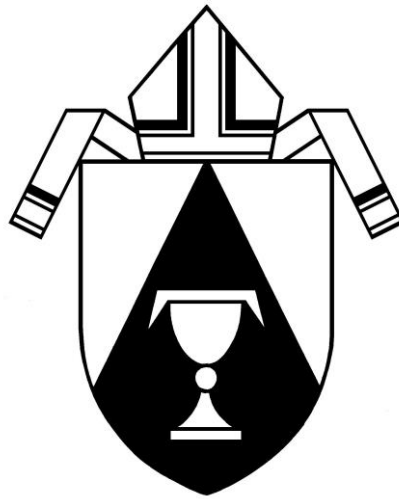


GUIDELINES
FOR THE
PREPARATION
OF THE
ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

(REVISED, JUNE 2017)



DIOCESE
OF
SACRAMENTO

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONFIRMATION LITURGY

General Instructions

1. The Confirmation Mass should exemplify the very best we have to offer liturgically. The Confirmation liturgy should be reverent, dignified and beautiful. This is accomplished by good planning and preparation, thoughtful and well-executed music, active participation by the assembly, and the involvement of competent liturgical ministers.
2. The Confirmation liturgy is never to be a show place for novel or virtuosic performance but should represent the normal liturgical practice of the particular parish community.
3. “The whole people of God, represented by the families and friends of the candidates and by members of the local community, will be invited to take part in the celebration and will endeavor to express their faith by means of the fruits the Holy Spirit has produced in them” (*Order of Confirmation*, no. 4) The cultural and ethnic diversity of the parish community should be taken into account in the preparation of the liturgy.

MASS SETTING

4. The Ritual Mass for Confirmation (Roman Missal Ritual Masses: Christian Initiation: Conferral of Confirmation; Form A, B, or C) is used *except* on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter season, Solemnities, in Holy Week and during the Octave of Easter. On any of these days the Proper Mass setting is used.
5. If Confirmation is celebrated during a regularly scheduled parish Sunday Mass at other times, the Mass setting of the day is used.

READINGS

6. The readings are taken from the Mass of the Day.
7. The readings are proclaimed by qualified, trained readers from the parish community. When the Confirmation candidates are not young children, the readers may be chosen from among the candidates, if they are competent readers. If two readings are used in addition to the Gospel, there should be two readers.

8. The Gospel is to be read by a deacon. If no deacon is present the Gospel is read by the pastor or another concelebrating priest.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

9. The General Intercessions from the *Order of Confirmation* are to be used at all Confirmations in the Diocese of Sacramento. A copy is attached for your convenience. It is permissible to add one or two intercessions if desired. A petition for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life is to be included.
10. The bishop always introduces the intercessions and prays the concluding prayer.
11. If a deacon is present, he is to offer the Intercessions. If no deacon is present, they may be offered by someone involved in the preparation of the candidates. Ordinarily, the intentions should be offered by one person only. However, if they are offered in more than one language, there may be a reader for each language. Someone other than those confirmed read the Intercessions.

ITEMS TO BE PREPARED FOR CONFIRMATION

12. In addition to all that is necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist, the following should be prepared:
 - a.) If the bishop is to administer the sacrament of Confirmation while seated, a chair which can be placed in front of the sanctuary should be readily available. (See the *Specific Instructions for the Order of Confirmation*.)
 - b.) A pitcher of water, bowl, towel, and some lemon slices are to be ready to bring to the bishop so that he may wash his hands when he has finished the anointing.
 - c.) Each parish should have a copy of most recent edition of the Order of Confirmation (published 2016) and have it available to the bishop who may or may not bring his own copy
 - d.) It is expected that the parish will provide the Sacred Chrism along with a small bowl or oil stock. The bishop may or may not supply the Sacred Chrism.

VESTMENTS

13. In Ordinary Time the Confirmation Mass may be celebrated using either red or white vestments. When Confirmation is celebrated on Sunday, the color of the liturgical season is used. On Sundays and weekdays in Lent, purple (violet) is to be used, unless the rubrics specify otherwise (e.g. white for the Annunciation). During the Easter Season white is to be used.
14. The bishop will usually wear vestments belonging to the parish; a stole and chasuble are to be prepared for him. He will bring his own alb.
15. Concelebrating priests vest in the same color as the bishop; they also wear a chasuble if available, otherwise an alb and a stole.

ROLE OF THE DEACON

16. Insofar as possible a deacon shall assist at Confirmations. The deacon proclaims the Gospel, offers the General Intercessions, assists in the Rite of Confirmation, prepares the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and distributes Holy Communion.
17. If there is no deacon available in the parish, the bishop may bring with him a deacon who will, in addition to performing his normal liturgical roles, serve as a Master of Ceremonies.
18. If a deacon is not present, the Gospel is proclaimed by the pastor or another concelebrating priest.

PROCESSIONS

19. It is important that the entrance and recessional processions be rehearsed so they are done in a dignified and reverent manner.
20. Entrance Procession: The candidates for Confirmation enter the church ahead of the liturgical ministers. Walking two by two the candidates follow each other. Someone should be assigned to facilitate this procession so there are no major gaps between candidates.. A procession is a communal act, a sign of unity, not a parade.
21. The liturgical procession follows the candidates in this order:
 - Thurifer (*if incense is used*)
 - Crucifer & servers with candles
 - Additional servers, if any.
 - Readers
 - Deacon with the Book of the Gospels
 - Concelebrating priests
 - Bishop, with one or two deacons, if available.

MUSIC

22. Music is an integral part of all liturgical celebrations. Special care should be given to the planning and execution of music for Confirmation. It should be appropriate to the occasion in terms of musical style and textual content. Music supports the liturgical actions without prolonging the celebration unnecessarily. If the altar is to be incensed and/or the Sprinkling Rite is to be done, music shall accompany the entire liturgical action and correspond to it.
23. The parish Sunday Mass should be the model for the musical program for the Confirmation Mass. Music for Confirmation should be drawn from the normal liturgical music repertoire of the parish community, in order to facilitate the participation of all in attendance, and secondly to acknowledge that those being confirmed are part of a specific worshipping community.
24. The candidates should rehearse the Confirmation rite, especially the responses, as well as the music to be sung at the Confirmation liturgy- Some, if not most of the music should be familiar to the candidates.
25. If a worship aid is printed for the occasion, permission must be acquired for the reproduction of any music to be included. If the parish does not have annual reprint licenses with the various publishers, permission for "onetime use" reproduction may be obtained by contacting the publishers. The Office of Worship, (916) 733-0220, can provide further information on obtaining permission to reproduce music. (Parish events are not covered under a Diocesan reprint license, as is sometimes believed; the parish must obtain permission for each event.)

INTRODUCTORY RITES

26. An entrance hymn accompanies the entrance procession. If there are a great many candidates and the procession will be lengthy, appropriate instrumental music may accompany the entrance of the candidates, reserving the hymn for the procession of the liturgical ministers and the bishop. (It is often useful to have instrumental music for a few minutes before the procession, preceded by the cantor or other minister inviting the people to quiet their hearts and minds in prayer.)
27. Because of the intrinsic link between Baptism and Confirmation, the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water, by which we recall our Baptism, should be used at Confirmations whenever possible, especially during the Easter Season. An appropriate chant or song

should accompany the Sprinkling Rite; however, it should be of such a nature that it can easily be concluded when the ritual action has been completed.

28. The *Gloria* is to be sung at all Confirmations, including weekdays during Lent. However, the *Gloria* is *not* to be sung on Sundays in Lent. It is not permissible to substitute another hymn or canticle for the *Gloria*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

29. The Responsorial Psalm should be sung by a qualified cantor, with an appropriate antiphon (response) for the people.
30. The Verse before the Gospel is sung with its appropriate acclamation (*Alleluia* except in Lent).

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

31. During the anointing by the bishop, an appropriate hymn or psalm may be sung, or instrumental music may be played. Music should be of a quiet and meditative nature so as not to interfere with the exchange between the bishop and candidate, and should not begin until after the first few candidates have been confirmed.
32. If a sung response is used during the General Intercessions, everything must be carefully coordinated so that the prayer flows smoothly and are not prolonged unnecessarily.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

33. The Ordinary of the Mass (Holy, Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen; Lamb of God) should be sung whenever there is singing at Mass. These acclamations are meant to be sung by the entire assembly so the settings should be familiar.
34. Notify the bishop beforehand whether or not the Lord's Prayer will be sung; if the Lord's Prayer is sung, the Doxology "For the kingdom, the power...." is to be sung as well.

35. There is no singing during the Sign of Peace; quiet instrumental music which leads smoothly into the "*Lamb of God*" is acceptable. The exchange of peace is made with those nearby and is not prolonged.
36. A familiar setting of the "*Lamb of God*" should be sung so as to facilitate maximum participation; care should be taken that the setting used is of an appropriate length, or can be brought readily to a close when the liturgical action has been completed.
37. The song during Communion is meant to accompany the liturgical action while calling to mind the great mystery being celebrated. Often a song with a simple refrain is the best choice for the Communion Procession so that people may more easily participate without having to rely on a book or worship aid.
38. A hymn or song of praise after Communion may be sung by the assembly. A period of silence should also be observed at this time.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

39. If announcements are to be made, they are done after the post-Communion prayer. When a Solemn blessing is to be given, the Deacon must remember to instruct the people, saying: "Bow down for the blessing."

OTHER INSTRUCTIONS PERTAINING TO THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

1. Attire: Candidates should dress modestly and in a manner consistent with the dignity and decorum of the sacred liturgy. Men should wear slacks, shirt, tie and dress shoes. Women should wear dresses with a modest neckline and which cover knees and shoulders. Gowns may used. Stoles are not to be worn.
2. Candidates may process into the church ahead of the liturgical ministers, or be seated in advance. If the candidates process they enter two-by-two under the direction of someone appointed to facilitate that movement. Each candidate should have a name tag with his/her baptismal name clearly written on it. The candidate's "saint name" may also be on the name tag.
3. After blessing the people with the Book of Gospels (before the homily), the bishop will sit and the pastor or another priest, or deacon, or catechist presents the candidates for confirmation. There is no set formula, but the Presentation should be simple, clear and direct, e.g.: "Bishop N., _____ parish presents these young people who have been prepared and are now ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is my privilege to present them to you at this time."
4. If there are less than fifty candidates, their names are called individually. Each candidate stands as his or her name is called. After all the names have been called, the candidates sit and the bishop gives the homily.
5. After the homily the candidates stand for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.
6. The Laying on of Hands: After the Renewal of Baptismal Promises the candidates remain standing. The book bearer or deacon holds the Confirmation Ritual for the bishop as he prays with outstretched hands over the candidates as a group. Other assisting priests, if present, also extend their hands during the prayer over the candidates. (*Order of Confirmation. No. 25.*)
7. Anointing with the Sacred Chrism: One of the following procedures is to be followed, depending upon which bishop is presiding.
 - a) When Bishop Soto or Bishop Cotta presides the candidates approach two by two. The two candidates stand shoulder to shoulder so that the bishop may easily anoint each one, turning only slightly from one to the other. Sponsors, standing behind their candidate, place their right hand on the right shoulder of the candidate as they approach the bishop. The sponsor says the name of the candidate to the bishop.

(b) When Bishop Weigand presides, the candidates stand in a row along the front of the sanctuary, with their sponsors standing behind them, hand on shoulder. The bishop will move from candidate to candidate. After each candidate has been anointed, he/she returns to his/her pew and another candidate takes his/her place in the line. After anointing one line of candidates, the bishop moves back in the opposite direction, anointing as he goes. Small children being confirmed should stand on the same level as the bishop. Taller children are to be one step down from the bishop.

Which ever procedure is used, care is to be taken that the bishop can easily anoint the candidates without interruption or delay.

8. Two deacons or servers should accompany the bishop and stand on either side of him, and move with him as needed. The individual on the bishop's right holds the Chrism while the one on his left holds the book. The bishop may decide to hold the Chrism himself.
9. When the candidate comes to the bishop the sponsor announces his/her name. The bishop then anoints his/her forehead, saying: "N., be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." The confirmand immediately answers: "Amen!" The bishop then says: "Peace be with you" and the confirmand responds "and with your spirit." The responses are very important and should be rehearsed.
10. After all have been confirmed, servers bring a pitcher of water, a bowl with lemon slices and a towel to the bishop so that he may wash his hands.
11. After the bishop has washed his hands all stand for the General Intercessions. The bishop says the opening invitation and the concluding prayer. The deacon, if present, offers the general intercessions. If no deacon is present, the intercessions may be offered by someone involved in the preparation of the candidates, but *not* by one of those confirmed. The intercessions provided in the Order of Confirmation may be used. A petition for vocations to the priesthood and religious life is always to be included. Other petitions may be added (cf. Appendix). The person(s) offering the intercessions remains in place until the bishop says the concluding prayer.
12. After the General Intercessions, the Eucharist continues in the usual way. The Creed is not said as the baptismal promises were said earlier. A collection may be taken up. It is fitting that some of the newly-confirmed take up the collection and bring the gifts of bread and wine to the bishop. Additional offertory rituals or symbolic tokens are not permitted.
13. Holy Communion is to be administered under both species. (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, #240). There should be two ministers of the cup for each minister of the host.

14. The Bishop is pleased to accommodate families who wish to take a photo of him with the newly-confirmed for a short time after Mass. If a professional photographer has been hired to take a group picture, the bishop will pose with the group after Mass. It is important always to maintain respectful behavior and decorum whenever photos are being taken in the church. Organizing and rehearsing a group photo ahead of time is highly recommended.

15. The offering given to the Bishop will be deposited into a fund to assist with charitable needs. It is suggested that the amount should correspond to the size of the parish. For a small parish, the suggested offering is \$250, a medium-size parish \$500 is suggested and large-size parish \$750. A very poor parish is not expected to give an offering.

APPENDIX

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Bishop:

My dear friends:

let us be one in prayer to God our Father
as we are one in the faith, hope, and love his Spirit gives.

Deacon or minister:

For these sons and daughters of God, confirmed by the gift of the Spirit,
that they give witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love.

We pray:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For their parents and godparents who led them in faith,
that by word and example they may always encourage them
to follow the way of Jesus Christ.

We pray:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the holy Church of God,
in union with N., our pope, N., our bishop, and all the bishops,
that God, who gathers us together by the Holy Spirit,
may help us grow in unity of faith and love until his Son returns in glory:

We pray:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all people of every race and nation,
that they may acknowledge the one God as Father,
and, in the bond of Christian unity,
seek his kingdom, which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

We pray:

R. Lord hear our prayer.

For vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, that young men and women might respond generously to God's call to full-time ministry in the Church through a consecrated life, and that families and parishes might actively support and nurture vocations.

We pray:

R. Lord hear our prayer.

Bishop:

God our Father, you sent your Holy Spirit upon the apostles,
and through them and their successors you give the Spirit to your people.
May his work begun at Pentecost continue to grow in the hearts of all who believe.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

APENDICE

INTERCESIONES GENERALES

Obispo:

Queridos amigos y amigas:

seamos uno en la oración a Dios Padre

así como somos uno en la fe, la esperanza, y el amor que su Espíritu da.

Diácono o ministro:

Por estos hijos e hijas de Dios,

confirmados por el don del Espíritu,

para que den testimonio de Cristo con sus vidas fundadas en la fe y el amor.

Oremos:

R. Señor, escucha nuestra oración.

Por sus padres y padrinos que los han guiado en la fe,

que por la palabra y el ejemplo

puedan ellos animarlos siempre a seguir el camino de Jesucristo.

Oremos:

R. Señor, escucha nuestra oración.

Por la santa Iglesia de Dios,

junto con N., Nuestro Papa, N., nuestro obispo, y todos los obispos,

que Dios, que nos une por medio del Espíritu Santo,

nos ayude a crecer en unidad de fe y amor hasta la venida gloriosa de su Hijo.

Oremos:

R. Señor, escucha nuestra oración.

Por todos los pueblos de cada raza o nación,

para que reconozcan al único Dios como Padre,

y, en el lazo de unidad común,

busquen su reino, que es la paz y el gozo en el Espíritu Santo.

Oremos:

R. Señor, escucha nuestra oración.

Por vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa,
para que muchachos y muchachas
puedan responder generosamente al llamado de Dios
para ejercer un ministerio completo en la Iglesia por medio de la vida consagrada,
y que las familias y parroquias les apoyen activamente
y animen las vocaciones.

Oremos:

R. Señor, escucha nuestra oración.

Obispo:

Dios Padre,
enviaste tu Espíritu Santo sobre los apóstoles,
y a través suyo y de sus sucesores das el Espíritu a tu pueblo.
Que su obra comenzada en Pentecostés continúe creciendo
en los corazones de todos los creyentes.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo Señor nuestro.