



GUIDELINES FOR CONFIRMATION MASSES

IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER *Easter Season 2014*

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Canonical Requirements for Confirmation:

There should be individual sponsors. Parents cannot be sponsors for their own children. The person who is chosen should be sufficiently committed to the practice of the faith so that he/she can receive the Most Holy Eucharist at the Confirmation Mass and fulfill the requirements stated in canon 874 of the *Code of Canon Law*.

Preparation before Mass begins:

1. For good order, please seat the sponsor beside the candidate.
 - Candidates and sponsors should be formally dressed, *(St. Joe's edit addition: jacket or sweater over any strapless or dress with spaghetti straps, no extremely short dresses/skirts)*
 - Each candidate is required to wear a **nametag** with his or her Confirmation name printed legibly in large script on the top with their baptismal name underneath in large letters. They are to be worn near the candidate's left shoulder. The Bishop reads the name of the Saint as he confirms.
2. The use of photography during the Mass is not permitted to ensure the solemnity of the celebration is maintained. The Bishop will be available for pictures immediately after Mass. Group photos may also be taken at that time.
3. To ensure proper reverence and order for the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Mass, the sponsoring parish should hold a rehearsal in advance of the ceremony. (this will occur at our final session)

The Confirmation Mass:

4. After the Gospel, the Bishop will be seated in his chair, with miter and crozier. Then the Pastor, Parish Administrator or Catechist goes to a designated spot with microphone and **presents the candidates** from their parish to the Bishop. The candidates will stand after their name is called and remain standing until all candidates from their parish are called.
5. The Bishop will then give his **homily** from the center aisle.

6. When the Bishop has finished his homily he will stand in front of the altar and invite those to be confirmed to stand for **the renewal of baptismal promises**. The response to the baptismal promises “I do” and the “Amen” follow the questions. This should be carefully explained so that the candidates will make their answers in a strong, clear voice as a true proclamation of their faith. This should be addressed to the candidates at the rehearsal.
7. The Bishop will then invite those to be confirmed to kneel for **the laying on of hands** and everyone else to stand.
8. The Bishop will stand for **the anointing with Chrism**, with a priest-chaplain on each side of him.
9. For the actual Confirmation, the students are to line up in front of their sponsors, two by two, in continuous lines. The candidates are to stand directly in front of the Bishop, two at a time, that is, side by side, shoulder to shoulder, **close enough to the Bishop for him to anoint their forehead**. After being confirmed, the person immediately returns to his/her pew and another person takes his/her place so that there are always two people before the Bishop without any waiting time between candidates.
10. The Bishop will receive **the offertory gifts** with the deacon(s) and altar servers. Only bread and wine should be brought forward in the offertory procession.
11. After the Bishop distributes **Holy Communion** to his deacons, he and the selected priests/deacons will distribute Holy Communion to the faithful, beginning with the newly confirmed and their sponsors. Due to the larger number of faithful, and the young ages of the Confirmandi, Holy Communion will only be distributed under one species, namely the Sacred Host.

Rite of Confirmation

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

After the homily, the candidates stand and the Bishop questions them. The Candidates respond clearly together, with conviction:

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

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 came upon the Apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?*

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.*

The Bishop accepts their Profession of Faith by proclaiming the faith of the Church.

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

The whole congregation responds: *Amen.*

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

Bishop faces the people (the candidates kneel and the faithful stand) and with hands joined, says:

My dear friends, in baptism God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life to his chosen sons and daughters. Let us pray to our Father that he will pour out the Holy Spirit to strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts and to anoint them to be more like Christ the Son of God.

All pray in silence for a short time.

The Bishop sings or says:

All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

The whole congregation responds: *Amen.*

THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

The priest-chaplain to the right side of the Bishop holds the Chrism for the Bishop. Each candidate goes to the Bishop, wearing his or her nametag with the **Confirmation name written in a large print on top and baptismal name below**. The sponsor places his right hand on the candidate's shoulder.

The Bishop dips his right thumb in the Chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says:

Bishop: *N. (Confirmation name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.*

The newly confirmed responds: *Amen.*

Bishop: *Peace be with you.*

The newly confirmed responds: *And with your spirit.*