Presentations of the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer

Who?
The Elect: those preparing to celebrate Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Purpose
Now that the elect have completed the catechumenate the Church lovingly entrusts to them the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer, the ancient texts that have always been regarded as expressing the heart of the Church’s faith and prayer. These represent the light of faith which they profess and membership of the family that calls God ‘Father.’

When do they take place?
The Presentation of the Creed takes place during the week following the first scrutiny (ie the week following the third Sunday of Lent if it has taken place on that day).

The Presentation of the Our Father takes place during the week following the third scrutiny (ie the week following the fifth Sunday of Lent, if it has taken place on that day). It may also take place during the preparation rites on Holy Saturday.

It is recommended that these rites take place in the context of Mass, but they can also be celebrated in the context of a Liturgy of the Word, which can be led by lay person. The important thing is that there is a ‘community of the faithful’ present. If this is not a parish Mass, the community of the faithful could be the RCIA group, possibly with family and friends of the elect.

What happens in the Rites?
If these rites take place during Mass, after the homily the creed or Lord’s prayer is formally presented to the elect. It should be noted that there are special readings to be used at this Mass, see below.

If not at Mass, this can take place in a Liturgy of the Word, and after the readings and homily, the presentation is made.

What do we need to organise?
• Prepare the elect by spending time on the creed and Lord’s prayer with them, making sure that they are familiar and comfortable with them. Explain the significance of these presentations.
• Let the parish community know this is going to take place, and ask for their continuing prayer.
**Presentation of the Creed**

Example

This is the same whether celebrated in the context of the Mass or a Liturgy of the Word.

**Liturgy of the Word**

**A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy**

`Listen, Israel: Yahweh our God is the one, the only Yahweh. You must love Yahweh your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let the words I enjoin on you today stay in your heart. You shall tell them to your children, and keep on telling them, when you are sitting at home, when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are standing up.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**R/ Lord you have the words of everlasting life.**

The precepts of Yahweh are honest, they bring joy to the heart; the commandment of Yahweh is pure, light for the eyes. **R/**

The fear of Yahweh is pure, and lasts for ever; the judgements of Yahweh are true, every one of them just. **R/**

The words of Yahweh are more precious even than the finest gold; his words are sweeter than honey, that drips from the comb. **R/**

Thus your servant is formed by them; observing them brings great reward. **R/**
A Reading from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans.
The word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith, the faith which we preach. If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and if you believe with your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. It is by believing with the heart that you are justified, and by making the declaration with your lips that you are saved.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Verse before the Gospel

God loved the world so much that he gave us his only Son, that all you believe in him might have eternal life.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.
Jesus said:
Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in the one who sent me, and whoever sees me, sees the one who sent me.

I the light, have come into the world So that whoever believes in me need not stay in the dark any more.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Homily
In the light of the readings the presider explains the importance of the profession of faith they will make at their baptism and live out in their lives.

Presentation of the Creed.
Presider: Let the elect come forward to receive the Creed from the Church.

My dear friends, listen carefully to the words of that faith by which you have been justified. The words are few, but the mysteries they contain are great. Receive them with a sincere heart and be faithful to them.
All join in the creed:

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting,
Amen.

Prayer over the Elect

Presider, with hands outstretched over the elect:

Lord,
Eternal source of light, justice and truth,
Take under your tender care your servant(s) Sophie and Christopher.
Purify them and make them holy;
Give them true knowledge, sure hope and sound understanding,
And make them worthy to receive the grace of baptism.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

If the rite takes place during Mass, the elect are then dismissed or invited to remain:

Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord’s eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God’s children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with his Spirit to re-create the face of the earth.
If not in the context of the Mass, the ceremony closes with a general dismissal:

Go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.
Thanks be to God.
Presentation of the Lord’s Prayer

Example

This is the same whether celebrated in the context of the Mass or a Liturgy of the Word.

Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the Prophet Hosea

I myself taught Ephraim to walk,
I myself took them in my arms,
but they did not know that I was the one caring for them,

I led them with reins of kindness,
with cords of love,
I was like someone lifting an infant to his cheek,
and that I bent down to feed him.

I will not give rein to my anger,
I will not destroy Ephraim again,
for I am God, not human,
the Holy One in your midst.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R/ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
Where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me
To revive my weary spirit. R/

By tranquil streams he leads me
to restore my spirit.
He guides me in paths of saving justice
for the sake of his name. R/

Even though I walk through the valley of darkness,
No evil would I fear,
Your staff and your crook are there,
With these you give me comfort. R/
You prepare a table for me
under the eyes of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup brims over. R/

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
every day of my life.
In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell,
Forever and ever. R/

A Reading from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans
All who are guided by the Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God; for what
you received was not the spirit of slavery to bring you back into fear; you
received the Spirit of adoption, enabling us to cry out, "Abba, Father!"
The Spirit joins with our spirit to bear witness that we are children of God. And if
we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ,
provided that we share his suffering, so as to share his glory.

And as well as this, the Spirit too comes to help us in our weakness, for, when
we do not know how to pray properly, then the Spirit personally makes our
petitions for us in groans that cannot be put into words; and he who can see into
all hearts knows what the Spirit means because the prayers that the Spirit makes
for God's holy people are always in accordance with the mind of God.
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Verse before the Gospel
You have received the Spirit which makes us God’s children, and in that
Spirit we call God our Father.

Gospel Reading (Presentation of the Lord’s Prayer)

Let those who are to receive the Lord’s Prayer now come forward.
Listen to the gospel reading in which our Lord teaches his followers
how to pray.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
At that time Jesus said to his disciples:
“Say this when you pray:
‘Our Father,
who are in heaven,
hailed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil."

Homily
The meaning and importance of the Lord’s prayer.

Prayer over the Elect

Presider:
Let us pray for these elect, that God in his mercy may make them responsive to
his love, so that through the waters of rebirth they may receive pardon for their
sins and have life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pause for silent prayer.
Presider continues with hands outstretched over the elect:

Almighty and eternal God,
You continually enlarge the family of your Church.
Deepen the faith and understanding
Of these elect, chosen for baptism.
Give them new birth in your living waters,
So that they may be numbered among your adopted children.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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us as a sign of our hope that all God’s children will eat and drink with the
Lord and work with his Spirit to re-create the face of the earth.

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