

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.

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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 e-mail or fax or mail to the Bishop's Office.

Parish _____
Date _____
Time _____
Pastor _____
Parish Telephone Number _____
Cell Phone Number of the Pastor _____

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 forty-five minutes prior to the ceremony and will greet the candidates where they are assembling one-half hour before Mass. The pastor may accompany the Bishop and introduce him to the group of candidates, if he chooses to do so. If possible, it is preferable for the candidates to be seated **without** their sponsors present.

Where is the Bishop to meet the candidates? _____

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

The Bishop will be accompanied by a Master of Ceremonies, a priest or deacon, for the celebration.

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 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?

Already confirmed Roman Catholic classmates of the candidates or classmates who belong to an Orthodox Church or an Ecclesial Communion 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 Rite of Confirmation.

Already confirmed Roman Catholic classmates may however act as altar servers and may also bring forward the Gifts.

SEATING OF CANDIDATES

The candidates are to be seated together in the pews in the front of the church, with their sponsors seated together behind them. Candidates and sponsors are not to be intermingled or scattered in their seating throughout the church.

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:

OTHER GUESTS PRESENT FOR THE CELEBRATION

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 before or after the Mass with the Rite of Confirmation, 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 include the Master of Ceremonies among those invited to the meal. Thank you for this consideration.

Please note that, while the Bishop is happy to attend a meal, there is no obligation or expectation that any meal be provided. It is at the discretion of the pastor. If the Bishop Senior is to be invited to a meal, please note that for Confirmations scheduled on Sunday afternoons when the Seminary is in session, Bishop Senior needs to leave the parish in time to be at the Seminary to preside for Solemn Vespers at 5:00 PM. In most cases, this means that he will be required to leave the parish following Confirmation no later than 4:00 PM, and therefore may not be able to attend a meal following the Confirmation.

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.

OFFERING FOR THE BISHOP

A financial offering or stipend for the Bishop is neither required nor expected.

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

MASS TEXTS

The ritual Mass for Confirmation is used on all days except the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, the octave days of Easter and all Solemnities. On these days, and their anticipated celebrations, the proper Mass of the day is used from the *Roman Missal*.

Confirmation is not celebrated on Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion and the days of Holy Week.

VESTMENTS AND SEATING OF PRIESTS AND DEACONS

Red vestments are worn for the Ritual Mass for Confirmation. Otherwise, the color of the vestment proper to the day is worn. Concelebrants are expected to wear the archdiocesan chasuble and stole. The deacon(s) wears a dalmatic the same color as the principal celebrant.

The Bishop will be happy to wear the parish chasuble but he can also bring his own vestments for the Mass.

Will the parish provide a vestment for the Bishop _____?

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 prepared for them in the sanctuary area.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

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

The hymns and acclamations are led from the sanctuary area but not from the ambo. The readers 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 *Prayer of the Faithful* 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, readers for the Sacred Scripture or the Prayer of the Faithful—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, Chrism bearer, mitre 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.

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

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.

In the overall plan for liturgical music the parts that belong to the celebrant and people together should be sung, for example the Kyrie, the Gloria, the Holy, Holy, Holy, the Lord’s Prayer and the Lamb of God. The choices for the Entrance, the Offertory and the Communion should correspond to the norms found in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, numbers, 48, 74, and 87.

Introductory Rites

- § The procession for this Mass usually moves from the rectory 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

Liturgy of the Word

§ The *Lectionary for Mass* provides the scripture readings and the chants between the readings for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The *Responsorial Psalm* and the *Gospel Acclamation* are to be sung. During the *Gospel Acclamation* there should be incense and candles to accompany the procession to the ambo with the *Book of the Gospels*. A reflective silence follows the *First Reading*, the *Second Reading* and the *Homily*.

The proper readings for Sunday must be used for the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter Time, including anticipated celebrations. The proper readings must be used on all the days of the Octave of Easter and all Solemnities, including anticipated celebrations. On all other days, including feasts, the readings for the Ritual Mass for Confirmation are used as found in Volume IV of the Lectionary for Mass. The text for the Responsorial Psalm must be the given biblical text. Paraphrased texts and hymns may never substitute for the sung Word of God. The Acclamation before the Gospel and verse comes from the choices provided in the Lectionary for Mass.

Indicate the readings chosen with their corresponding number in the *Lectionary for Mass*.

First Reading	Scripture Citation _____
	<i>Lectionary Number</i> _____
Responsorial Psalm	Scripture Citation _____
	<i>Lectionary Number</i> _____
Second Reading	Scripture Citation _____
	<i>Lectionary Number</i> _____
Acclamation before the Gospel	<i>Lectionary Number</i> _____
Gospel	Scripture Citation _____
	<i>Book of the Gospels Number</i> _____
	or
	<i>Lectionary Number</i> _____

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. On Sundays and Solemnities all stand and participate in the renewal of baptismal promises and the Profession of Faith is then omitted.
- § All stand—candidates, sponsors and congregation—for the *Laying on of Hands*.
- § For the *Anointing with Chrism* the deacon [or in his absence a concelebrant] brings the Sacred Chrism to the Bishop. The candidates come forward to the Bishop, two by two with their sponsors, to the entrance to the sanctuary and stand in front of him. The candidates 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).” The candidates should memorize in advance their responses to the Bishop for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The sponsors should be prepared to say the candidate’s Confirmation name.
- § It is not necessary to have priests or deacons standing with the Bishop during the Confirmation; just a server to hold the Sacred Chrism.
- § 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.
- § During the anointing a suitable psalm or hymn may be sung associated with the action of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. 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 Rite of Confirmation.*

Psalm or Hymn during the Anointing:

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 Bishop provides his own ewer and basin.

- § The *Prayer of the Faithful* follows the anointing with Chrism and is introduced and concluded by the Bishop. The deacon or lector reads or sings the petitions. The *Rite 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 Rite of Confirmation. A copy of the *Prayer of the Faithful* 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 at his chair by the newly confirmed.

§ A hymn or instrumental music accompanies the *Preparation of the 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, until the thurible is handed to the deacon or server.

§ *Prayer over the Offerings:* *Roman Missal*, page _____

§ *Preface:* *Roman Missal*, page _____

§ The *Holy, Holy, Holy*, the *Mystery of Faith*, and the *Amen* during the *Eucharistic Prayer* are to be sung by all. The *Lamb of God* 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 server would customarily kneel at the center of the steps leading to the altar.

§ The *Lord's Prayer* and its *Doxology* preferably are sung. The 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 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:

Hymn of Praise after Communion:

Prayer after Communion: *Roman Missal*, page _____

Concluding Rite

§ Hymn at the end of Mass:

Signature of the Pastor

Date Submitted

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES BY THE PASTOR

Your Eminence/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 and catechists
and with the prayerful support and encouragement
of this parish community
they have prepared to complete their initiation
into the Body of Christ, the Church,
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.