

THE CONFIRMATION LITURGY

Some Practical Matters

The Sacrament of Confirmation normally occurs within the context of the Mass. Confirmation is a parish celebration and its planning should reflect the community's role in both the preparation and celebration of this sacrament. Confirmation is the culmination of the Rite of Initiation which brings persons to new life in Christ and full membership in the Christian community.

Contained in this publication is a *Confirmation Liturgy Outline* which contains specific information about items needed for the celebration of the rite and particulars of the rite itself. A *Confirmation Liturgy Preparation Worksheet* that outlines the entire service is also included. Additional copies of these, as well as the *Rite of Confirmation*, are available from the Office of Worship and Initiation at (269) 349-8714, ext. 245. Your understanding of these will enable you to be more confident about the particulars of the ceremony and allow you to use your energies for the celebration of a joyful, uplifting liturgy for the candidates and the gathered assembly. The following information and outline is intended to help in your preparation of the liturgy of Confirmation.

1. Liturgical information should be sent to the Bishop two weeks in advance of the celebration. This includes the choice of readings, music and options within the Rite.
2. Liturgical ministers should be informed of plans well in advance of the celebration. Lector(s) should have the reading(s) to prepare. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should be recruited if ordinary ministers are not available in sufficient numbers. Normally plan to have twice as many ministers of the Precious Blood as there are ministers of the Body of Christ. Ushers should be available to help as needed, especially to welcome and care for visitors and parishioners.
3. If your parish does not have a Deacon, one will be assigned to attend your Confirmation celebration. He will assist the bishop and proclaim the Gospel reading.
4. A Master of Ceremonies will also attend. His role is to help brief the altar servers, coordinate the details of the liturgy and assist in other ways as necessary.
5. **Please do not plan any additions to the prescribed *Rite of Confirmation*.** Such extras, which may be meaningful to your candidates, may be used elsewhere in the preparation process (such as at retreats or other occasions).
6. The Knights of Columbus may want to be part of this occasion. Their role is that of an honor guard only. The directives of the Bishop and Pastor are to be followed.

Items needed:

- Red vestments, cincture, alb and amice for the bishop if needed. On Sundays (and the Saturday Vigil) of Advent, Lent and Holy Week purple vestments are worn for Confirmation. White vestments are worn on Sundays of the Christmas season and Solemnities and their Vigils.
(*Bishop Bradley brings his own vestments.*)
- Presider's chair for the bishop and enough seats for clergy and other ministers.
- A cut up lemon, cruet of water, cloth to protect vestments, small basin and towel for the bishop to clean his hands following the anointing.
- *Lectionary* and *Sacramentary* with proper texts and options for Mass marked.

SUGGESTED ORDER OF PROCESSION

(Knights of Columbusoptional)
Cross Bearer
Candle Bearers
(Confirmandi....unless seated beforehand)
(Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.....optional)
Lectors
Deacon, if carrying the Book of the Gospels
Concelebrants
Bishop
Mitre Bearer
Crosier Bearer

ORDER OF MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Procession
Penitential Rite or Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling
Gloria *(Omit during Advent and Lent)*
Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD¹

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm *(should be sung)*
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation *(sung or omitted)*
Gospel Reading

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION *(refer to the Rite of Confirmation)*

Presentation of the Candidates *(candidates stand in their places)*
Homily *(by Bishop)*
Renewal of Baptismal Promises *(replaces the Creed)*
Laying on of Hands²
Anointing with Chrism
General Intercessions³

¹ Emphasis should be given to the celebration of the Word of God which actually begins the Rite of Confirmation. The readings may be taken in whole or in part from the Mass of the day, or from the texts for Confirmation in the *Lectionary for Mass* (# 763-767). Note: on the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, Solemnities, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week the readings proper for the day are used.

² The ritual of the Laying on of Hands is done over all the confirmandi at once. *(Sponsors remain seated during this.)* This ritual is done in silence, no music is used.

³ Examples of the General Intercessions can be found in *The Rite of Confirmation* (pp. 23-24). Candidates are encouraged to compose their own prayers which would include petitions for the world, the Church, their faith community, the sick and the deceased.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, Holy *(should be sung)*

Memorial Acclamation *(should be sung)*

Amen *(should be sung)*

COMMUNION RITE

Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

Reception of Communion

Prayer after Communion

CONCLUDING RITE

Final Blessing

Dismissal

Recessional

**If you need additional information or assistance, please contact
the Diocesan Office of Christian Worship at
(269) 349-8714 ext. 245 or
email dreilly@dioceseofkalamazoo.org**

Bishop's Office – Diocese of Kalamazoo

Please return the completed form to the Bishop's Office no later than **four weeks** in advance of the liturgy.

CONFIRMATION LITURGY PREPARATION WORKSHEET

BASIC INFORMATION

Parish _____ City _____

Date and time of Confirmation _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Address _____

In the event that the Bishop's Master of Ceremonies needs to contact the liturgy site within 30 minutes of the liturgy, what phone number(s) should he try and thus avoid answering machines/services if different from above?

Contact name _____ Phone _____

Parking Instructions _____

Where will the Bishop vest? _____

Group Photograph: Yes No Taken: Before Mass After Mass

Location of photograph _____

Will there be a meal? Yes No; If yes, Location _____ Time _____

MINISTERS

Bishop _____ Concelebrant(s) _____

Deacon(s) _____

Master of Ceremonies _____

Lectors 1. _____ 2. _____

Presentation of the Candidates for Confirmation _____

Leader of the General Intercessions Deacon Other _____

The deacon would normally lead these if present.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, if needed (NOTE: the bishop, pastor, concelebrants and deacon will be the ordinary ministers of Holy Communion)

USHERS

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

ALTAR SERVERS

- 1. Cross Bearer _____
- 2. Thurifer _____
- 3. Candle Bearer _____
- 4. Candle Bearer _____
- 5. Mitre Bearer _____
- 6. Crosier Bearer _____

MUSICIANS

Director _____ **Phone** _____

Organist _____ **Phone** _____

THE CONFIRMATION LITURGY

Mass to be Celebrated Ritual Mass of Confirmation Mass of the day

Color of Vestments White Red Purple

Candidates in the procession? Yes No

MUSICAL PRELUDES _____

ENTRANCE SONG _____

PENITENTIAL RITE Form A B C Sung Recited

Or RITE OF BLESSING AND SPRINKLING OF HOLY WATER Yes No

*(On Sunday the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling Holy Water may replace the Penitential Rite.
See the Sacramentary for more information.)*

Song during Sprinkling _____

CONCLUDING PRAYER FOR SPRINKLING RITE

GLORIA *(Omitted during Advent & Lent)* Recited Sung (setting) _____

OPENING PRAYER - the Rite of Confirmation A B C D or _____

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING _____ Lectionary # _____

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Sung (setting) _____ Recited-Lectionary # _____

SECOND READING _____ Lectionary # _____

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Sung (setting) _____ Omitted

GOSPEL READING _____ Lectionary # _____

Deacon _____

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION BY PASTOR

HOMILIST Bishop

LAYING ON OF HANDS for all candidates as a group (candidates asked to kneel)

ANOINTING WITH CHRISM **Song(s)** _____

WASHING OF HANDS (lemon and bread needed)

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS Led by Deacon Other _____
The deacon would normally do this if one is present.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION of the Altar and the Gifts

Procession with the Gifts (names) _____

Number of gifts/type _____

Song/music _____

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER # 1 2 3 4 Bishop's Choice

PREFACE _____

For the Rite of Confirmation the Preface most commonly used is Holy Spirit II.

HOLY HOLY Recited Sung (setting) _____

ACCLAMATION Recited Sung (setting) _____

AMEN Recited Sung (setting) _____

COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER Recited Sung (setting) _____

THE SIGN OF PEACE

BREAKING OF THE BREAD **Lamb of God** Recited Sung (setting) _____

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

Communion under both forms Yes No

Communion Hymns _____

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

From the Rite of Confirmation A B C D or other _____

Announcements/Concluding Remarks: Yes No by whom _____

SOLEMN BLESSING From the *Rite of Confirmation* Other _____

DISMISSAL

RECESSIONAL _____

Candidates in Recessional? Yes No

Additions to the Confirmation Mass

Please do not incorporate any additional rites, texts or music into the Confirmation liturgy.