

Ceremonial Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

2022

In order to better facilitate the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the following are details which will assist those who are responsible for organizing the ceremony.

A. The Procession

+ Candidates

- Informal procession following the recitation of the Holy Rosary – **or** – be in the pews 10 minutes prior to the anticipated start of the Mass
- Candidates should be visible together in a group by parish and not mixed with other parishes
- The seating of the candidates one per pew extended down the center aisle of the Church is not permitted
- Candidates in front pew(s) grouped together
- Sponsors behind them grouped together (*see diagram example: C = Candidate / S = Sponsor*)

ALTAR

C	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	C	C	C
C	C	C	C	C	I	C	C	C	C	C
C	C	C	C	C	S	C	C	C	C	C
S	S	S	S	S	L	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	S	S	S	E	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S

+ Liturgical Ministers

- Process at scheduled start time of Mass
- Opening Processional Hymn

+ Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Honor Guard

- Process immediately following the Crucifer and Lucifers, then form Guard in front of nave

+ Deacon (of the Word)

- Carries the *Book of Gospels* before the concelebrating priests
- Reaching the Altar he:
 - places the *Book of Gospels* flat on the Altar in the center without waiting for the Bishop;
 - remains behind, to the left of the Altar (as he faces the nave), leaving enough room for Priest(s) to reverence it;
 - venerates the Altar with the Bishop (and Deacon of the Altar);
 - precedes the Bishop to the chair and be positioned on his right
 - if two Deacons are present, Deacon of the Altar takes position on Bishop's left

+ Deacon (of the Altar) (*if present*)

- Reaching the Altar he:
 - assists the Bishop in the incensing of the Altar (if incense is used);
 - reverences the Altar with the Bishop;
 - precedes the Bishop to the chair and be positioned on his left
 - if two Deacons are present, Deacon of the Word takes position on Bishop's right



Note: Deacon(s) do not hold Bishop's Chasuble or escort's him during incensation.

The *Book of the Gospels* is not carried out during the recessional.

B. The Lector(s)

The *Lectionary* is never carried in procession.

+ Adult Parish Lector(s)

- Do not process in or out with liturgical ministers
- One lector for a Ritual Mass
- One or two lectors for Sunday or Holy Day Mass

+ Procession for Liturgy of the Word

- Waits in pew – standing – until the Bishop receives Miter following *Collect*
- Approach foot of the Sanctuary (together – *if more than one for Sunday/Holy Day*)
- Make a bow of reverence to the Blessed Sacrament (or Altar if tabernacle is not present in Sanctuary) then to the Bishop

+ First Lector (*Sunday/Holy Day*) or Lector (*Ritual*)

- Proceed to the Ambo
- Removes the *Lectionary* (*Ritual*)

+ Responsorial Psalm

- To be sung by a cantor at the Ambo
- (First) Lector steps back from Ambo (*and joins 2nd Lector*)

+ Second Lector (*if used for Sunday/Holy Day*)

- Stands near the Ambo as the first reading is read
- First lector steps aside and stands in the place of the second lector
- Removes the *Lectionary*

+ Recession

- Return to the foot of the Sanctuary
- Make a bow of reverence to the Blessed Sacrament (or Altar if tabernacle is not present in Sanctuary) then to the Bishop
- Return to their place in the nave

C. When Incense is used at the Gospel

- The Thurifer and Master of Ceremonies approaches the Bishop and kneels
- The Bishop fills the Thurible with incense and + blesses it
- The Thurifer steps back to allow the Deacon to receive the blessing from the Bishop
- The Gospel procession is led by the Thurifer and Lucifers (*if space is provided*)



During the Easter season there are no candles used for the Gospel procession as the Paschal Candle (placed near the Ambo) represents the “Light of Christ”.

D. Presentation of the Candidates

+ **By Pastor(s)**

- Follows the proclamation of the Gospel
- Master of Ceremonies will invite the pastors to present their candidates
- As Parish Group(s) (*the calling of the candidates “individually” is omitted*)
- Presents them to Bishop with text provided by the Master of Ceremonies
- The response by the candidates “Present” is omitted
- If a Pastor is not present to present his candidates, the Dean (*if present*) or the Host Parish

Pastor presents them on their behalf



Note: Presentation of the Candidates by the **Pastor(s)** forms a part of the Rite in which the candidates are presented to the *Bishop*, not to the congregation, the parish, or the Church in general.

E. Imposition of Hands following the Renewal of Baptismal Promises

- + Bishop will impose hands as a group in the pews
 - Pastor(s) will be invited to join the Bishop to impose hands
 - Impose hands simultaneously with the Bishop
 - After invocation the Deacon will bear the Sacred Chrism for the Anointing

F. Identification of the Saint Name

- + Self-Adhesive Name Badges
 - Must be used
 - No lanyard permitted
 - Clearly printed on white background
 - Approximately 1” with permanent marker or by computer
 - Full name of saint to be present (i.e. St. John *the Baptist*, St. Mary *Magdalene*, etc.)

G. Anointing with Sacred Chrism

- + Candidate will approach the Bishop in a single-central Communion line
 - Sponsor and Candidate only
 - Sponsor does not “present” their candidate to the Bishop
 - One full side (right – as seen from the Sanctuary) of the church is first then the other full side (left) – no alternating
 - Steady movement of candidates, no delays
 - Sponsor places their right hand on candidates right shoulder while standing directly behind the candidate (*see image example below*)



- + Distribution of the Holy Rosary
 - Bishop’s gift to newly confirmed – blessed by the Bishop
 - Immediately following Anointing
 - Concelebrating Priest(s) assist in distributing to their respective newly confirmed

H. Post Anointing & General Intercessions

- + Post Anointing
 - Bishop will wash his hands at a table other than the Credence Table
 - one large quartered cut lemon, a pitcher of warm water, a bowl, and a towel
 - Returns to the nave to present newly confirmed to the assembled faithful
 - Invites all to stand for General Intercessions
- + General Intercessions
 - Taken from the *Rite of Confirmation* ritual

- Led by the Deacon

I. Presentation & Reception of Offertory Gifts

- Collection taken but not brought forward with bread and wine
 - Ushers **do not** come forward until after the offertory gifts have been presented to the Bishop at the Presider's Chair
 - Ushers to secure monetary collection immediately after collection is complete
- Bishop will receive the gifts at his chair
- Gift Bearers proceed immediately to the gift table following the concluding prayer to the *General Intercessions*
- Master of Ceremonies will signal for them to process forward when Bishop is ready to receive
- Deacon to receive passed gifts from Bearers after Bishop has touched the gifts
 - Bearers will present the ciboria(ium) and wine cruet individually to the Bishop
 - One by one
 - Bishop will touch the gift only while the Bearer continues to hold the gift
 - After Bishop has touched the gift the Bearer will pass on to the Deacon (*of the Altar*)
 - Bearers will remain near Bishop in one straight horizontal line
 - After final gift is presented the Bishop will impart his blessing upon the Bearers while they make the + sign of the Cross upon themselves

J. Dismissal

- + The newly confirmed are to remain in the pews for photo opportunities following the Mass.

K. Photography

- + Limit to one person or professional during the Anointing
- + No individual photographs during the Anointing (*outside of a professional photographer*)
- + Group photograph
 - To be practiced during the rehearsal
 - Newly confirmed setup during Recessional Song



If a group photograph rehearsal (for each parish) does not take place prior to the date of the Mass **no group photograph will be taken with the Bishop for that parish.**

L. Summary Points for the Deacon

- + Proclamation of the Gospel – *Deacon of the Word*
 - Asks for Blessing from Bishop after Incense (*if used*) has been blessed
 - Does **not** kneel in front of the Bishop for the Gospel blessing
 - Choir begins *Gospel Acclamation* after the blessing of incense (*if used*) or after lector(s) have revered the Bishop
 - Incenses the Gospel Book – (2) Center, (2) Left, (2) Right
- + Preparation of the Altar – *Deacon of the Altar (if present)*
 - Master of Ceremonies prepares Altar during the Anointing
 - Receives the Gifts from the Gift Bearers immediately following the General Intercessions without delay (*reference Section I*)
 - Opens all ciboria and fills the Principal Chalice before Bishop's arrival at Altar
 - Presents paten to Bishop
 - Presents chalice to Bishop (*ensuring there is enough wine placed in it for all clergy present*)
 - Incenses the Bishop
 - Incenses the Concelebrants
 - Incenses the Deacon of the Word (*if present*)
 - Incenses the People

- Distribution Chalices to be pre-filled before Mass, if used



Deacon does not place the Paten or the Principal Chalice on the Principal Corporal.

- + During the Eucharistic Prayer kneels at the appropriate time
 - Positions behind the Concelebrating Priests

M. Summary Points for the Priest

+ Imposition of Hands upon the Confirmandi

- Stand next to Bishop after Renewal of Baptismal Promises when invited by the Master of Ceremonies. On the respective side where their Candidates are standing.
- Imposes and lowers hands simultaneously with the Bishop

+ Offertory Collection

- Taken during Mass
- Not brought forward with gifts (bread/wine) – ushers secure immediately
- Clearly identify on *Order of Liturgy* form which charity a portion of the newly confirmed contributions will go to for Ritual Mass celebration
- All Sunday liturgy contributions from the newly confirmed will support their local parish
 - + For combined Confirmation Masses clearly mark on their envelope which parish their contribution should be sent to
- All loose currency (plate) contributions should be divided equally and distributed to each parish that is participating in the ceremony

+ Announcements

- Welcoming Bishop
 - appropriately made after the Greeting by the Bishop
 - advise Master of Ceremonies prior to the Mass for requests/identify on *Order of Liturgy Form*
- Reception or other Parish events
 - appropriately made following the Post-Communion Prayer

+ Gum Chewing

- Those responsible for the preparation of the liturgy are asked kindly to remind the students, sponsors, parents, and the faithful that it is not appropriate to chew gum during Mass and that it should be appropriately discarded before they enter into the church.

+ Honorariums

- Bishop
 - Any stipend is discretionary
- Master of Ceremonies
 - Any honorarium is suggested \$45.00 to \$60.00

+ Recitation of the Holy Rosary before Mass

- In efforts to keep the proper reverence for the Blessed Sacrament preceding Holy Mass is it requested to have a member of the parish community lead the faithful in the praying of the Holy Rosary 30 minutes prior to the start of the liturgy. When the Rosary is complete the candidates may process into the Church with light instrumental music or the organist may play a prelude to draw attention away from unnecessary talk.

+ Reverence to the Blessed Sacrament following Mass

- Following the Recessional Song you are asked to remind the faithful to be seated and

remain silent as possible while photographs are taking place (*if applicable*). For those present who are not taking pictures they are asked to silently and reverently depart the Church for the reception hall.

L. Dress Attire

+ Confirmation Candidate

- Confirmation stoles are not permitted
- Confirmation gowns (white/red) are highly recommended
- Male: No jeans, tank tops, golf shirts, or shirts with any wording. No tennis shoes or sandals.
Oxford shirt, neck tie, dress slacks, dress shoes
- Female: No jeans, low cut tops, spaghetti string tops, or shirts with any wording. No tennis shoes, flip-flops, or sandals

+ Server Attire

- No jeans, shorts, tank tops, golf shirts, or shirts with any wording. No tennis shoes or sandals.
- White oxford shirt, black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes.

Please contact Luke Zoroufy, Master of Pontifical Ceremonies, with any questions.
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