

## GUIDELINES FOR LITURGY PLANNING FOR ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

### I. PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY

The parish plans the Liturgy. Holy Communion should be given under both forms.

- A. If Confirmation is celebrated on Saturday after 4:00pm or any time on Sunday, the Sunday Mass is used; if Confirmation is celebrated on a weekday or Saturday morning/midday, the Mass of Confirmation may be used (readings may be selected by a planning group from the list of USCCB approved readings – See Appendix J).
- B. Readers, gift bearers, servers, and other ministers should be appointed (five servers, minimum, will be needed; if incense is used, appoint six). Practice should take place prior to the day of Confirmation.
- C. The Bishop supplies the Chrism and will bring his own veils and vestments as well as the Order of Confirmation book.
- D. The music for the Sacrament of Confirmation should be carefully selected. It should be artistically good as well as appropriate to the Confirmation Liturgy and to the liturgical season. The congregation should be encouraged to join in the singing. Sung parts of the Mass may include:
  - Processional Hymn (or instrumental)
  - Glory to God (if prescribed)
  - Responsorial Psalm
  - Gospel Acclamation
  - Instrumental preferred during anointing
  - Offertory Hymn
  - Eucharistic Acclamations  
(Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation; Lamb of God, Great Amen)
  - During reception of Holy Communion
  - Recessional (or instrumental)

**\*Note: there should be NO music during the Laying on of Hands.**
- E. The parish community should be invited and encouraged to attend.

### II. IMMEDIATE PREPARATION FOR THE CEREMONY

Materials to be prepared:

- A. Properly marked Roman Missal for the Liturgy.
- B. Lectionary should have readings marked (Worship Aids or printed copies of the readings should not be used by readers).
- C. Two Worship Aids and Liturgical Planning Sheets, previously approved by the Bishop, should be available for the Bishop and the Master of Ceremonies in the vesting sacristy.
- D. Bishop's vestments should be placed in the location where he will be vesting.
- E. On the altar: altar cloth, candles, crucifix and, if appropriate, a stand for the Book of the Gospels if it is carried in the procession. (No other items should be on the altar at this time).
- F. On the credence table: ciborium(s) (as many as needed), water cruet, Bishop's or Pastor's chalice (empty), chalices (as many as needed pre-filled with wine), water bowl with towel, small bowl with cut lemon for purifying fingers of oil (an extra towel is needed for this), sufficient purificators for each chalice, and corporal(s) as needed.
- G. For the offertory procession, a paten with bread for the Eucharist and a cruet with wine to fill the Bishop's chalice.
- H. A listing of the candidates on the Ambo for the Pastor to make the Presentations to the Bishop.
- I. A chair should be available and ready to be placed at the front center of the sanctuary for Bishop to be seated during the time of anointing with Chrism.

All Candidates for Confirmation should be wearing a name tag on the front of their **right** shoulder. Confirmation (Saint) name should be listed first and in larger font than the candidate's baptismal name. The Bishop will read the Confirmation (Saint) name from the name tag during the anointing with Chrism.

**Name Tag Sample:**



### III. **AFTER THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION** (Canon 895)

- A. Send all the information listed below to the parish where the Confirmand was originally baptized so that parish may update the baptismal record of the newly confirmed.
- B. Enter names of newly Confirmed in current parish sacramental records.
- C. List names of the newly Confirmed on the Status Animarum which is sent to the Chancery at the beginning of each year.

Baptismal name of candidate  
 Confirmation Name  
 Date of Birth  
 Mother's maiden name  
 Father's name  
 Church, date, city of Baptism  
 Name of Confirming Bishop  
 Church, date, city of Confirmation

### IV. **OTHER PLANNING DETAILS**

#### A. **Pictures during the ceremony**

If the parish wants to designate **one** person to take pictures, that is acceptable. Such a person should not be conspicuous but stationed at an angle where good pictures can be obtained. A picture may be taken of each individual Candidate only at the anointing. To maintain the proper sacred atmosphere of the Confirmation Mass, no other pictures may be taken during the Eucharist. The Bishop will be available after the ceremony for group or individual pictures with Candidates. If a place has not been prepared for photos (such as in the reception hall), photos will take place in the church after Mass. The pastor, or one designated by him, should remind the assembly of this before Mass begins.

#### B. **Social gathering after the Mass**

The Bishop will be available after the Confirmation Mass for a special social gathering, the usual parish coffee and doughnut gathering, or to simply greet the parishioners as they depart from the church.

## THE CONFIRMATION LITURGY

### **\*Please refer to the *Order of Confirmation* when planning the Liturgy.**

The Office of Worship or the Office of Evangelization, Catechesis, and Youth Formation at The Catholic Center is available to assist you in planning if needed.

### **Before Mass:**

When it is time for the Liturgy to begin, the procession will form as follows: incense bearer (if incense is going to be used), cross bearer, servers, Candidates and Sponsors, Catechists, Pastor and Priests, and Bishop. The entrance hymn should be one that will unify the assembly. Those Candidates and Sponsors in procession should be instructed to enter their pew **immediately** from the center aisle **without genuflecting** and remain standing. When the Bishop genuflects or bows before the altar, all who have entered the pews in procession should genuflect or bow at the same time.

Greeting and Penitential Act:	Choice of options
Lord Have Mercy:	Recited or sung
Glory to God (if prescribed):	Recited or sung
Collect (Opening Prayer):	Of the Day or from the Mass of Confirmation
Liturgy of the Word:	Readings (Sunday Mass readings will be used during Mass held after 4:00pm Saturday or any time on Sunday. Optional readings listed in the <i>Order of Confirmation</i> may be used for weekday and Saturday morning/midday Masses only)

### **Presentation of the Candidates:**

After the Gospel, all are seated. The **Pastor** presents the Candidates for Confirmation. If Candidates from other parishes are participating, the Candidates should be presented by their own Pastor if possible.

### **A suggested format:**

"Bishop Rice, the parish community of (Name) wishes to present to you these Candidates who have been prepared and who are ready to receive the fullness of Christian Initiation in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Each Candidate has been instructed and has been accompanied by a Sponsor and his/her parents. It is my privilege to present them to you at this time. (The pastor calls each Candidate by name; the Candidate rises as his/her name is called. When all have been presented, the pastor calling out their names will ask them to be seated.)

### **Homily:**

After the homily, the Candidates will be requested to stand for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

### **The Renewal of Baptismal Promises:** (Please encourage Candidates to make responses **clearly** and **audibly**.)

Bishop:	Do you renounce Satan, and all his works and empty promises?
Candidates:	<b>I do.</b>
Bishop:	Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?
Candidates:	<b>I do.</b>
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:	<b>I do.</b>

- 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.**

### **The Laying on of Hands:**

Candidates should then come to the edge of the sanctuary for the imposition of hands. Candidates may remain standing during the Laying on of Hands. The Bishop and the priests who are assisting impose hands upon the Candidates. If there are 30 or more Confirmandi, the Bishop will lay hands and pray over the Confirmandi as a group rather than individuals. **No music of any kind should be played during the Laying on of Hands.**

### **The Anointing with the Oil of Chrism:**

After the group returns to their places in the pews, each Candidate and Sponsor comes forward individually to the center edge of the sanctuary for the anointing. The Bishop will be seated, the Candidate should kneel and the Sponsor remains standing, with his/her right hand on Candidate's shoulder. The pastor or deacon should stand on the right of the Bishop with the Chrism.

Candidates should be wearing a name tag on the front of their **right** shoulder. The nametag will have their name and their Confirmation (Saint) name in larger bold font.

When the Candidate arrives in front of the Bishop, the Candidate or Sponsor speaks the Confirmation (Saint) name.

Bishop will anoint forehead saying:

- Bishop: (Confirmation Saint Name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.  
 Candidate: **Amen.**

Bishop will extend sign of peace to each Candidate.

- Bishop: Peace be with you.  
 Candidate: **And with your Spirit.**

Candidate then stands and returns to their place to sit. During the anointing, suitable instrumental music may be played. When all have been anointed, the Bishop will wash and cleanse his fingers at the credence table or at his chair.

### **The Universal Prayer (Prayers of the Faithful):**

The Candidates and those who prepared them for Confirmation should be included in the Prayers of the Faithful.

**Offertory Procession:**

Gift bearers, selected previously, should include newly Confirmed and sponsors. Enough bread and wine should be prepared so that Holy Communion under both forms can be received. The Bishop's (or Pastor's) chalice should be placed on the altar during the preparation. Additional chalices (as needed for that parish) **should be placed and filled in advance on the credence table** and moved to the altar during its preparation. A small cruet of wine (enough for the Bishop's or Pastor's chalice) should be brought forward with the bread in the offertory procession.

**Sign of Peace:**

All will be invited to extend Christ's peace to one another.

**Holy Communion:**

- Under both forms.
- Suitable hymns may be sung or instrumental music played.

**(Note: Vessels are to be purified after Holy Communion by a Priest or Deacon at the credence table, not on the altar)**

**Post Communion Prayer:**

Of the Day or from the Mass of Confirmation.

**Solemn Blessing by Bishop.**

**Dismissal.**

**Recessional:**

Hymn or instrumental

**Special notes:**

- If **incense** is used, it may be done so at the beginning of Mass, the Gospel, and the Preparation of the Gifts. The server handling the incense may be instructed at the Preparation of the Gifts to incense the Bishop, to incense the other clergy, and to incense the congregation following the incensation of the gifts and the altar.
- **The Confirmation Information Sheet and Liturgy Plan Sheet (Appendices H) along with a copy of the worship aid which your parish will use during the Mass, is to be sent to the Office of the Bishop at least one month before the scheduled visit. Bishop would like to review and give approval to the Liturgy plan and worship aid prior to printing.**
- Two copies of the Liturgical Planning sheet and the worship aid are to be available (for Bishop and Master of Ceremonies) on the day of Confirmation.