

THE CONFIRMATION LITURGY

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The Sacrament of Confirmation normally occurs within the context of the Eucharistic Liturgy which is the culmination of the candidate's preparation. 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 part of the ritual 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 Christian Worship, dreilly@dioceseofkalamazoo.org or (269) 349-8714, ext. 245. An understanding of these texts will enable you to be more confident about the mechanics 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.

Readings for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Bishop Bradley allows the parish leaders to select the readings from those within the Rite of Confirmation for the parish Mass of Confirmation (Lectionary #'s 764-768) at which he presides unless the date falls on one of the higher ranked liturgical days listed below.

On the Sundays of Advent, Lent, Easter, and on solemnities, the days of the week within the Octave of Easter, All Souls', Ash Wednesday and Holy Week the readings of the day take precedent and are to be used instead of those for the Ritual Mass of Confirmation (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, #372).

Practical Matters

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. Please enclose a list of the names of the Confirmation candidates, include their baptismal name, their family name, their chosen Confirmation name, the name of their Sponsor and the relationship of the Sponsor to the candidate when you return this form. Bishop Bradley will pray for each candidate and sponsor by name.
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 only if ordinary ministers (Bishop, priests & deacons) are not available in sufficient numbers. 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. A Master of Ceremonies will also attend. His role is to help brief the altar

servers, take care of the Bishop's mitre and crosier and assist in other ways as necessary.

4. Incense is optional. If used, an additional server will be required to act as thurifer.
5. Items needed:
 - Red vestments, cincture, alb and amice for the bishop if needed.
 - Purple vestments are worn for Confirmation on Sundays (and the Saturday Vigil) of Advent, Lent and Holy Week.
 - White vestments are worn on Sundays of the Christmas season and Solemnities and their Vigils.
 - A presider's chair for the bishop and seating for clergy and other ministers.
 - Lemons, cruet of water and a small basin and towel for the bishop to clean his hands following the anointing.
 - A cloth to protect the Bishop's vestments,
 - The *Lectionary* and *Sacramentary* with proper texts and options for Mass marked.

SUGGESTED ORDER OF PROCESSION

(Thurifer – optional)

Cross Bearer

2 Candle Bearers

(Confirmandi - unless seated beforehand)

(Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist - optional)

Lectors

Deacon carrying the Book of the Gospels

Concelebrants

Bishop

Mitre Bearer

Crosier Bearer

ORDER OF CONFIRMATION 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

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* (# 764-768). Note: on the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, Solemnities, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week the readings proper for the day are used.

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

Presentation of the Candidates *(each candidate is to be called by name;
candidate stands when name is called and stand in their place)*

Homily *(by Bishop)*

Renewal of Baptismal Promises *(replaces the Creed)*

Laying on of Hands²

Anointing with Chrism

General Intercessions³

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**

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.

Bishop's Office – Diocese of Kalamazoo

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

CONFIRMATION LITURGY PREPARATION WORKSHEET

BASIC INFORMATION

Parish _____ **City** _____

Date and time of Confirmation _____

Contact Person _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____

Sometimes the Bishop's Master of Ceremonies will need to call a contact person at 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** _____

Where will the Bishop vest? _____

Group Photograph? Yes No **Taken:** Before Mass After Mass

Location of photograph _____

Meal? Yes No Before Mass After Mass **Location** _____

Reception after Mass? Yes No **Location** _____

MINISTERS

Concelebrant(s) _____

Deacon(s) _____

Lectors 1. _____ 2. _____

Presentation of the Candidates for Confirmation by Pastor _____

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*)

ALTAR SERVERS

1. Cross Bearer _____ **4. Mitre Bearer** _____

2. Candle Bearer _____ **5. Crosier Bearer** _____

3. Candle Bearer _____ **6. Thurifer** _____

USHERS _____

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

WELCOM BY PASTOR Yes No

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 _____

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

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Bishop Bradley has asked that parish leaders select readings from the Rite of Confirmation to be used at the parish Mass of Confirmation (Lectionary #'s 764-768) at which he presides unless the date falls on a higher ranked liturgical day.

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

Bishop to be joined by all priests concelebrating

ANOINTING WITH CHRISM Hymns (s) _____

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 species Yes No

Communion Hymn(s) _____

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

Please return to: **The Office of the Bishop
215 N. Westnedge Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3760 or
FAX to (269) 349-6440**