

DIRECTIVES FOR CONFIRMATIONS 2016 - 2017

The Bishop has asked that the following guidelines be observed for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

PREPARATION BEFORE MASS BEGINS

1. **White** gowns should be worn by all of the Candidates for Confirmation.
2. If available, please have the lapel microphone ready for the Bishop to use.
3. Confirmation takes place at Mass. The **prayers** may be taken from the Ritual Mass for Confirmation except on Sundays; days of Advent, Lent and solemnities, when the prayers of the day must be used.
4. **Red vestments** are worn when the Ritual Mass of Confirmation is celebrated. However, during the seasons of Advent, Lent, Easter, and all Solemnities, the color of the vestments corresponds to the day. If the parish does not have a matching set for all the priests who will concelebrate the Mass, they may wear the Diocesan white vestment.
5. The **readings** for the Mass need to be chosen in advance of the ceremony. They may be taken in whole or part from the Rite of Confirmation which is found in the “Lectionary for Mass” 2002 Edition, Volume IV, pages 330 and on. On all Sundays and all Solemnities the prayer and readings from the day must be used.
6. Normally the Bishop brings a stock of **Sacred Chrism** for the anointing. The stock of chrism is placed on the credence table with one purifier.
7. In **preparation for the Mass**, please arrange: a water cruet plus an additional lavabo set, purifier and lemon juice, as well as the sacred vessels for Mass with sufficient number of hosts.
8. If Holy Communion is to be distributed under both species, please prepare chalices with purifiers.

9. Confirmation Mass requires **five altar servers**: cross bearer and two candle bearers (acolytes) and insignia bearers (miter and crozier). If this number cannot be met, please inform the Bishop's Master of Ceremonies a few days in advance.
10. White gloves are worn by the insignia bearers and are brought to the parish by the Bishop's Master of Ceremonies.
11. It is requested that all altar servers be vested and ready for the rehearsal 30 minutes before the ceremony begins.
12. Only if needed, **Extraordinary Ministers** of Holy Communion are to be assigned Communion stations in the church. As Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, all concelebrating Priests and attending Deacons are to be assigned Communion stations.
13. Each candidate is to **wear a nametag** with his or her Confirmation name printed legibly in large script. The Bishop will visit with the Confirmandi briefly before the start of the Mass, unless the time and schedule will not permit him to do so.
14. The Bishop will also be available for pictures immediately after Mass.
15. Music, and if possible sung hymns, must be played during the anointing of the Confirmandi.
16. There is a **minimum number of 30 candidates** for a Confirmation ceremony. If a parish has fewer than 30 candidates in a given year, they may combine with another parish, or hold off the Confirmation ceremony until the following year.
17. It is expected that the parish provide a **stipend** for the Bishop and his Master of Ceremonies. These are used for charitable works and business travel. A minimum amount of \$400.00 per session is suggested for the Bishop and \$100.00 per session for the MC. Please make the Bishop's stipend check out to the Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano and please call the office to confirm the name of the Master of Ceremonies a week prior to the celebration

THE CONFIRMATION MASS

18. The Pastor goes to the ambo and presents the candidates to the Bishop **either as a group or by individual name.**
19. When the Bishop has finished his homily he will stand at the chair and invite those to be confirmed to stand for the renewal of baptismal promises.
20. The Bishop will stand for **the anointing with Chrism.** The Pastor will hold the Vessel with the Chrism standing on the Bishop's right. Appropriate hymns for the anointing may be sung by the congregation and/or choir.
21. The Bishop will **wash his hands** at the chair after the anointing. Servers should take the lavabo set and towel, as well as sliced lemon arranged on a dish or lemon juice and approach the Bishop at his chair.