

# The Sacrament of Confirmation

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The Most Reverend William E. Lori has asked that the following guidelines be observed for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

## **Preparation before Mass begins:**

1. Please kindly inform the bishop's master of ceremonies, where the bishop should vest, and please have the lapel microphone ready for him at that location.
2. Confirmation takes place at Mass. The **prayers** may be taken from the Ritual Mass for Confirmation except on the Sundays of Advent, Lent and the Easter season, solemnities, and the days of the Holy Week and Easter Octave when the prayers of the day must be used.
3. **White vestments** are worn when the Ritual Mass of Confirmation is celebrated. However, during Advent, Lent and Easter, on Ash Wednesday, all solemnities, and during the Holy Week and Octave of Easter, the color of the vestments corresponds to the day.
4. The **readings** for the Mass need to be chosen in advance of the ceremony. They may be taken in whole or in part from the Rite of Confirmation which is found in the "Lectionary for Mass" 2002 Edition, Vol. IV, pages 330 and on. On the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, on solemnities, and during the Holy Week and Octave of Easter, the prayers and readings from the day must be used. During the Easter season, Old Testament readings are not used. The first reading is always from the Acts of the Apostles.
5. Normally the bishop's master of ceremonies brings a stock of **Sacred Chrism** for the anointing; however, additional Chrism from the parish is appreciated. The stock of Chrism is placed on the credence table with two purificators.

6. In **preparation for the Mass**, please arrange: a water cruet plus an additional lavabo set, purificators and a lemon sliced on a dish, as well as the sacred vessels for Mass with sufficient number of hosts. Please make sure that the number of vessels, including ciboria in the Tabernacle, corresponds to the number of Holy Communion stations during Mass. If the Holy Communion is to be distributed under both species, please prepare chalices with purificators.
7. Confirmation Mass requires six **altar servers**: cross bearer and two candle bearers (acolytes), insignia bearers (miter and crozier) and book bearer. The **incense** is not used at this Mass. If this number cannot be met, please inform the bishop's master of ceremonies a few days in advance. Vimps are worn by the insignia bearers and are normally brought to the parish by the bishop's master of ceremonies. It is kindly requested that all altar servers be vested and ready for the rehearsal 30 minutes before the ceremony begins. This rehearsal is not a "training session," hence it is expected that the altar servers would have a good knowledge of their role and function.
8. Only if needed, **extraordinary ministers** of Holy Communion are to be assigned Communion stations in the church. As ordinary ministers of the Eucharist, all concelebrating priests and attending deacons are to be assigned Communion stations.
9. Each candidate is to **wear a nametag** with his or her Confirmation name printed legibly in large script. Candidates should be gathered in an auditorium or the church hall half an hour before the Mass. The bishop will visit with them briefly (unless the time and schedule will not permit him to do so). During that session, the Bishop generally asks the candidates questions on the basics of the faith. The candidates and their sponsors should be pre-seated in the church **before** the liturgical procession begins.
10. Generally speaking, the use of photography during the Mass is discouraged so that the solemnity of the celebration is maintained. **Photography** and **videography** by a professional are acceptable, providing they are done discretely. Moreover, the bishop will also be available for pictures immediately after Mass (preferably in the hall or outside the church.)

11. It is expected from the parish to provide the **stipends** for the bishop and his MC. These are used for the charitable works and business travels. A minimum amount is \$400.00 per session is suggested for the bishop and \$100.00 per session for the MC. Checks for Bishop Lori should be made to *The Diocese of Bridgeport*.

### **The Confirmation Mass:**

12. The liturgical **procession** includes (in this order) the cross bearer, acolytes, [deacon of the Gospel], [attending deacons], concelebrants, pastor, master of ceremonies, bishop, deacon chaplains, insignia bearers, and the book bearer.
13. If the **Kyrie** is sung, the choir is asked to do so after *Confiteor* and *Absolution*. **Gloria** follows after *Kyrie*, except in Advent and Lent.
14. The **opening prayer** is taken from the ritual Mass or from the Mass of the day.
15. The **readings** need to be proclaimed from the *Lectionary* rather than from loose sheets. If confirmation candidates serve as readers, please ensure that they are able to do so audibly and with a clear sense of the reading's meaning.
16. If the deacon, who ordinarily proclaims the **Gospel**, is not present, the Pastor or assigned priest does so.
17. The **pastor presents the candidates** after the Gospel is proclaimed. The pastor may choose to read the individual names of the candidates if the number is no greater than 30.
18. The bishop will then give his **homily** from the center aisle. It will be necessary that the bishop have a lapel or handheld **microphone** both for his homily and the Rite of Confirmation.

19. 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**.
20. The bishop will then invite those to be confirmed to kneel for **the laying on of hands** and everyone else to stand.
21. The bishop, himself, will stand for **the anointing with chrism**, which is to be administered in **silence or with very soft instrumental music**, so that the bishop's words to those being confirmed (and their responses) are easily heard. It is kindly requested that candidates come up close to the bishop for the anointing, in a fashion that allows for a smooth flow of the ceremony without waiting time between each candidate.
22. The bishop at the chair will **wash his hands** after the anointing. Servers should take the lavabo set and towel, as well as sliced lemon arranged on a dish, and approach the bishop at his chair.
23. The **General Intercessions** are to be taken directly from the Ritual for Confirmation with an additional one for vocations (see attached). Those who have been confirmed may read them; a few other intercessions may be added.
24. A deacon is to **prepare the altar** when the General Intercessions are concluded in the customary manner. According to the local custom, a collection during the preparation of the altar and gifts may be taken.
25. The bishop will receive **the gifts** in front of the altar with the deacon and servers.
26. The following **prefaces** are to be used: Holy Spirit I (P54), Holy Spirit II (P55) or on Pentecost Sunday, Pentecost (P28) is used.
27. The bishop will say or intone, "*Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.*"
28. It is necessary to know before Mass if the "*Our Father*" is to be sung.
29. After the bishop distributes **Communion** to his deacons, he and the pastor will distribute to the ministers in the sanctuary. The bishop alone will distribute the Hosts to the newly confirmed. After the newly

confirmed have received, the pastor joins the bishop in distributing to the sponsors and the assembly.

30. Communion under both species is optional. If Precious Blood is to be distributed, it is appropriate that there be assigned two ministers of the Cup to every one minister of the Hosts. Those assigned to distribute **the Precious Blood** to the newly confirmed need to go immediately to their assigned stations after they have themselves received Holy Communion.
31. After the bishop has concluded distributing Holy Communion, he goes to the chair, where **the servers wash his hands**.
32. After the prayer after Communion but before the Solemn Blessing and dismissal, the pastor (or another suitable minister) goes to the ambo and makes any general **announcements**, if desired.
33. The order of the **recessional** is the same as the opening procession, except that the newly confirmed should follow **after** the bishop to the reception area.