

SPECIAL DIRECTIVES FOR BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

With both Baptism and Confirmation, participants should observe the six-foot distance rule from each other (family units may sit and stand near each other). They should come into close distance only insofar as the ritual requires it, and for as brief a time as possible.

So that others may participate in these important sacraments, parishes are encouraged to livestream these liturgies when possible.

Baptism

Please recall that as of Easter Sunday 2020, the new *Order of Baptism for Children, Second Edition* must be used.

1. Baptism by immersion is not permitted.
2. When two or more families are present for the Baptisms of their children, care must be taken to insure they maintain the proper physical distance from each other.
3. While traditionally a godparent may hold the child for baptism, it is recommended that one of the parents holds the child to be baptized throughout the ritual in order to diminish the child's contact with people other than its parents. Godparents are nonetheless to make the usual responses to the questions posed to them.
4. Those who have been selected as godparents but are in a condition that precludes them from presence in a gathering of people (a pre-existing health condition, advanced age, or manifestation of COVID-19 symptoms) should not attend the baptismal ceremony. Instead, a proxy should stand in for the absent godparent.
5. The celebrant invites the parents to trace the Sign of the Cross on the child's forehead, but he does not do so himself nor do the godparents.
6. The anointing with the oil of catechumens is omitted.
7. The celebrant does not place his hand in the water when he blesses it.
8. *When pouring water for the actual Baptism:* The one to be baptized should place his/her head over a separate receptacle from the font; water is scooped from the font into the instrument to be used, and then poured on the head over the separate receptacle. That water should then be poured down the sacrarium (or into the ground away from where people are likely to walk), and the receptacle washed in hot water and dish soap.

9. *Anointing with chrism on the top of the head* (Baptism of children): Before the anointing(s), the celebrant should sanitize his hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. After the anointing(s), the celebrant should cleanse his hand with a sanitizing moist towelette, and the head of the child(ren) should likewise be cleansed in this way. The used towelettes should be placed in a receptacle, and then properly disposed of either by burning or being buried into the ground.
10. *Clothing with the white garment* (Baptism of children): Parents are to provide the garment for their child, and are to place it on the child themselves.
11. *Presentation of the lighted candle*: As the celebrant holds the Easter candle, a godparent holds the Baptismal candle from the bottom and lights it from the Easter candle. For the Baptism of adults: the godparent hands the lighted candle to the newly baptized, who then takes the candle from the middle (being careful not to touch the part where the godparent was holding it).
12. *Ephphatha* (Baptism of children): The celebrant pronounces the prayer without touching the child's ears and mouth.
13. *Oil Stocks* (Baptism children): When more than one child is being baptized, a reusable oil stock with cotton for the chrism should not be used in order to prevent contamination. Instead, a small amount of chrism should be poured into a bowl and used for the anointing. Afterwards, any remaining chrism should be disposed of in the sacrarium (or into the ground, or burned after soaking in cotton) and the bowl dried with cotton or a paper towel (which is then disposed of in the same manner), and the bowl washed in hot water and dish soap.

CONFIRMATION

Apart from Confirmations of those who were to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil, it is highly recommended that, in lieu of the Ritual Mass for Confirmation, the Rite of Confirmation Outside of Mass be used. This especially applies for a large class of confirmandi, all the more so when multiple ceremonies are indicated in order to allow the proper physical distancing of those participating in the ritual. This also allows a briefer period of time for the assembly to be worshipping together and so minimize the time they may be exposed to the virus.

1. The celebrant should use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to sanitize his after the "Laying on of Hands" with the prayer invoking the Holy Spirit, and before beginning the anointings.
2. The celebrant does not place his hand on the head of the confirmand as he anoints (cf. the response of the Pontifical Commission for the Interpretation of the Decrees of Vatican II, 9 June 1972 in AAS 64 [1972], p. 526: "The act of anointing itself sufficiently manifests the laying on of the hand" [Pope Paul VI "confirmed the decision, approved it, and ordered its

publication”]). However, he must physically touch the confirmand in applying the chrism (i.e., an instrument for applying the chrism such as a cotton ball or swab may not be used). Thus, any confirmandi who may be at special risk of infection should defer their Confirmation until it is safe to permit such contact.

3. The sponsor may place his/her hand on the right shoulder of the confirmand as usual. The sponsor may wear a protective glove if the sponsor so wishes. Pairs of confirmand/sponsors should always remain six feet apart while waiting to approach the celebrant.
4. The newly confirmed then wipes the chrism off of his/her forehead with a sanitizing moist towelette, which is then placed in a receptacle. This may be done at a convenient place, such as the vestibule of the church, after the newly confirmed have processed out of their places in the pews. Alternatively, it may be done at the end of the pew before they resume their places in the pew. The used towelettes are later properly disposed of either by burning or being buried into the ground.
5. After the last anointing, the celebrant cleanses his hands in the usual way. He then uses an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to sanitize his hands.
6. With regard to the receptacle for the chrism, the same procedure should be followed as indicated above for Baptism (n. 10).