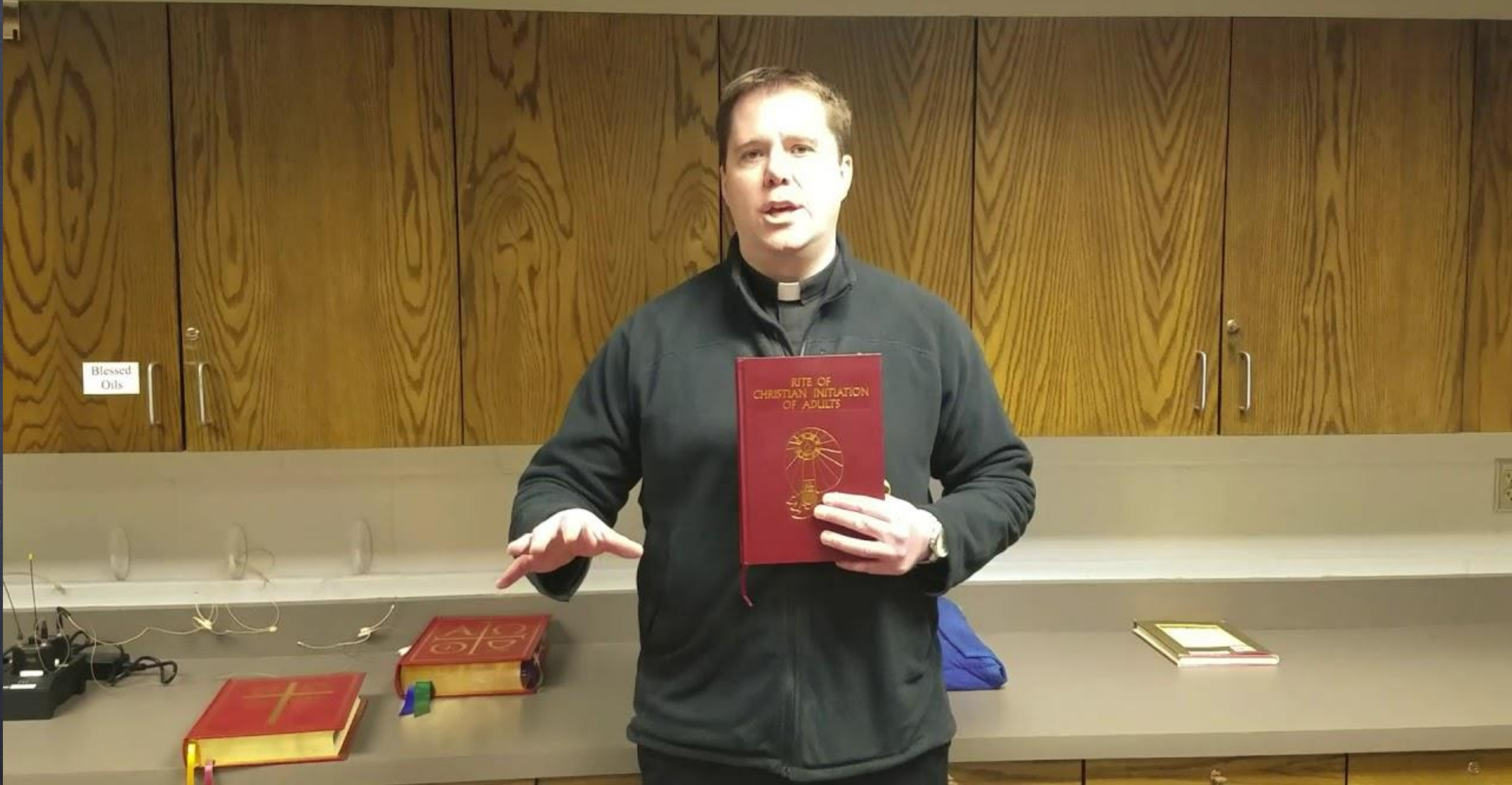


From the first to the third scrutiny the Elect should progress in their awareness of sin and their need for salvation. [RCIA, 143]

It is an act of completely surrendering oneself to Jesus, to be convicted and prompted by Him to examine oneself.

At the center of the rite is the action of God in Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit, who reveals to the Elect their own failing and who desires to deliver them completely from sin.

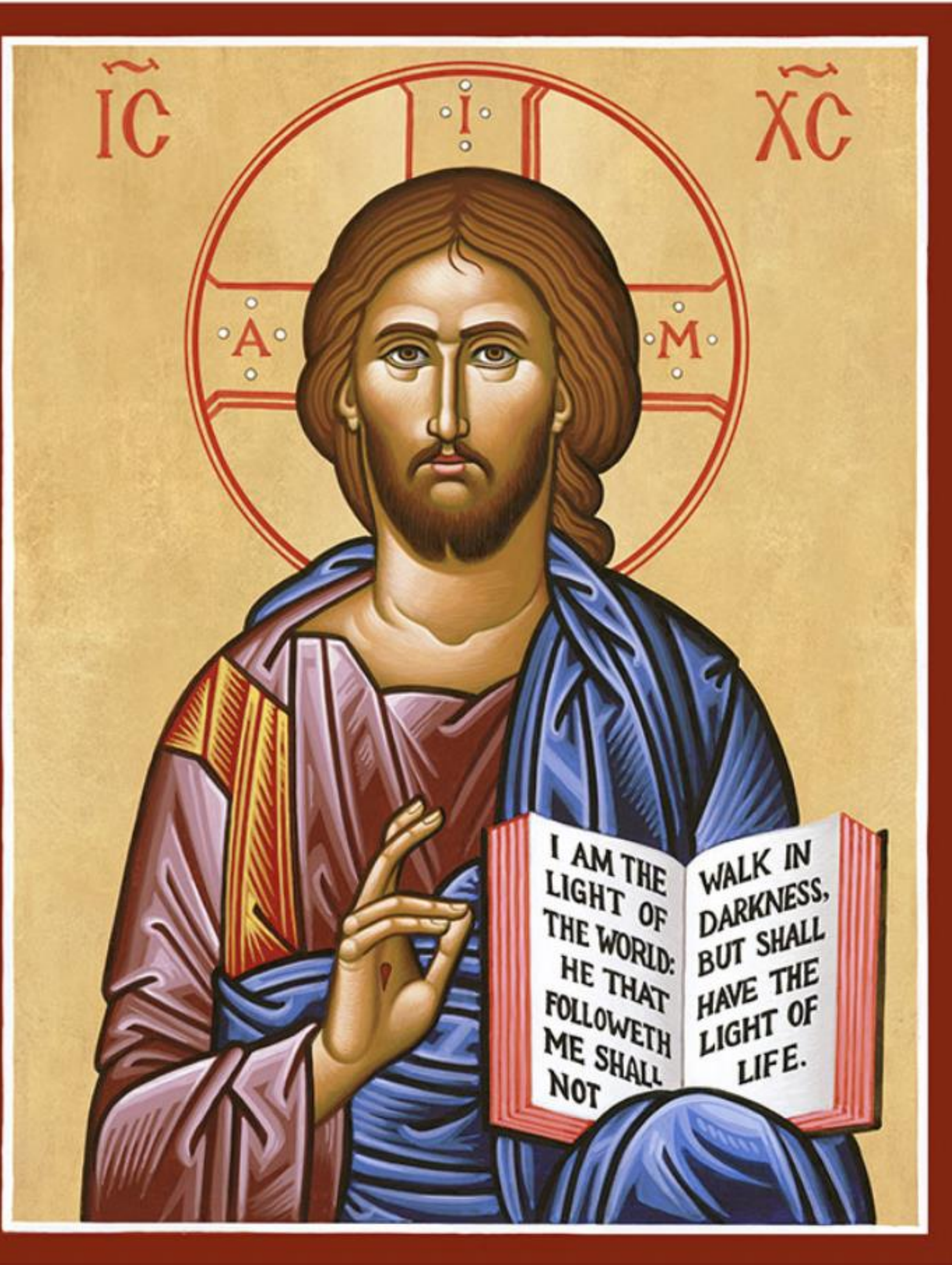
The Rite of Scrutiny should complete the conversion of the Elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and their decision to love God above all ~



Blessed
Oils

RITE OF
CHRISTIAN INITIATION
OF ADULTS





USCCB
United States Conference of
Catholic Bishops

<https://www.usccb.org/>

Holy Week | Easter Triduum + 2024 +

- **March 28 Holy Thursday**
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
John 13:1-15 The Washing of the Feet
- **March 29 Good Friday**
The Passion of the LORD
John 18:1-19
- **March 30 Holy Saturday**
Easter Vigil
Mark 16:1-7
- **March 31 Easter Sunday +**
+ Resurrection of the LORD +



Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father

As we enter another week of our Lenten journey, guide us to the path that leads to You. Fill our hearts with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace as we strive to become the best version of ourselves, honestly admitting our shortcomings and sins. As we renew our resolve each day to become better persons, let us hear Your voice in the deepest reaches of our hearts. Give us rest in You. Help us to accept others, showing them Your great love instead of casting judgment. Stay with us through the busy days this week and remind us that when we need comfort, solitude, wisdom, or guidance, we can always turn to You. Help us develop discipline and generosity through fasting, almsgiving, and draw closer to You through prayer this

Lent.

AMEN



