

RITE OF CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS

Please return a completed copy of these pages **at least two weeks** before the parish celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Most Reverend Michael J. Fitzgerald
Office of the Auxiliary Bishop
222 North Seventeenth Street - Room 530
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call my
Administrative Assistant, Kathy Kelley, at 215- 965-8280
e-mail: kkelley@archphila.org

Please distribute completed copies of these notes to the priests, deacons, liturgical ministers, catechists and staff members involved in the parish celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

*Please return a copy of these notes by mail or e-mail to the Bishop's Office.
(E-mail address: kkelley@archphila.org)*

Parish _____
Date _____
Time _____
Pastor _____
Parish Telephone Number _____
Pastor's Cell Phone/E-mail Address _____

PART ONE: PREPARATIONS IN GENERAL

BISHOP'S ARRIVAL

Please provide an indicated and suitable parking place.

Where is the Bishop to park? _____

Where is the Bishop to arrive? _____

Where is the Bishop to vest? _____

The Bishop will arrive approximately thirty minutes prior to the ceremony.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

The Bishop will be accompanied by a Master of Ceremonies, a priest or deacon, for the celebration. You will be contacted with the name of the MC once he has been assigned. If you make a change in the Master of Ceremonies assigned to your parish, please inform the Master of Ceremonies previously assigned **and** Mrs. Pat D'Angelo, Administrative Assistant to Bishop McIntyre, at 215-965-8190 or pdangelo@archphila.org.

CLERGY

Concelebrants:

Deacon(s) of the Mass:

Deacon Chaplains:

NUMBER TO BE CONFIRMED

Boys _____
Men _____

Girls _____
Women _____

Candidates in the Catholic Elementary School

Name of the Catholic Elementary School

Candidates in Private School

Candidates in the Religious Education Program

Candidates who are Home Schooled

If there are two separate celebrations:

Candidates for the first celebration

Candidates for the second celebration

Are there any candidates with special needs?

SEATING OF CANDIDATES

The candidates are to be seated together in the pews in the front of the church, with their sponsors seated together as a group behind them. Candidates and sponsors are not to be intermingled or scattered in their seating throughout the church. When there is an exceptional situation or a special needs candidate, arrangements can be made to seat the sponsor near the candidate. All candidates and sponsors are to be in their places in Church before Mass begins.

Already confirmed Roman Catholic classmates of the candidates or classmates who belong to an Orthodox Church or an Ecclesial community may be identified for a blessing from the Bishop before or after the celebration of Mass. These classmates may not in any way simulate the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation by attire or by participation in any part of the Order of Confirmation.

ROBES FOR THE CANDIDATES

Candidates may wear a white robe, recalling the Sacrament of Baptism, or a red robe for the celebration of Confirmation.

Stoles and other ornamentation over these robes, in any form, are not permitted. Also, so called "robing ceremonies" are not to be associated with the celebration of Mass with the Rite of Confirmation. Girls are not to wear any real or artificial flowers in their hair which prevent the Bishop from easily imposing his hand as he anoints the candidate with Sacred Chrism.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PERSONNEL

Catholic School Principal:

Catechists/Teachers from the Catholic School:

Director/Coordinator of Religious Education:

Catechists from the Religious Education Program:

PHOTOGRAPHS

After Mass, the Bishop would be willing to pose for photographs with the newly-confirmed, their sponsors and family members who would like this opportunity. The arrangements for photographs are to be well organized, with the assistance of coordinators for its orderliness. **Preferably the photographs are to take place somewhere other than the sanctuary.** All are to be aware of the procedures for photographs prior to the celebration. Explain the manner for photographs below:

MEAL

If the Bishop is invited to a meal to be held after the Mass with the Rite of Confirmation, the meal should begin immediately after photographs are completed, without any reception prior to the meal. Please provide the following details:

Time of Gathering: _____

Location: _____

Priests attending the meal:

Others attending the meal, please identify their role in the parish:

Please invite the Master of Ceremonies among those attending the meal. Thank you for this consideration.

SPIRITUAL BOUQUET

If a spiritual bouquet is planned for the Bishop, it may be presented before or after Mass in the narthex or after the *Prayer after Communion*.

Is a spiritual bouquet planned? Yes _____ No _____

If the presentation is planned for before or after Mass, where will this take place:

The presentation of the spiritual bouquet need not include any spoken statement. If it does, please provide a microphone for the speaker.

USE OF OTHER LANGUAGES

Is any part of the celebration in a language other than English?

If so, what language: _____

PART TWO: PREPARATIONS FOR THE LITURGY

VESTMENTS AND SEATING OF PRIESTS AND DEACONS

Red vestments are worn for the Ritual Mass, For the Conferral of Confirmation. Purple vestments are worn on Sundays during Lent. Otherwise, the color of the vestment proper to the day is worn. Concelebrants are expected to wear the archdiocesan chasuble and stole if there are not enough vestments of a matching color for concelebrants. The deacon(s) wears a dalmatic the same color as the principal celebrant.

Customarily, the Bishop brings his own vestments for the Mass.

All priests are welcome to concelebrate with the Bishop. If possible, concelebrants should be seated together in the sanctuary area with easy access to the altar for the *Liturgy of the Eucharist*. Only deacon chaplains sit next to the Bishop or, in their absence, the deacon of the Mass.

If a deacon is not present, a concelebrant proclaims the *Gospel* and assists at the altar. A concelebrating priest asks for the Bishop's blessing before proclaiming the *Gospel*.

Priests who are not concelebrating, vested in cassock and surplice, likewise should have seats and Communion stoles prepared for them in the sanctuary area.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The leader of song, the psalmist, the choir, lectors and, if needed, the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, should be those trained members of the parish who carry out these roles at the Sunday Mass.

The chants and acclamations are led from the sanctuary area but not from the ambo. The lectors move from the congregation to the ambo for each reading. The psalm is sung from the ambo. Each reading has its own lector. [A deacon reads the *Universal Prayer* if he is

present for the Mass.] If needed, the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion move from the congregation to the altar after the invitation to receive Holy Communion.

The candidates do not serve in any liturgical ministries - leader of song, psalmist, altar servers, lectors for the Sacred Scripture or the Universal Prayers during the celebration of Confirmation within Mass. The newly confirmed may bring forward the Gifts.

ALTAR SERVERS

Eight altar servers are needed for Mass: thurifer, cross bearer, two candle bearers/servers, Sacred Chrism bearer, miter bearer, crozier bearer and book bearer. The servers should be well rehearsed in advance of the celebration. The Master of Ceremonies will meet with the servers prior to the Mass only to review specific details and not to rehearse them for the Mass.

Please see separate notes found on the website of the Office for Worship.

LITURGICAL MUSIC

The directives found in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, with regard to liturgical music, should guide liturgical music planning. All copyright regulations are to be observed. Licenses and permissions for reprint of liturgical music are to be included in printed participation aids for the celebration. The *Gloria* is always sung with the ritual Mass, *For the Conferral of Confirmation*, even during Advent and Lent.

SACRED CHRISM

The Bishop brings the Sacred Chrism. However, please have the parish supply of Chrism available.

PART THREE: THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRED LITURGY

“In celebrations at which the Bishop presides, and especially in the celebration of the Eucharist led by the Bishop himself with the presbyterate, the deacons, and the people taking part, the mystery of the Church is revealed (GIRM, number 22).” For this reason, this solemn celebration of Mass calls for special care in the preparation of the liturgical celebration: the Church itself, the altar with four to six candles, the music and liturgical ministers, and all that is required for the rites, including the sacred vessels.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- The procession for this Mass usually moves from the vesting area to the Church unless the layout of the parish buildings or weather require other arrangements.
- The *Book of the Gospels* is carried in the procession by the deacon ahead of [other deacons and] the priest-concelebrants. [The concelebrant who will proclaim the *Gospel* in the absence of the deacon carries the *Book of the Gospels* in the procession. *The Book of the Gospels* is not carried in the procession at the end of Mass.] The *Book of the Gospels* is placed flat and closed upon the altar.
- All concelebrants reverence the altar.
- The bishop imposes incense before the procession moves and incenses the altar after he reverences it. Music should accompany the complete incensation of the altar until the Bishop reaches the chair.
- The *Entrance Chant*, sung by all, should accompany the procession and introduce the congregation to the Sacrament of Confirmation or the liturgical season. It is not necessary for all the hymns at this celebration to be strictly associated with the Holy Spirit. In fact during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter the hymn choice should reflect the season.

The *Entrance Chant*:

- The *Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling Holy Water* is reserved to Sundays and is appropriate when Confirmation takes place within Sunday Mass. The accompanying song should reflect the mystery of Baptism in Christ.

The *Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling Holy Water*: Yes _____ No: _____

If yes, the accompanying song:

- *Act of Penitence and Kyrie*

Form A (Confiteor) _____ Kyrie: sung _____ or recited _____

Form B _____ Kyrie: sung _____ or recited _____

Form C: _____ sung _____ or recited _____
Option 1 through 8 option number _____

Responsorial Psalm Scripture Citation _____

Lectionary Number _____

Second Reading Scripture Citation _____

Lectionary Number _____

Acclamation before the Gospel
Lectionary Number _____

Gospel Scripture Citation _____

Lectionary Number _____

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

- The *Presentation of the Candidates* is made by the pastor. A form for this presentation is attached. The candidates stand as a group for this presentation for the Sacrament of Confirmation and the congregation remains seated. This is not an occasion for applause.
- The *Homily* by the Bishop follows the *Presentation of the Candidates*.
- The *Renewal of Baptismal Promises* takes place in a dialogue between the Bishop and the candidates. The candidates alone stand ready to respond robustly, *I do*. On Sundays and Solemnities all stand and participate in the renewal of baptismal promises and the *Profession of Faith* is then omitted.
- For the *Laying on of Hands* — all stand – candidates, sponsors and congregation. After this, all sit.
- For the *Anointing with Chrism* the deacon [or in his absence a concelebrant] brings the Sacred Chrism to the Bishop. The Bishop takes his place, standing in the center at the entrance to the sanctuary, for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- The candidates come forward to the Bishop, two by two (side by side) with their sponsors and stand as near to the Bishop as possible. The sponsor stands behind the candidate with his/her right hand on the candidate’s shoulder and says only, “N. (The Confirmation name)” without any additional words. The candidates should memorize in advance their responses to the

Bishop for the Sacrament of Confirmation, ready to respond robustly, *Amen*, as well as, *And with your spirit*.

The candidate may use his or her baptismal name as a Confirmation Name or choose an additional name, typically a saint's name but in all cases a name not foreign to Christian sentiment.

- Psalm or Hymn during the Anointing:
During the anointing a suitable psalm or hymn associated with the action of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation may be sung. This is not the occasion for asking the intercession of the saints with the Litany of the Saints. The volume of the music should not impede the Bishop and the candidate from hearing one another in the dialogue during the *Order of Confirmation*.
- The Bishop washes his hands after the anointing. After the last candidate is confirmed, the Bishop is approached by the servers, with the ewer of water and the basin along with lemon, bread and a towel, ready for the washing of his hands. The Parish is to provide the ewer and basin since the Bishop will not be bringing his own.
- The *Universal Prayer* follows the anointing with Sacred Chrism and is introduced and concluded by the Bishop. The deacon or lector reads or sings the petitions. The *Order of Confirmation* provides an example for the number—not to be exceeded—and content of the petitions. Others may be used following the pattern and number in the *Order of Confirmation*. A copy of the *Universal Prayer* should accompany this form when it is returned to the Bishop's Office.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- Once the altar is prepared, sufficient hosts for the Communion of all and wine should be brought forward to the Bishop by the newly confirmed.
- A hymn or instrumental music accompanies the *Preparation of Altar and the Gifts*.
Hymn or instrumental music during the *Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts*:

The Bishop incenses the gifts and the altar. The deacon [or in his absence a concelebrant or the thurifer] incenses the Bishop, the clergy and the congregation. Music should accompany the complete incensation including that of the congregation.

- *Prayer over the Offerings:* *Roman Missal*, page _____
- *Preface:* *Roman Missal*, page _____

- The *Sanctus*, the *Mystery of Faith*, and the *Amen* during the *Eucharistic Prayer* are to be sung. The *Agnus Dei* is to be sung as well. The texts must be faithful to the translation in the *Roman Missal*.
- The consecrated Body and Blood of the Lord may be incensed at each showing during the Eucharistic Prayer. The deacon or server would customarily kneel at the center of the steps leading to the altar.
- The *Lord's Prayer* and its *Doxology* preferably are recited. Sung texts must be faithful to the translation in the *Roman Missal*.

If recited, please note: _____

- There should be sufficient ministers of Holy Communion so that its distribution is not unduly prolonged and can be carried out reverently. Extraordinary ministers from the parish are to be assigned to assist with Holy Communion only in the absence of priests and deacons. *The procession for Holy Communion should move toward the altar.*

Please explain the procedure for the distribution of Communion, for example, the Communion station for the Bishop:

The Communion Chant: (Sung by all)

Hymn of Praise after Communion:

Prayer after Communion:

Roman Missal, page _____

CONCLUDING RITE

- Hymn at the end of Mass:

Signature of the Pastor

(Date)

(Revised May 2020)

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES BY THE PASTOR

Your Excellency,

The parish of _____
is honored by the presence of a successor of the apostles.

I present to you our sons and daughters
who are candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Under the guidance of their parents, guardians and catechists
and with the prayerful support and encouragement
of this parish community
they have prepared for this Sacrament of Christian Initiation
which was begun at their baptism.

I ask that you impose hands upon them
and anoint them with the Sacred Chrism,
sealing them with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We pray that their participation in the Holy Eucharist
with all of us assembled here
will strengthen them as faithful witnesses to Christ.