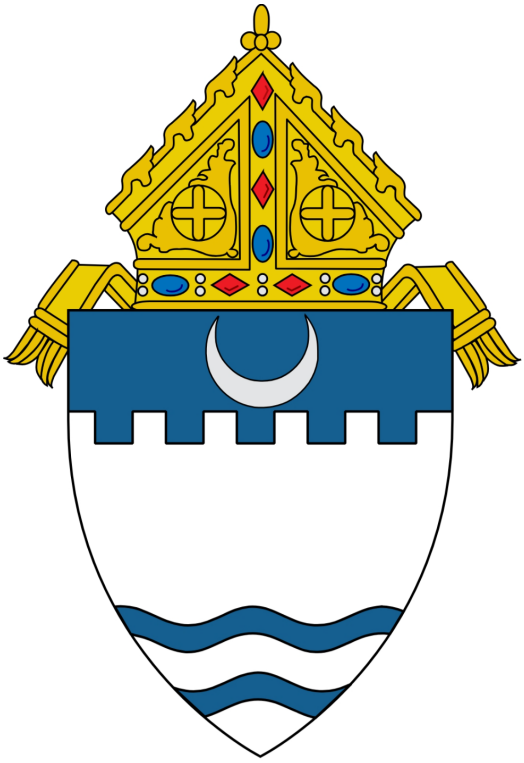
Preparing to Celebrate the Order of Confirmation

2026 Resource Booklet



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INTRODUCTION

> "Those who have been baptized continue on the path of Christian Initiation through the Sacrament of Confirmation, by which they receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, whom the Lord sent up on the Apostles at Pentecost. By this gift of the Holy Spirit the faithful are more fully conformed to Christ and are strengthened with the power to bear witness to Christ for the building up of his Body in faith and charity." (*Order of Confirmation*: Introduction, 1-2).

These words taken from the Introduction of the liturgical text tell us what makes celebrating this event so extraordinary. The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation stands not merely as the opportunity for candidates to affirm the promises made for them at Baptism or even "graduate" from their religious formation in the Church. Rather, the Sacrament reminds and empowers those being confirmed and the faithful gathered with them in prayer and support that their "path" of Initiation does not end in this one event. The candidates are "more perfectly conformed to Christ" because there is still work for them to do—to "bear witness to Christ for the building up of his Body." In short, those to be confirmed must "be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs" (CCC, 1309). Just like our Sunday celebration of the Mass is not meant to be the end of our duty to God and his people for the week, the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is meant to give us what we need in order to continue to do what it is we are meant to do by virtue of our Baptism, which is to participate in the saving work of Christ.

The purpose of this resource, therefore, is to help parishes to prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation as an important, but not final, event in the life of those to be confirmed as well as the life of the local parish and the universal Church.

> "Attention should be paid to giving the liturgical action the festive and solemn character that its significance for the local Church requires…The whole People of God, represented by the families and friends of the candidates for Confirmation and by members of the local community, will be invited to take part in such a celebration and will endeavor to express their faith by means of the fruits the Holy Spirit has produced in them" (*Introduction,* 4).

In preparing candidates to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, it would be beneficial to look at what the liturgy will ask of them, and what the liturgy will express. For example, when it is time for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, can those candidates truly say "I do" to the questions of the bishop? There are consequences for professing the faith of the Church. Are those to be confirmed ready to continue to bear witness to Christ by participating in his Passion, Death, and Resurrection celebrated in the Eucharist and in turn lived out in their lives day after day? Does the way the parish prepares and celebrates this Sacrament, and even its weekly and daily celebrations of the Mass, stand as a reminder to the newly confirmed and all of the faithful of the liturgy's ongoing importance in helping them live as disciples and witnesses? May God, who has begun the good work in those to be confirmed and which we celebrate in the Sacrament of Confirmation, bring it to fulfillment!

FAQS

For more information on these or any other questions you may have, please contact:
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Q.: We will be celebrating Confirmation on (insert date here). What is the color for the Mass?
A.: It depends! On Sundays in Lent and Easter, and on Solemnities, you would use the color of the day/season. On other days, it will be red. See pages 7-11 of this booklet for more details on the color of the day, the Mass of the day, and ritual Masses.

Q.: Does the bishop look at the liturgy preparation form we submit?
A.: Yes! The bishop (and master of ceremonies) uses the information you provide to know what other rituals will be used (incense, sprinkling, etc.), and what else to expect. In addition, the form must also be circulated among those at the parish who will be involved in the celebration, such as deacons, musicians/choir, and other liturgical ministers, to help keep everyone "on the same page."

Q.: Why does the bishop need half a lemon?
A.: He's not making lemonade! Basically, it helps him clean his fingers and dissipate some of the odor of the Chrism so he may continue with the Mass.

Q.: Will the bishop be in our Confirmation pictures?
A.: Yes! The bishop will normally be available after the Mass for a group and/or individual photos with the newly confirmed. If you would like to have both a group photo and individual photos, please plan to do this in the church immediately following the Mass. In either case, please plan ahead so that any pictures can be done in a timely and organized manner. Please provide a staff member or volunteer to help coordinate the picture line.

Q.: Will the bishop sign our certificates for the newly confirmed?
A.: Because of the sheer number of signatures that would be required, the bishop prefers that the local pastor be the one who signs any certificates given to the newly confirmed.

Q.: How many Confirmations does the bishop celebrate every year?
A.: Although it does vary from year to year, the bishop will celebrates around 30-35 Confirmations over the course of a year.

Q.: Can we celebrate Confirmation during Lent?
A.: Yes, Confirmations *may* be celebrated in Lent. Please contact the bishop's office to check for available dates.

FAQS (cont.)

Q.: Will the bishop meet with the candidates before the Mass?

A.: Yes. The bishop typically meets with the candidates and sponsors 30 minutes prior to the Mass.

Q.: When do the letters to the bishop and Mass preparation form need to be submitted?

A.: Please turn letters and prep form into the bishop's office no later than three weeks prior to the date for the celebration of Confirmation.

Q.: Can the candidates for Confirmation serve as readers/cantors/ushers/etc. for the Mass?

A.: Since the candidates' role at this celebration (outside of their normal participation in the Mass) is the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, they should not be asked to take on other roles. Having other members of the parish fulfill the various liturgical ministries at this celebration is an other way in which the community can show their support for those who will be Confirmed that day. Some of the newly Confirmed may bring forward the bread and wine for the Preparation of the Gifts

Q.: During the presentation of the candidates at the Mass (just after the Gospel), should the individual names of the candidates be read aloud?

A.: Since the candidates are presented by name by their sponsors to the bishop individually later in the rite, there is no need to read a list of names at the group presentation. They should be presented as a group to the bishop by the pastor. A text for this presentation is provided.

Q.: How many servers are needed for the Confirmation Mass?

A.: Even if your parish may not always use them, it would be most appropriate to have servers to carry a processional cross and candles as part of the entrance procession and recessional. Plan for two extra servers above and beyond the cross and candles to assist with the bishop's miter and crosier. In addition, if incense is to be used, plan on an extra server to assist with it as well. Therefore, it would be best to have 5-6 servers for the Mass.

Q.: Should we use incense for the Mass?

A.: The use of incense is entirely up to the parish. On the one hand, incense can help to set off the Confirmation Mass as something special and extraordinary (which it is). On the other hand, there is a growing number of people with a sensitivity to incense, and its use may hamper their ability to be present. If incense is used, there should be a server designated to assist with its use.

Q.: Can we use the Rite of Sprinkling?

A.: The rite of blessing and sprinkling with water may be used on Sundays in the Easter season. In this case it would take the place of the Penitential Act. For Confirmations outside of the Easter season please plan to use the Penitential Act.

First Things

- Confirmation is preferably scheduled for Sundays (or Saturday evenings). In some circumstances it may also be scheduled for a weekday.
- Scheduling for Confirmations takes place during the late spring. Parishes submit possible dates to the bishop's office, and a schedule for the following year is put together. Requests for Confirmations made outside this window are scheduled as the calendar permits.
- Confirmations are scheduled on a yearly basis. Confirmations are not scheduled more than a year in advance.
- Confirmations are not scheduled during Holy Week or on certain feast days (for example, All Souls). Check the *ordo* for more information on a specific date or contact the Office of Worship if you have a question.
- A form entitled *Confirmation within Mass* is included with this booklet. It can also be downloaded from the diocesan website, or contact the Office of Worship to have a copy sent to you.
- Complete the form and return to the Office of Worship no less than three weeks before the date of Confirmation. If at all possible, plan on submitting the form for the liturgy and the letters to the bishop (see page 12) at the same time.

Rehearsal Notes

Dress and décor are primary ways in which we externally express our interior disposition and preparation. Dress should be tasteful and in keeping with the dignity of the celebration. Dress should not be flashy or intended to draw attention to oneself, but should reflect the preparation of the candidate for this tangible encounter with our Lord in the Sacrament. "Sunday best" is most appropriate for both candidates and sponsors. At the same time, all are called to modesty in their selections. Simple white (or red) robes may also be worn to ensure all candidates are dressed appropriately and that there is no distinction between those able to afford more expensive clothing and those who are not.

It is essential that the minister of the Sacrament be able to anoint the candidate on the forehead. It is very helpful if the candidate's hairstyle allows the minister to do this.

Due to the anticipated increase in the number of candidates during the age transition process, candidates and sponsors should be seated in their place prior to Mass. They will not take part in the Entrance procession or the recessional at the end of Mass.

Candidates should be instructed to respond clearly and strongly to the bishop's renewal of their Baptismal promises ("say it like they mean it").

The candidates and sponsors are rehearsed in the dialog with the bishop:

Sponsor: **"Bishop, I present N."** *(please note—the sponsor does not say "I present* Saint *N.")*
Bishop: "N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."
Candidate: **"Amen."**
Bishop: "Peace be with you."
Candidate: **"And with your spirit."**

A GUIDE FOR PREPARING THE MASS (cont.)

The rehearsal and preparation should also include a clear instruction on the following points:

- The bishop meets with the candidates and sponsors 30 minutes before Mass. Please arrange a meeting space that is quiet and free from distractions and arrange the chairs so that the bishop can speak directly to them.
- Candidates are to wear a name tag on their left hand side with only their Confirmation name printed in large legible letters for the bishop to read.
- Please arrange seating so that the sponsor is on the correct side of the candidate when they come out of the pew.
- For the anointing, candidates/sponsors should queue up, much like the Communion procession.
- Candidates are to come forward with their sponsor standing to their left hand side.
- Sponsors place their right hand on the candidate's shoulder while presenting them to the bishop.
- Candidates are to move close to the bishop so that he can easily reach the candidate's forehead *(you may want to place a mark on the floor showing the candidates where to stand)*.
- Candidates with eye glasses might want to remove them during the anointing with Chrism to avoid getting oil on the lenses.
- If a bit of Chrism runs down their face candidates should just wipe it with their hands.
- A catechist or usher should help move the line forward and encourage the candidates to move close to the bishop. As soon as one candidate is Confirmed, another should be ready to move into place.

Preparing the Liturgy

Confirmation is celebrated either in the context of the Mass of the day or a ritual Mass.

- Mass of the day means using the proper prayers and readings assigned for that day
- Ritual Mass means using the prayers for the Confirmation ritual Mass as found in the *Roman Missal* and selecting readings from the *Lectionary* for the ritual Mass

Concerning the choice of Mass:

- Special note should be made of the liturgical season or feast day and what the day and season brings to the celebration of the rite.
- Sundays of Lent and Easter take precedence over the ritual Mass. This means that the readings and prayers should be those of the Sunday rather than being chosen from the Order of Confirmation.
- Solemnities take precedence over the ritual Mass. This means Confirmation would be celebrated in the context of the particular Mass for that Solemnity.
- On Sundays in Ordinary Time, Feasts, Memorials (both Obligatory and Optional) and the weekdays of Lent, Christmas, and Ordinary Time, selections are made from the ritual Mass texts.
- For the Gospel of the ritual Mass, please plan to use Luke 4:16-22a (see page 20). For the other readings, please select from the list on pages 17-19.
- Vestment color corresponds to the Mass being celebrated:
    - If celebrating the Mass of the day (Sunday of Lento r Easter, Solemnity, Feast, Memorial)—the color of the season/day
    - If celebrating the ritual Mass—red

Choice of Music

After reviewing the prayers and texts, careful selection of the music for acclamations/dialogs, antiphons and psalms, refrains, and hymns is essential. Criteria that should be used in this decision include:

- Is the music appropriate for the liturgy, the season of the liturgical year, and any particular feast celebrated that day? Does the music reflect the liturgy being celebrated? How does it express the prayers to be proclaimed, the theology of the Sacrament, or the inspiration of God's Word to be proclaimed during the liturgy? Do the words convey Catholic theology and belief? Does it reflect the communal nature of the celebration ("we" vs. "I" in language)?
- Is the music of good quality? Will those gathered for the celebration consider the music beautiful? Does the music have a history in the Church's tradition?
- Is the music "singable" by the faithful who will gather for the celebration? This goes beyond a particular group who may know the hymn or acclamation to ensure that those visitors will be able to sing and participate in the liturgy comfortably. It is important to include traditional hymnody which will be known by all gathered.
- In selecting the Responsorial Psalm, how is the selection a response to the first reading?
- There should be instrumental music (but not singing) while the candidates are Confirmed (during the anointing). This music should accompany the rite and not overpower or overwhelm it.
- Music is an integral part of the liturgy. However, due to the length of a more solemn liturgy such as Confirmation, please ensure that the music does not extend unduly beyond the ritual actions. Please avoid meditation songs or hymns of thanksgiving after the distribution of Holy Communion has been completed.
- Suitable silence is necessary within the celebration of the Mass as well.

When to Use the Rite for the Blessing and Sprinkling of Water

- The connection between Baptism and Confirmation is best seen through the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.
- For Confirmations, the Rite of Sprinkling is used only on Sundays (or Saturday evenings) of the Easter season.
- If the Rite of Sprinkling is used, the act of sprinkling should be accompanied by the singing of an appropriate antiphon or hymn.
- The Rite of Sprinkling is always a separate act from the singing of the *Gloria*.
- Outside of the Sundays of the Easter season, the Penitential Act should be used.

When to Sing the *Gloria*

The *Gloria* should be sung at the following times:

- Sundays of Ordinary Time
- Sundays of Easter Time
- Sundays of Christmas Time
- Proper ritual Mass for Confirmation (see "Ritual Masses" in the *Roman Missal*)

The *Gloria* is not used on Sundays of Lent or Advent.

A GUIDE FOR PREPARING THE MASS (cont.)

When to Use Incense

- Incense may be used in this Mass at four times:
  - Entrance procession/incensing of altar;
  - Gospel;
  - Preparation of Gifts/incensing of altar, gifts, and people:
  - At the elevations during the Eucharistic Prayer.
- For the incense at the Entrance and the Preparation of the Gifts, please plan on the music accompanying the incensing until it is complete.
- If there is a specific reason that incense should not be used (severe allergy by a candidate, for example), please make a note of this on the form.

Other Needs

- Please use at some (if not all) of the proper intercessions provided in the *Order of Confirmation* (see page 22 for the intercessions).
- Please have the following available for the washing of hands after the anointing portion of the rite:
  - One large bowl with warm, soapy water;
  - One large pitcher with warm water;
  - One large towel;
  - Half a lemon in an appropriate container (small bowl).

Presentation of Candidates for Confirmation

- After the Gospel and just prior to the homily is the Presentation of the Candidates. The candidates are presented by the pastor. The candidates should be presented to the bishop as a group. There is no need to present them individually or read a list of names.
- If there are adults who will be Confirmed please make note of this on the preparation form.

Ministers during the Rite of Confirmation

- Please talk through and share the information in the planning form with the other ministers involved (deacons, music ministers, etc.).
- The pastor, a concelebrant (such as a parochial vicar), a deacon or altar server should be at the bishop's right holding the vessel with the Sacred Chrism.
- Concelebrants do not join the Bishop in extending hands over the candidates during the prayer.
- Even if it is not the usual practice of the parish, it would be most appropriate at the celebration of Confirmation to have servers with a processional cross and candles for the entrance and recessional.
- Plan for two extra servers to assist with the bishop's miter and crosier. In addition, if incense is to be used, plan on an extra server to assist with it as well (a total of three extra servers).
- Altar servers should be rehearsed and familiar with their responsibilities. The servers assigned to assist with miter and crosier should keep their attention to the bishop and MC in order to present the miter and crosier at the proper time.
- Deacons should be aware of their role in the liturgy before the date of the celebration and how they will assist.
- The deacon (or priest) should ask the Bishop for his blessing before proclaiming the Gospel.

- If a *Book of the Gospels* is used, the Bishop will reverence it after the proclamation. If a Lectionary or binder is used, the deacon/priest who proclaimed the Gospel would reverence it.
- Readers for this Mass should not be candidates for Confirmation.
- The readers must be able to proclaim the Word of God assigned to them well, not only being able to be understood, but also to understand the reading they proclaim. Use the *Lectionary* or a binder for the readings instead of loose pieces of paper.
- The deacon, when present, reads the Prayer of the Faithful. Multiple readers of the Prayer of the Faithful should be avoided.
- Some of the newly Confirmed may bring forward the bread and wine for the Preparation of the Gifts.
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should know the location of their assigned station. There may also be more ordinary ministers of Communion than usual with visiting priests or deacons. Extraordinary Ministers should be instructed appropriately. Extra ministers may be needed due to the size of the assembly, especially for the newly Confirmed.
- Sacristans should be aware of the color of vestments to prepare as well as the items needed for the post-anointing hand washing (see page 10).
- Sufficient amounts of bread and wine should be prepared for Communion of the faithful. Be prepared for larger congregations with family and friends attending the Mass.
- Do not plan to use hosts from the tabernacle for this Mass.
- Cantors should be well prepared and know how they are to assist the community as a leader of song.

Pictures

- The bishop will make himself available for individual and/or group photos following the Mass in the church. The newly Confirmed remain in their seats for the recessional.
- For individual photos, please have a designated place for the bishop to stand with a small rug or pad, as well as someone to help coordinate the line to keep it organized and moving.
- Also for individual photos, please include in the announcements a reminder so that families of the newly Confirmed know to stay in the church after Mass for pictures.
- For a group photo, be sure that the group can be put into place in a timely manner. You may want to have them practice lining up for the picture ahead of time.
- If you would like to do both a group picture as well as individual pictures, please plan to do them both in the church.
- If there is a professional photographer taking pictures of the candidates with the bishop, please be sure it is clear to the parents that no student needs to pay for a picture with bishop and that he is happy to stay for a pictures after the "paid pictures" are completed.

Bilingual Confirmation Needs

- If your parish will be celebrating parts of the Mass in Spanish, please contact the Office of Worship to coordinate what parts the bishop will need to prepare to do in which language.
- If you have candidates that would like to receive the Sacrament in Spanish, please note this on the form. Also, please designate on the name tags of the candidates those who would like the Sacrament in Spanish.

LETTER TO THE BISHOP

As part of the candidates' preparations for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop requests that each candidate submit a letter to him. This letter is meant to be more than just a statement from the young person asking for the Sacrament. Since he cannot be a part of each and every formation program, the letter helps the bishop to see how the young people have been preparing for the celebration, as well as for life strengthened by the Holy Spirit after the celebration. In addition, so many of the letters stand as a testament to the faith and devotion of the young Church, a sign of hope for us all.

Since it is meant to address each young person's own journey and preparation, the letter should not be a "form letter."While some guidance may be given, it needs to stand as a composition of that individual.

Candidates whose given/Baptism name is not Christian should choose a Confirmation name from the names of the canonized saints. Other candidates may choose a Confirmation name or use their Baptismal name. Whether it is a new name or their given name, candidates should have a good knowledge of the saint (even if they have chosen the name in honor of a relative or friend) and know they can turn to their saint for their intercession and example.

The letters need to be submitted to the bishop's office no later than three weeks prior to the date of your Confirmation. They may always be submitted earlier. The letters should be submitted electronically as a group by the PCL or Confirmation leader. The candidates should clearly note in the letter their name and to which parish they belong, since many times the bishop is preparing for multiples celebrations in the same week.

The letter should include the following:

1. A little about themselves.
2. Why they want to be Confirmed, how they prepared and how the sacrament will help them to live out their Catholic faith as missionary disciples.
3. What saint they chose and why.
4. Whom they chose as their sponsor and why.
5. What type of service they chose and why.

The Spirit fills the angels and archangels, sanctifies the powers, and gives life to all. He gives himself to all of creation; but he gives himself in different ways to different creatures, and he is not lessened by this participation in them. He gives his grace to all, but does not exhaust all that he is in any of those whom he graces; he fills to the brim those who receive him without losing anything. Just as the sun illuminates objects and gives itself to them in different ways without being diminished, so it is with the Spirit, who grants his grace to all while remaining intact and undivided. He enlightens all in their knowledge of God, excites the prophets, gives wisdom to lawmakers, consecrates priests, strengthens kings, perfects the just, makes the temperate worthy of honor, bestows the gift of holiness, raises the dead, frees captives, and makes foreigners his children.—Saint Basil the Great, *Homily on Faith*, 3

THE ORDER FOR THE CONFERRAL OF CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS[1]

The Liturgy of the Word

20. The Liturgy of the Word is celebrated in accordance with the rubrics...

Sacrament of Confirmation

Presentation of the Candidates

21. After the Gospel the Bishop (as do the Priests who are associated with him) take their seats. The candidates for Confirmation are presented by the Pastor...they are not called by name, but they are assigned a suitable place before the Bishop.

A text for this presentation is provided—see page 21 of this booklet.

The Homily or Address

22. The Bishop then gives a brief homily, by which, shedding light on the readings, he leads, as if by hand, those to be confirmed, their sponsors and parents, and the whole gathering of the faithful to a deeper understanding of the mystery of Confirmation.

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

23. After the Homily the Bishop questions those to be confirmed, who stand, as he says:

Bishop:

> Do you renounce Satan
> and all his works and empty promises?

Together, all those to be confirmed reply:

> **I do.**

1. Text is taken from *The Order of Confirmation; Chapter I: The Order for the Conferral of Confirmation within Mass* (2015)

Bishop:

Do you believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried,
rose again from the dead
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation
is given to you in a special way
just as he was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost?

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting?

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

The Bishop gives his assent to the profession by proclaiming the faith of the Church:

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The gathering of the faithful gives its assent by replying:

Amen.

The Laying On of Hands

24. Then the Bishop...standing, facing the people, with hands joined, says:

Dearly beloved,
let us pray to God the almighty Father,
for these, his adopted sons and daughters,
already born again to eternal life in Baptism,
that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon them
to confirm them with his abundant gifts,
and through his anointing
conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God.

And all pray in silence for a while.

25. Then the Bishop lays hands upon all those to be confirmed...the Bishop alone says:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who brought these your servants to new birth
by water and the Holy Spirit,
freeing them from sin:
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;
give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,
the spirit of knowledge and piety;
fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.
Through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.

The Anointing with Chrism

26. The sacred Chrism is brought...to the Bishop. Each of those to be confirmed goes to the Bishop... The sponsor who presents the person to be confirmed places his (her) right hand on his (her) shoulder and says the name of the one to be confirmed to the Bishop...

27. The Bishop dips the tip of the thumb of his right-hand in the Chrism and, with the thumb, makes the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says:

> N. be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

The newly confirmed replies:

> **Amen.**

The Bishop adds:

> Peace be with you.

The newly confirmed:

> **And with your spirit.**

29. During the anointing a suitable chant [*instrumental music*] may be sung. After the anointing the Bishop washes his hands...

The Universal Prayer

30. The Universal Prayer follows…

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

31. After the Universal Prayer the Liturgy of the Eucharist is celebrated according to the Order of Mass, with these changes:

a) the Creed is omitted, since the Profession of Faith has already taken place.

b) some of the confirmed may join those who bring forward the offerings...

[764] **Reading from the Old Testament**

1. Isaiah 11:1-4ab

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

2. Isaiah 42:1-3

Here is my servant upon whom I have put my Spirit.

3. Isaiah 61:1-3abcd, 6ab, 8c-9

The Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly
and to give them the oil of gladness.

4. Ezekiel 36:24-28

I will put a new spirit within you.

5. Joel 2:23a, 26—3:1-3a

I will pour out my Spirit upon the servants and handmaids.

[765] **Reading from the New Testament**

1. Acts 1:3-8

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,
and you will be my witnesses.

2. Acts 2:1-6, 14, 22b-23, 32-33

All were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in different tongues.

3. Acts 8:1bc, 4, 14-17

They laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

4. Acts 10:1, 33-34a, 37-44

The Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the word.

5. Acts 19:1b-6a

Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?

6. Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

The love of God has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

7. Romans 8:14-17

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

8. Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.

9. 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

But one and the same Spirit produces all these gifts,
distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

10. Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23a, 24-25

If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.

11. Ephesians 1:3a, 4a, 13-19a

You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

12. Ephesians 4:1-6

One Body and one Spirit, one baptism.

[766] **Responsorial Psalm**

1. 22:23-24ab, 26-27, 28 and 31-32

(23a) **I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters.**
Or
(John 15:26-27) **When the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will be my witnesses.**

2. 23:1b-3a, 3bc-4, 5, 6

(1) **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

3. 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 9-10a, 11-12

(3) **Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.**

4. 104:1ab and 24, 27-28, 30-31, 33-34

(see 30) **Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

5. 117:1bc, 2

(Acts 1:8) **You will be my witnesses to all the world.**
Or
Alleluia.

6. 145:2-3, 4-5, 8-9, 10-11, 15-16, 21

(see 1) **I will praise your name for ever, Lord.**

[767] **Alleluia Verse and Verse before the Gospel**

1. John 14:16

I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always.

2. John 15:26b, 27a

The Spirit of truth will testify to me, says the Lord; and you will also testify.

3. John 16:13a; 14:26d

When the Spirit of truth comes,
he will guide you to all truth
and remind you of all I told you.

4. Revelation 1:5a, 6a

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness, firstborn from the dead;
you have made us a kingdom of priests to serve our God and Father.

5. **Come Holy Spirit; shine on us the radiance of your light.**

6. **Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,**
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

[768] **Gospel**

5. Luke 4:16-22a

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.

The flesh is washed, that the soul may be cleansed; the flesh is anointed, that the soul may be consecrated; the flesh is signed, that the soul too may be fortified; the flesh is overshadowed by the laying on of hands, that the soul too may be enlightened by the Spirit; the flesh is fed on the Body and Blood of Christ, that the soul too may be richly nourished by God.—Tertullian, *De resurrection mortuorum*

GOSPEL

When the ritual Mass for Confirmation is used, Luke 4:16-22a should be selected as the Gospel. It can be found in volume IV of the *Lectionary for Mass* [no. 768.5]. It is reproduced below for your convenience. The Gospel should be proclaimed from a *Book of the Gospels*, the Lectionary, or placed in a binder.

When the ritual Mass for Confirmation is not used, the Gospel of the day is proclaimed.

Gospel

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.

✠ **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke** 4:16-22a

Jesus came to Nazareth where he had grown up,
and went according to his custom
into the synagogue on the Sabbath day.
He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah.
Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down,
and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him.
He said to them,
"Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."
And all spoke highly of him
and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

FORMULA FOR THE PRESENTATION OF CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

After the reading of the Gospel, the pastor presents the candidates to the Bishop.

Pastor: Those to be confirmed, please stand.
Most Reverend Father, in the name of the people of N. parish, I present these parishioners for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Bishop: Father N., as Pastor of N. parish, you have a special responsibility to see that your people are trained in the faith. Do you find these candidates well prepared for the reception of this sacrament?

Pastor: With the help of their parents, sponsors, teachers and catechists, they have been prepared to receive this sacrament.

Bishop: My dear candidates, I know that you have been preparing for many months by your prayer, study and works of service. So it gives me great joy to call you receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Please be seated.

INTERCESSIONS

The following is the Universal Prayer as found in the *Order of Confirmation*, Chapter 1:The Order for the Conferral of Confirmation within Mass (no. 30). It is reproduced here for your convenience (especially if the ritual book is not handy). In preparing the Confirmation Mass, please plan to use some (if not all) of the intercessions from the ritual that day, since they speak specifically to the celebration.

Bishop:

My dear brothers and sisters...

Deacon or minister:

For these his servants,
whom the gift of the Holy Spirit has confirmed:
that, planted in faith and grounded in love,
they may bear witness to Christ the Lord by their way of life,
let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon or minister:

For their parents and sponsors:
that by word and example
they may continue to encourage
those whom they have sponsored in the faith
to follow in the footsteps of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon or minister:

For the holy Church of God
together with Leo our Pope, Joseph our Bishop, and all the Bishops:
that, gathered by the Holy Spirit,
the Church may grow and increase in unity of faith and love
until the coming of the Lord,
let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon or minister:

For the whole world:
that all people, who have one Maker and Father,
may acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters,
without discrimination of race or nation,
and with sincere hearts seek the Kingdom of God,
which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,
let us pray to the Lord.

Bishop:

O God...

2026-2027 Confirmation Planning Guide – Most Reverend Joseph M. Siegel

Please complete this form and return it no later than 3 weeks prior to your Mass.

Email: mmiller@evdio.org

Day/Date/Time:_____

Parish/Church:_____

Location/Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Special directions:_____

Location of reserved parking place for Bishop:_____

_____

Contact Person:_____ Cell Phone:_____

Pastor:_____ Cell Phone:_____

Number of candidates:_____ Vestment color:_____

The bishop brings his own vestments as well as vestments for the deacon(s) of the Mass.

Other vestment needs (e.g. dalmatics, cope):_____

Other information (language, etc.):_____

- The Bishop will be the Celebrant
- A diocesan MC will attend and assist the Bishop.
  Plan for five servers (cross, two candles, miter and crosier).
  Six servers are needed if incense is used.
- Will there be a Deacon(s) of the Mass?
  ☐ No
  ☐ Yes:_____
- Parish announcements should be made prior to Mass.
  Need an Exception:_____
- Will Incense be used? ☐ No ☐ Yes If yes, when?
  ☐ Entrance ☐ Gospel ☐ Gifts ☐ Other:_____
- Will there be a welcome? ☐ No ☐ Yes If yes, when?
  ☐ Before Entrance ☐ After Entrance

  By:_____

PREPARATION NOTES

Introductory Rites

* Music should accompany the entire Entrance, through the incensing of the altar (if incense is used).
* Welcome may take place before Mass or just after the Sign of the Cross and Bishop's greeting.
* The Deacon may lead the Penitential Act.
* The Rite of Sprinkling replaces the Penitential Act, but is only used on Sundays of the Easter season.
* Music should accompany the Rite of Sprinkling, and it should be separate from the *Gloria*.
* The *Gloria* is sung on Sundays in Ordinary Time, Christmastime, and Easter, on Solemnities and Feasts, as well as during the ritual Mass for Confirmation.

- Penitential Act: ☐ *Confiteor*
  ☐ *Kyrie* (Lord, have mercy)
  Kyrie: ☐Recited ☐Sung
  -OR-

  ☐ Sprinkling Rite (Sundays in Easter only)

- Gloria: ☐ Sung ☐ Not required

When required, the *Gloria* should be sung.

- Presidential Prayers: ☐ Mass of the Day

  ☐ Ritual or Votive Mass:_____

- Readings: ☐ Readings of the day -OR- ☐ Other readings below: (provide Lectionary or Biblical references)

  1st Reading:_____

  Psalm:_____

  2nd Reading:_____

  Gospel:_____

- Homily to be given by the Bishop.

- Prayer of the Faithful to be read by: ☐ Deacon ☐ Reader

Acclamations of the Eucharistic Prayer will always be sung.

- *Our Father:* ☐ Recited ☐ Sung
  If sung, setting:_____

- Communion: Two Species – Body and Blood

- Any very brief announcements (example – for a reception) following *Prayer after Communion*? ☐ No ☐ Yes

  By:_____

- Blessing: Solemn

- Pictures in church: ☐ No ☐ Yes
  ☐ Individual ☐ Group
- Reception: ☐ No ☐ Yes

Liturgy of the Word

* Sundays of Advent, Lent, Easter, and Solemnities should always use the prayers, readings, and color of the day.
* On Sundays in Ordinary Time, Feasts, Memorials (both Obligatory and Optional) and the weekdays of Lent, Christmas, and Ordinary Time, please select texts from the Confirmation ritual Mass (red) – check the ordo.
* **Gospel for ritual Mass is Luke 4:16-22a** .

Rite of Confirmation

* Presentation of candidates takes place right after the Gospel and before the homily.
* Candidates are presented to the Bishop as a group by the pastor.
* Candidates should wear name tags with Confirmation name on left side.
* Candidates should line up in center aisle, and move promptly to Bishop once candidate before them has been Confirmed.
* Soft instrumental music should accompany the anointing of the candidates (no singing).
* For the washing of hands – 1 large bowl w/ warm soapy water, 1 pitcher of warm clean water for rinsing, half of a lemon, one towel.

Prayer of the Faithful

* Only one person (normally the deacon) reads the intercessions.
* At least some of the intercessions from the ritual should be used.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

* Only the bread and wine are carried in procession (and collection basket/gifts for the poor, if customary).
* The Bishop will come down to main aisle to receive the gifts.
* A song or instrumental music should accompany the incensation of the altar, gifts and people.
* Communion should be distributed under both kinds.

Concluding Rites

* Any brief announcements should be made after the Prayer after Communion.

Final Note: Participation materials for liturgical services must have permission of the publisher for copyrighted material (texts and music); permission should be indicated in the reproduced material.

Bishop's Office Use

Received: MC:
Notes: