

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

Archdiocese of Louisville

A completed Liturgy Preparation Form for Confirmation (included separately) is to be sent to both Connie DuPlessis (Office of the Archbishop) and Dr. Karen Shadle (Office of Worship) at least six weeks before the scheduled date for Confirmation.

Liturgical Notes:

- In addition to the normal items needed for Mass, please also prepare:
 - a hard copy of the completed Liturgy Preparation Form in the sacristy
 - the Sacred Chrism that was consecrated during Holy Week (the Archbishop will have some with him, but it is preferred to use the oil that was distributed to the parish)
 - a small table in a prominent place in the sanctuary for the Sacred Chrism (it may be placed there by the Chrism-Bearer during the Entrance Procession)
 - a bowl with water, soap and towel for washing hands after the anointing
- The Archbishop will bring his own vestments (alb, stole, chasuble, mitre and crozier), and the ritual book *The Order of Confirmation*. The Archbishop asks that each parish also keep a copy of the ritual book *The Order of Confirmation* in the sacristy, if possible. This book may be ordered through the Office of Worship.
- **Choice of Liturgy:** When Confirmation is celebrated on a Saturday evening or Sunday, the liturgy of the day is celebrated without substitution, and the vestment color should be the liturgical color which would be used for that Sunday Mass. On other weekdays, the Ritual Mass for Confirmation is used with red vestments.
- **Choice of Readings:** When Confirmation is celebrated on a Saturday evening or Sunday, the readings of the day are used. When the Ritual Mass for Confirmation is celebrated, please select the three readings preceding the Gospel from the Confirmation section in the Lectionary (#764-767). The Gospel may be selected from among these three: Mark 1:9-11; Luke 4:16-22a; Luke 10:21-24.
- Printed **programs/worship aids** for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation should not include the Archbishop's prayers (Collect, Eucharistic Prayer, etc.) If desired, the dialogue between the candidate and the Archbishop during the ritual conferring the sacrament may be printed in the program/worship aid.

- The order of the **Entrance Procession** is as follows:
 - Thurifer / Incense-bearer (optional)
 - Processional cross with candle-bearers
 - Other servers
 - Candidates for Confirmation
 - Sacred Chrism (may be carried by a candidate, a member of the class already confirmed, or by one of the servers)
 - Book of Gospels (carried by the Deacon)
 - Concelebrant(s)
 - Archbishop

- During the conferral of Confirmation, instrumental or sung music is an appropriate support to the Church's prayer for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Any music during this time must be at a soft volume so that the candidates, sponsors, and Archbishop are able to hear one another in the dialogue during this rite.

- The order of the **Recession** at the conclusion of Mass is as follows:
 - Cross-bearer
 - Other servers (the thurible, candles, and Chrism are not carried out in procession)
 - Deacon (the Book of Gospels is not carried out in procession)
 - Concelebrant(s)
 - Archbishop
 - Newly-Confirmed

- Nothing may be added to the liturgy that is not in the official rite for the sacrament of Confirmation. Any exceptions must be approved by the Archbishop.

Letters from Candidates – No Longer Required

Archbishop Shelton no longer will receive letters from the candidates that are to be confirmed. He will instead meet with all the candidates as a group immediately before the Confirmation Mass (a location for this meeting is requested in the Liturgy Preparation Form). Candidates' letters may still be written, but those letters would be addressed to the pastor. Pastors may suggest that answers to the following questions be incorporated into these letters:

- What does Confirmation mean to you?
- How did you prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation?
- Why did you pick your sponsor?
- In what way do you hope to live out your Catholic faith?

Confirmation Names

It is the pious tradition of the Church that candidates select a name for Confirmation. This may be their given name or an entirely new name, provided that it is the name of a canonized Saint or Blessed of the Church. Boys need not choose a male saint; girls need not choose a female saint.

Confirmation Sponsors

The Rite of Confirmation and Canon 893 §2 (Code of Canon Law) state that it is desirable that the godparent at Baptism, if available, also be the sponsor at Confirmation. This practice expresses more clearly the link between the two sacraments of initiation. Nonetheless the option of choosing a special sponsor for Confirmation is not excluded. Although parents may not be sponsors for Confirmation, if they wish, they may present their children for Confirmation by accompanying their child as he/she approaches the Archbishop for the conferral of the sacrament.

A sponsor for Confirmation must:

- be at least 16 years of age
- be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Eucharist,
- lead a life of faith in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken (Canon 874 §1).

Dialogue with the Archbishop

During the conferral of the sacrament, each candidate approaches with his/her sponsor or parent and engages in a brief dialogue with the Archbishop. Candidates should be well prepared for this dialogue. Candidates should wear name tags that clearly indicate their name for Confirmation. The proper text is given below.

Candidate: Archbishop, my name is ____ (Confirmation name).

Archbishop: N., be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Candidate: Amen.

Archbishop: Peace be with you.

Candidate: And with your Spirit.

What should the candidates for Confirmation wear?

No special garment is required for candidates for Confirmation. It is appropriate for candidates to dress in a manner respecting the celebration of the sacrament they are going to receive. It is inappropriate for candidates to wear a stole, since the stole is a sign of ordination.

Stipends

No stipend is necessary for the Sacrament of Confirmation. However, a small stipend may be given to the Deacon who accompanies the Archbishop.

Special Circumstances

Many parishes have experienced an increase in the number of young persons seeking to enter the Catholic Church. Their process of initiation should not be delayed until their peer group is confirmed. Rather, young people age 7 and older are to be baptized or make their profession of faith, be confirmed, and receive their First Holy Communion at the conclusion of their formation process, usually at the Easter Vigil. However, young people in this situation should be invited to participate in the Confirmation Mass along with their classmates. The Liturgy Preparation Form includes a place to list those who fall into this category of already fully initiated.

Sacramental Records

Each parish is responsible for recording the Confirmation in sacramental records for its own parishioners. Confirmation of students from Regional Schools should be recorded in their home parishes.

If Confirmation is held at the Cathedral, the Cathedral will record only the name of the parish, date, and the number of those who were confirmed. The parish should record Confirmation in the sacramental record for its parishioners, indicating that the sacrament took place at the Cathedral.