

### WHAT ARE THE SCRUTINIES?

The Scrutinies are Rites are celebrated to help deliver the elect (those desiring Baptism in the Church) from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (RCIA 141). The Rites of Scrutiny are meant to uncover, and then heal, all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the elects' hearts and to bring out through repentance all that is upright, strong, and good. Three Scrutinies are celebrated in the parish community on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, after the homily. The Scripture readings for the Scrutinies ordinarily come from Cycle A of the Lectionary: the Gospel story of the Samaritan woman at the well for the 1st Scrutiny, the Gospel story of the healing of the man born blind for the 2nd Scrutiny, and the Gospel story of the raising of Lazarus for the 3rd Scrutiny. The celebrations of the Scrutinies also remind the whole parish community of the need to reflect on their own

<i>1st Scrutiny</i> <i>(3rd Sun. of Lent)</i>	<i>2nd Scrutiny</i> <i>(4th Sun. of Lent)</i>	<i>3rd Scrutiny</i> <i>(5th Sun. of Lent)</i>
Exodus 17:3-7	1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7,10-13a	Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalms 95:1-2,6-9	Psalms 23:1-6	Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8	Ephesians 5:8-14	Romans 8:8-11
John 4:5-42	John 9:1-41	John 11:1-45

### WHAT DOES LENT HAVE TO DO WITH THOSE BECOMING CATHOLIC?

In Lent, RCIA participants move into the final period of preparation for the sacraments. They have been nourished by the graces of various liturgical Rites throughout the RCIA process, which have helped them to embrace God's call. In Lent, God pours purifying and enlightening graces upon them, through the spiritual preparation they receive in RCIA sessions, the special Rites that mark the Sundays of Lent, and the prayers offered for them by the faithful.

### WHAT IS THE PRESENTATION OF THE CREED FOR THOSE IN THE RCIA PROCESS, AND WHEN DOES IT OCCUR?

This Rite, which can be done at Mass or during an RCIA session, entrusts the words of the Creed to those seeking to enter the Catholic Church. Nearly seventeen centuries old, the Creed is recited by the faithful at every Mass, and summarizes what we believe as Catholics. For those coming into the Church this Easter, this Rite symbolizes that our parish community is passing on and sharing the beliefs of our Catholic faith with them, so that these new initiates may embrace and treasure these venerable words as we do.

### WHO AM I TO JUDGE?

#### SESSION 4: THE LOST ART OF "LIVING"

Dr. Sri asked his audience how they knew that the \$100 bill he was holding in his hand was not counterfeit. He claimed that agents memorize every finest detail of authentic bills to help them discern counterfeit ones. In contemporary times, we need to develop a firm grasp of classic morality and an understanding of the deep-seated, assumed relativism point of view that is related to many people's present lifestyle. Both views need to be seriously addressed, so in discussing world views, we can sprinkle in different aspects of classic morality. When Dr. Sri taught Morality at the Benedictine College in 2000, he realized the majority of students were taking a required course; only three students were excited to be in the class. Dr. Sri knew he needed to reframe his material so it would resonate in the hearts and experiences of his students. Dr. Sri helped the students to discern where the Catholic Church was coming from to help them effectively put together the pieces of their lives into a cohesive spiritual whole by drawing out of them an evaluation of the different aspect of their lives. Every person is made with a plan for Godly love. In 1 John 4-8, we are told God is love, and we are made in the image and likeness of the Holy Trinity as we also are made for self-giving love, which is the fulfillment of our "telos" or "life purpose."

Of all of creation, humankind is unique from all other life forms as we embrace intellect and abstract conceptual reasoning paired with free will. Humans can choose to give themselves to others through the freedom of self-determination; knowing and loving others make us different from all God's other creatures. Virtues such as generosity, kindness, and sacrificial love are critical in development and sustaining

unselfish relationships. Aristotle expounded upon the theme of virtues in ten books of ethics; he only focused one paragraph on the topic of moral law. Moral law comprises the map for us to follow while virtues provide us the freedom to develop relationships in the art of living well. We practice and learn from others how to develop quality relationships from information provided by tradition and community.

Dr. Sri shared about his adept son learning to play the piano by the combination of innate ability being channeled into great skill by a master instructor who demanded much practice in all aspects of technique. The instructor also shared stories of great musicians, so his son further learned from the great wisdom of Mozart and Beethoven. The intensive, multi-faceted approach to teaching piano brought success to Dr. Sri's dedicated music-student son. Likewise, the art of friendship, dating, marriage, and parenting need "apprenticeship" in development of these relationship skills; learning person-to-person and heart-to-heart. We can't simply "will" to be the best at these demanding roles. The eighteenth-century German philosopher Immanuel Kant, in contrast, claimed that people need to have the courage to become independent thinkers and separate from tradition, by throwing off the yoke of tutelage.

Many people have assumed the roles of spouse and parent, and have reacted in a stunned manner to the great difficulty of the undertaking. "How come nobody has taught me this before?" becomes an anguished cry ... The skill set to more adeptly assume the roles of spouse and parent needs to be delineated and shared so the art of living these roles better can be realized. Our Master of relationships helps us develop wisdom and patience through Godly experience, so we can best perceive both sides in any relationship issue, and help others develop a healthy moral perspective.

# a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools

