



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

240 E. ONONDAGA STREET, SYRACUSE, NY 13202-2608

I. PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

Candidates and Sponsors

As noted in the *Diocesan Guidelines on Confirmation*, “High School students must be actively participating in parish or Catholic high school religious education classes for **at least one full year** before they begin the direct preparation for Confirmation. “ During this time of preparation, each candidate should be interviewed personally to discuss their decision to be confirmed, their appreciation of Sacred Scripture as a unique aspect of God’s revelation, a sense of Catholic identity, their regular participation in the sacramental life of the Church, and a willingness to deepen their faith by regular religious instruction. The Confirmation candidates should be prepared to take an active part in the liturgy, singing and praying all the responses for the Rite of Confirmation and the Mass. A worship aid containing all the hymns, responses, and instructions for the liturgy can be very helpful in this regard.

Each candidate should have a sponsor who is at least 16 years of age and is a practicing Catholic who has already been confirmed. Parents may not be sponsors (Canon 893, 872).

The bishop does not require that the Confirmation candidates be seated in the body apart from their sponsors. Pastors are free to arrange the seating of the candidates and their sponsors at the front of the church in the way that seems most convenient.

Rehearsal

The procedure for the ceremony should be practiced with the candidate and sponsor sometime in advance.

Having the candidates (with sponsors right behind each) approach the bishop. As the candidates stand before the Bishop at the front of the center aisle, the sponsor places their right hand on the candidate’s shoulder.

The candidate should say his/her Confirmation name **loudly and clearly**. (This may be their Baptismal name or a new Confirmation name. A saint’s name is preferred and, in either case, the candidate should know some information about the saint whose name they have chosen.)

Then the Bishop makes the Sign of the Cross with Chrism on the forehead of each candidate saying:

Bishop: Name, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Confirmand: **Amen.**

Bishop: Peace be with you.

Confirmand: **And with your spirit.**

The Bishop may speak briefly to the newly confirmed and sponsor before turning to the next candidate.

Liturgical Ministries

Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist together constitute the Sacraments of Initiation. To emphasize the special relationship that Confirmation has with the Eucharist, the sacrament is administered within Mass. The Bishop presides and other priests may concelebrate.

Sufficient ministers should be available for the distribution of Holy Communion in the manner decided by the pastor. *Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should assist only if there are not a sufficient number of priests and deacons. It should also be noted that the vessels for Holy Communion are to be metal and not made of glass or ceramic materials.*

If a Deacon is present, he reads the gospel and leads the petitions of the General Intercessions. (Candidates should not lead the petitions in place of the Deacon.) When there is no deacon present, the pastor proclaims the gospel and either a newly confirmed or other adults may lead the General Intercessions.

One or more readers proclaim the scripture reading(s) from the Lectionary. It is always assumed that if the Confirmation is celebrated at a Saturday anticipated Mass or Sunday, the Sunday readings will be used.

Four to six altar servers are the ideal for the ceremony. The servers should be vested and, in the sacristy, **one-half hour before the ceremony**. The Master of Ceremonies will meet with them before the liturgy.

Please view the [Music Guidelines](#) to find information to assist your music minister(s) in choosing and leading the music for the liturgy. **ONLY** soft music, preferably instrumental, should be played during the anointing. It is difficult for the Bishop to hear the candidates when the music is too loud.

Setup for the Ceremony

N.B. Please see the notes for the details concerning the Confirmation Liturgy for the corresponding day and season in the liturgical calendar.

The usual articles needed for Mass should be prepared and on the credence table: the chalice, ciboria, corporal, purificator(s), water cruet, towel and basin, bread and lemons and a second ewer and basin and two large hand towels for the washing of the Bishop's hands after the Confirmation Rite. **Sufficient hosts and wine (only for the Bishop's chalice)** should be set out on the gifts table.

The Bishop will bring the Confirmation Ritual, the Holy Chrism, and his own vestments.

Cameras

The people should be instructed that the Bishop will be happy to pose for photographs after the ceremony. Concerning photographs or videotaping during the ceremony, the Bishop will defer to the local pastor's policy. If they are permitted during the ceremony, this must be done so as not to distract from the sacredness of the liturgy. Ushers should be on hand to exercise gentle direction in this regard.

II. THE LITURGY OF CONFIRMATION

The celebration of Confirmation is administered within Mass so that the complete sequence of Christian Initiation may be clearly shown: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. The Introductory Rites and the Liturgy of the Word take place in the usual way.

Presentation of the Candidates: After the Gospel, the Pastor briefly presents the candidates for Confirmation. *An introductory statement or letter by the Candidates is not necessary.*

Homily: The Bishop will preach the homily.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises:

After the homily the candidates stand and respond.

Bishop: Do you renounce Satan, and all his works and empty promises?

Candidates: **I do.**

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates: **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?

Candidates: **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?

Candidates: **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?

Candidates: **I do.**

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

Candidates: **Amen.**

Please note: The Bishop will not instruct the candidates to respond "I do." They should have rehearsed this as a group and be prepared with their responses.

Imposition of Hands:

Candidates kneel and the congregation stands, and, at the Bishop's invitation, pray in silence for a short time. Then the Bishop with hands extended over all to be confirmed, prays:

Bishop: 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.

All: **Amen.**

Anointing and the Sign of Peace: The Bishop makes the Sign of the Cross with Chrism on the forehead of each candidate saying:

Bishop: *Name*, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Confirmand: **Amen.**

Bishop: Peace be with you.

Confirmand: **And with your Spirit.**

General Intercessions:

The Creed is omitted *on weekdays* and the General Intercessions follow as soon as the Bishop has finished washing his hands.

The **Liturgy of the Eucharist** continues in the usual way with the Presentation of the Gifts up to and including the Prayer after Communion. After the prayer, any necessary announcement may be made. The Bishop will then say a few words of thanks, after which he prayer the final blessing provided in the Sacramentary or Confirmation Ritual. After the Deacon gives the dismissal, all process out accompanied by the recessional hymn.

Using the Liturgy Form, please notify the bishop of the details of the ceremony *at least two weeks before* Confirmation is celebrated.

It is imperative that the liturgy begin on time. If there is a welcome by the Candidates before Mass, it should be done so that the procession may begin at the appointed time.

LITURGICAL PREPARATION FOR THE SEASONS OF THE YEAR

On a Sunday of Easter Season

1. White vestments are used. The Bishop may use the parish vestments.
2. The “Gloria” is sung or recited.
3. Orations and Readings are for the Sunday.
4. If desired, one of the day’s readings may be replaced by a corresponding reading from the Lectionary Selections for Confirmation.

On a Weekday of the Easter Season

1. The Ritual Mass for Confirmation is used.
2. Red vestments are worn. The Bishop will bring his vestments.
3. The “Gloria” may be sung.
4. One or two readings may be read before the Gospel. If two readings are used, the first one is from the Acts of the Apostles and the second one is from the Epistles or Book of Revelation.

On a Solemnity

(e.g., Ascension, All Saints, St. Joseph, Annunciation, Sacred Heart, Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi, etc.)

1. White vestments are used. The Bishop may use the parish vestments.
2. The “Gloria” is sung or recited.
3. Orations and readings are for the Solemnity.
4. If desired, one of the day’s readings may be replaced by a corresponding reading from the Lectionary selections for Confirmation.

On a Sunday in Ordinary Time

1. The Ritual Mass for Confirmation I sued.
2. Red vestments are worn. The Bishop will bring his vestments.
3. The “Gloria” is sung or recited
4. The readings may be either those of the Sunday or chosen from the Lectionary selections for Confirmation. If the Sunday readings are used, one of them may be replaced by a corresponding reading from the Lectionary selections for Confirmation.

On a Weekday in Ordinary Time

1. The Ritual Mass for Confirmation is used.
2. Red vestments are worn. The Bishop will bring his vestments.
3. The “Gloria” may be sung.
4. One or two readings may be read before the Gospel.

On a Sunday of the Lenten Season

1. Violet vestments are used. The Bishop may use the parish vestments
2. The “Gloria” is omitted, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamation is used.
3. Orations and Readings for the Sunday.
4. If desired, one of the day’s readings may be replaced by a corresponding reading from the Lectionary selections for Confirmation.

On a Weekday of the Lenten Season

1. The Ritual Mass for Confirmation is used.
2. Red Vestments are worn. The Bishop will bring is vestments.
3. The “Gloria” is omitted, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamation is used.
4. One or two readings may be read before the Gospel.

GENERAL NOTES

1. The order of the Entrance Procession is as follows: Thurifer, Crossbearer, Knights, Deacon (with Book of the Gospels), Readers, other Deacons, Concelebrating Priests, Master of Ceremonies, Bishop, Mitre Bearer and Crosier Bearer. (The use of incense is at the discretion of the pastor.)
2. The concelebrating priests should sit in close proximity to the altar with easy access to join the Bishop for the Eucharistic Prayer.
3. The Rite of Sprinkling may be used only at Sunday celebrations of the Rite of Confirmation as prescribed in the General Instruction to the Roman Missal.
4. The Liturgy of the Word proceeds as it normally would. The Responsorial Psalm should always be sung.
5. If incense is used, the Thurifer brings the thurible to the Bishop at the beginning of the Gospel Acclamation. The Deacon then asks for the Bishop's blessing and walks in procession to the Ambo.
6. The General Intercessions (Prayer of the Faithful) should be led by the Deacon, if one is present. The candidates may lead this prayer if there is no deacon present.
7. The Presentation of the Gifts should only be the Hosts and wine for the Bishop's chalice used in the celebration of the Mass. The Communion Cups for the assembly should be poured prior to the liturgy and placed on the credence table.
8. The concelebrating priests should join the Bishop at the altar before the dialogue introducing the Preface.
9. At Communion, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should assist only if there are not sufficient priests and deacons present.