

CONFIRMATION GUIDELINES & INSTRUCTIONS

Sacrament of Confirmation is a significant moment in the life of the parish and it is important that the liturgy be carefully and appropriately prepared.

The liturgy is to be celebrated according to The Order of Confirmation. Ceremonies not included in the liturgical The Order of Confirmation, such as the distribution of individual certificates or other non-liturgical devotional rites, are not permitted.

Scripture Reading and Liturgical Prayers: The *Mass of Confirmation* will be used and the readings are to be selected from the Lectionary for the *Ritual Mass of Confirmation*, EXCEPT when within the Octaves of Christmas and Easter, on Solemnities, and on Sundays during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter – then the Mass and readings of that day must be used. The preface will be one of the *Prefaces of the Holy Spirit*. The Bishop will select the Eucharistic Prayer.

Liturgical Items: The Bishop will ordinarily bring: Chrism in its stock, The Order of Confirmation, Mitre, Crozier, Alb and Chasuble.

It would be helpful to have two additional servers who would be assigned to holding the mitre and crozier. These two servers walk behind the Bishop in both the entrance and recessional processions. It is desirable for these servers to wear gloves.

Certificates: If you would like the Bishop to sign Confirmation certificates, they must be sent to the Diocesan Pastoral Center in sufficient time for them to be signed and returned to the parish prior to Confirmation. Be sure you have the correct bishop's name on certificate. Please double and triple check the spelling of names and ensure the certificates are neatly printed.

*Please have the **Sacramental Registers** ready so that the Bishop may examine and sign the registers upon his arrival. Can.535§4.*

Photography: No photography (videotape or still) is to take place during the liturgy. Photos are to be taken following the liturgy. *If a professional photographer is hired, please remind the photographer that families will also be allowed to take pictures.* 'Sign-up sheets' and payment should be taken care of ahead of time to prevent confusion and delays. Confirmands should line up and approach the Bishop individually on his right side. He will be holding his Crozier in his left hand. Please inform Candidates, their parents, and photographers, prior to Confirmation, to be courteous during this process. **Please have a parishioner assigned to organize the photography following Mass so that it is orderly and concludes in a timely manner.**

Deacons: The parish deacon should be present at the Mass, if the parish enjoys the presence of a deacon. If you do not have a deacon serving in your parish, please contact Deacon Gayden Harper to arrange for a deacon to serve or act as MC. The deacon will proclaim the Gospel, if the deacon is acting as MC, the pastor or priest will proclaim the Gospel.

Prior to the Ceremony: Bishop Kihneman will meet with the Candidates prior to Mass. Please be sure the Candidates are available as a group before Mass. Bishop Morin does not meet with the Candidates before the Mass begins. He will speak directly to the candidates during the homily.

Arrangements of Candidates in Church: It is recommended that the candidates sit together in the church as a group; this makes it possible for the Bishop to speak directly to them during the homily. Sponsors may sit next to them or in the pew directly behind them.

Incense: If incense is used, it is to be used when the celebrant reaches the Altar, for the Gospel, and for the preparation of the gifts. At the preparation of the gifts, the Bishop is incensed by the deacon or, if there is no deacon, by a server after the Bishop incenses the altar. Then the other priests are incensed, and then the congregation. Incensation is not done in silence. Music, with or without singing, is to accompany the incensation at the beginning of Mass and at the preparation of the gifts.

INTRODUCTORY RITES:

The opening song accompanies the procession of the ministers to the sanctuary and should continue throughout the incensation of the Altar, if incense is used. The song may continue even after the Bishop has reached the chair if this seems fitting. The candidates may enter the church in the procession before the ministers.

The Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling with Holy Water is an option for use *in place of* the Penitential Rite, especially during the Easter Season. The sprinkling and penitential rite are not used in the same liturgy.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD:

To demonstrate respect for the Word of God, the readings are to be proclaimed from the Lectionary (and the Book of the Gospels, if available). Please do not use loose-leaf binders, missalettes, or photocopies. Candidates for Confirmation may serve as the readers. The deacon or, in the absence of a deacon, a priest proclaims the Gospel. At the end of the Gospel reading, the book is brought to the Bishop to be venerated.

THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION:

Presentation of the Candidates: After the Gospel, the pastor, another member of the clergy, or a catechist presents the Candidates for Confirmation. The Candidates are to stand at their places when presented. They may be introduced as a group or they may be introduced individually. **When they are introduced, mention should be made of their preparation and readiness to receive the Sacrament.** A formula such as the following may be used: _____ *Parish/Mission presents to you our candidates for Confirmation. Their parents, their sponsors, their catechists, (and I) attest to their readiness to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, and they, the Candidates, freely ask to receive the sacrament.*

The Candidates remain standing until the Bishop instructs them to be seated. The homily follows.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises: The renewal of baptismal promises is for the Candidates only. They stand for the renewal, which takes the place of the Creed. A suitable song or antiphon may follow the renewal of baptismal promises (optional).

Laying on of Hands: After the baptismal promises have been renewed, the Bishop will invite the concelebrants to stand near him and will invite all present to pray for the candidates. After praying silently for a short time, the Bishop lays hands upon the candidates by extending his hands over them as a group.

Anointing with Chrism: The Bishop will stand in front of the altar on the bottom step of the sanctuary. The candidates with their sponsors approach the Bishop one at a time. During the anointing, the pastor stands at the Bishop's right. A server at the Bishop's left holds the chrism. Music, with or without singing, is to accompany the anointing.

The Order of Confirmation states that the sponsor will bring the Candidate to the Bishop to receive the Sacrament. The candidate, sponsor or pastor announces the name of the candidate to the Bishop. Ordinarily, only the Confirmation name is given.

The Bishop is standing in front of the Altar for the anointing and the candidate stands before him. The sponsor places his/her right hand on the candidate's right shoulder. Candidates should approach the Bishop one at a time.

Because he is in the process of anointing, the Bishop does not shake the candidate's hand, but says, "Peace be with you," to which the Confirmand responds audibly, "And with your Spirit."

General Intercessions: A deacon or another person may offer the intercessions. Only one person offers the intercessions, unless they are proclaimed in different languages. Intercessions may be recited or sung. It is permissible for one of the newly confirmed to read the intercessions.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST:

At the presentation of the gifts, only bread and wine and the parish collection, if one is taken, are to be presented. If there are other items which are significant to those being confirmed, these items may be brought in during the entrance procession. They are not brought in at the presentation of gifts and they are not placed on the Altar.

As much as possible, sufficient hosts and wine for all communicating at that liturgy are to be presented. If at all possible, the reserved Sacrament from the tabernacle is not to be used for the distribution of Holy Communion at the Mass. If the Eucharist is distributed under both species (optional), all who participate may receive Holy Communion under both kinds.

Ordinary ministers of the Eucharist (the Bishop, priests and deacons) are to serve as ministers of Holy Communion. Only if ordinary ministers are of insufficient number are Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to serve with the distribution of the Eucharist.

It is important that those being Confirmed as well as his/her sponsor participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (go to Confession) before the Confirmation date, so that both Candidate and Sponsor be in the state of grace to receive Holy Communion.

CONCLUDING RITES:

Announcements: Announcements are made after the Prayer After Communion. It is appropriate for the pastor to recognize by name the priests and deacons who are present, and to thank various persons for their role in the Confirmation preparation and celebration.

The newly confirmed are to remain in their places until the Bishop processes down the aisle. The newly confirmed may follow the Bishop in the recessional or may remain in the pews. If photographs with the Bishop are to be taken following Confirmation, please carefully read the above paragraph on 'Photography.'