



**THIS SECTION IS
INTENDED FOR
PARISHES THAT HAVE
CHOSEN
CONFIRMATION
WITH MASS**

MEMORANDUM

TO: *All Liturgy Planners, Musicians, and Readers*

FM: *Office for Divine Worship*

RE: *Requirements/Recommendations for Preparing the Confirmation Liturgy*

- ❖ For the **2023-2024 Confirmation Season**, the Pastor may choose either the *Order of Confirmation within Mass* OR the *Order of Confirmation without Mass*.
- ❖ This Confirmation packet has been specifically created for a Parish that has chosen *Confirmation within Mass*. If you have chosen *Confirmation without Mass*, please see the other attachment in the email for the proper packet.
- ❖ When preparing the Mass for Confirmation, please be sensitive to the Season of the Liturgical Year in which the Sacrament is being celebrated. The Gloria is to be proclaimed/sung even during Lent. Your choice of dignified music is vital.
- ❖ On days when Ritual Masses are permitted, the Ritual Mass for Confirmation with its proper Readings may be celebrated. Diocesan vestments are to be worn by the Concelebrants. On the days within the octave of Easter, Solemnities of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saints listed in the general calendar, and proper solemnities, the Mass of the day, with its readings, is celebrated. The final blessing proper to the Ritual Mass may always be used.
- ❖ When choosing the music for the celebration of *Confirmation within Mass*, choose dignified music in which all present may participate. Music with a short, easily repeatable refrain or antiphon may be most appropriate. Do not play the piece through as an introduction. A good leader of song can encourage a passive assembly by a strong voice and eye contact. The hymn should conclude the current verse when the Bishop arrives at the Chair.
- ❖ An instrumental piece may accompany the procession of gifts.
- ❖ If you are singing the various parts of the Mass, choose one composer's composition and be consistent throughout the whole Mass. In this way the liturgy retains its proper unity.
- ❖ The Responsorial Psalm is to be a sung psalm.
- ❖ All concelebrants are expected to intinct at the time of the reception of Holy Communion.
- ❖ If incense is used, please make sure the Bishop can walk around the entire Altar.
- ❖ Remember that it is unlawful to make use of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion when sufficient priests and deacons are available.



CONFIRMATION LITURGY PLANNING FORM

Parish (es):

City/Cities:

Church Name/City of Ceremony:

Location of Parking Space:

Date of Confirmation

Contact Person:

Number to be Confirmed:

Contact Person's Email:

Number of Concelebrants

Contact Person's Telephone:

Number of Deacons (0,1,2):

Introductory Rites

Entrance Hymn:

Hymn #

Title:

Penitential Act:

☐

Form A (Confiteor), then the Kyrie will be (check one):

☐

Sung

☐

Recited

Gloria: (check one)

☐

Recited

☐

Sung

If sung, Mass setting:

Liturgy of the Word

Reading 1:

Lectionary Page:

No.:

Responsorial Psalm:

Musical Setting:

Reading 2:

Lectionary Page:

No.:

Acclamation before Gospel: (sung)

Gospel:

Lectionary Page:

No.:

Rite of Confirmation

Are there children to be presented to the Bishop that have already been confirmed?

[Students already confirmed will be blessed simply by the Bishop at the end of the Confirmation line.]

If yes, how many?

Anointing Hymns:

Hymn #

Title:

Hymn #

Title:

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts and Altar (only bread and wine are to be in the procession)

Hymn # Title:

Holy, Holy, Holy: Mass Setting:

The Bishop will use Eucharistic Prayer I

Mystery of Faith: Mass Setting:

Great Amen: Mass Setting:

Communion Rite

The **Lord's Prayer, the Embolism and Doxology** will always be recited.

Lamb of God: Mass Setting

Communion:

Hymn # Title:

If a second communion hymn is needed:

Hymn # Title:

Post-communion silence is preferred; if a meditation hymn is sung it must not exceed two verses:

Meditation Hymn:

Will the Pastor be speaking following the Prayer after Communion?

Will there be a reception following the Confirmation Mass?

Concluding Rites

Recessional Hymn

Hymn # Title:

Names of Parochial/Regional Principals & School

Names of Directors of Religious Education & Parish

Additional Liturgical Notes:

SACRISTAN'S CHECKLIST FOR CONFIRMATION

*Please have the following items available in the sacristy prior to Confirmation:
(unless otherwise noted)*

_____ **Chalice for Bishop Schlert**

_____ **Chalice for Concelebrants**

_____ **Tabernacle Key**

_____ **Roman Missal with Bookstand**

_____ **Lectionary** (*properly marked*)

(Bishop Schlert will use a bookstand.)

(please place the ribbons of the Roman Missal to: Ritual Mass for Confirmation and Preface of the Holy Spirit found in the Votive Mass portion of the Missal)

_____ **Chalice Pall**

_____ **Book of the Gospels** (*if being used, properly marked*)

_____ **Corporals (2)**

_____ **Chrism Oil Stock**

_____ **Purificators**

_____ **Thurible and Boat** (*filled with incense*)

_____ **Lemons** (*cut in wedges*)

_____ **Processional Cross**

_____ **White Towels (2)**

_____ **2 Processional Candles**

_____ **Gremial** (*or large amice*)

_____ **Matches**

_____ **Commentary parts for Readers and Pastors in an appropriately covered binder** (*these parts are provided in this Confirmation packet*)

_____ **Paten with hosts** (*include 1 large host for the Bishop and 1/2 large hosts for each concelebrant & deacon*)

_____ **Vessels for Wine and Water**

_____ **Ciboria** (*include sufficient hosts for the assembly*)

_____ **Four (4) gifts are to be placed on the Offertory Table**

_____ **Please have in place:**

➤ **Portable chair for confirming in front of the Altar** (*placed off to the side until needed*)

➤ **Microphone with extension** (*microphone cord long enough to walk among confirmandi—it may not be necessary in small Churches*)

or

Wireless microphone with new batteries (*if using this type of microphone, please have it in the rectory. Please note that both bishops do not wish to wear the style that wraps around an ear.*)

_____ **To participate at the Mass:**

➤ **FIVE - SEVEN (5-7) Vested High School Altar Servers**

➤ **the Reader(s)/Deacon**

➤ **Up to Four (4) Gift Bearers** (*who are confirmandi*)

Order of Confirmation within Mass: General Instructions

MAKE COPIES OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE: DEACON(S)
PRINCIPAL
DRE
READERS
COMMENTATOR
MUSICIANS

SO THAT THEY CAN FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THE CEREMONY PRIOR TO THE BISHOP'S ARRIVAL. THANK YOU.

I. Confirmation will be conferred within Mass in this packet. All priests present, and those invited, may concelebrate. Diocesan vestments should be worn. If a priest is a sponsor, he should be a concelebrant, or in cassock and surplice, and seated in the sanctuary.

The Bishop desires the presence of permanent/transitional deacons, if possible. They may proclaim the Gospel, and lead the intercessions of the Universal Prayer, along with other diaconal functions. They are to be seated in the sanctuary either on the right of the Bishop or on either side of the concelebrating priests.

Confirmation is given to students in 8th Grade. Exceptions to this practice are granted on an individual basis only.

II. Following the Confirmation ceremony, the Bishop is available for individual pictures. For the 2023-2024 Confirmation Season, the Bishop is unavailable for a group photograph. It is strongly encouraged that Pastors make arrangements for one designated photographer to stand in an appropriate location close to the sanctuary, to take a photograph of each individual *confirmand* receiving the Sacrament from the Bishop.

III. If a child has received the sacrament of Confirmation/Chrismation at the time of Baptism and wishes to participate in the Confirmation Ceremony he/she is to: be present with his/her godparent, if possible, seated behind the Confirmation candidates. The child should approach the Bishop last, that is, after all the *confirmandi* have been confirmed and while the Bishop is still seated. The Bishop will impose a blessing upon the child at that point. There will be no introduction or special ceremony for those who have already been confirmed.

Note of this should be made on the "Confirmation Liturgy Planning Form."

- IV. The candidates are to be seated before the ceremony begins (10-15 minutes). They will not have altar servers lead them into the Church.

❖ *The seating arrangements of confirmandi and sponsors is at the discretion of the Pastors for 2023-2024.*

- V. Bishop Schlert will sit in front of the Altar to confirm. He prefers the placement of his seat to be on the floor or first step so that *Confirmandi* and their sponsors do not have to go up several steps.

Please, if possible, have a microphone available for the Bishop's homily with the *confirmandi*. It will also aid in the Profession of Faith and Prayer of the Invocation of the Holy Spirit.

- VI. Each SPONSOR must present a card to the Master of Ceremonies standing next to the Bishop. N.B. Each candidate is to be accompanied by an individual sponsor. A baptismal godparent should serve as sponsor, if possible. The choice of another sponsor, however, is not excluded. *Parents may not act as sponsors*. Only the MC and one other priest or deacon will stand next to the Bishop during the Anointing. Because of concerns with the Bishop hearing the correct name, the Sponsor will not need to say the name to the Bishop. The Sponsor will only hand the card to the MC. The Sponsor still places his/her right hand on shoulder during the Anointing.

The card should contain:

ON THE FRONT:

- a. The candidate's confirmation name in large, capital letters. They may use their baptismal name or the name of a Saint. Names that are not Christian in character must be avoided.

ON THE REVERSE:

- b. The name of the candidate.
c. The name of the candidate's sponsor.

These cards are to be sent to the parish of Baptism. They are not forwarded to the Office for Divine Worship or to the Chancery.

VII. Participation/Worship aids are neither necessary nor desirable. The responses are so few and brief that they can easily be led by a cantor.

The thurible is carried in the opening procession. Incense is imposed prior to the procession and upon entering the sanctuary. The Altar is incensed. Music should not stop until the Bishop finished incensing the Altar and reaches the chair. If the verses of the hymn selected has concluded while the Bishop is incensing the Altar, instrumental music should continue until he has reached the chair. Upon reaching the chair, the current verse concludes the hymn.

VIII. Three readings are to be used in the Liturgy of the Word. Please refer to the enclosed attachment entitled *Summary of Best Practices for Confirmation* for the Bishop's request for Readings. During the entire Easter Season, no Old Testament reading may be used. If the Confirmation falls on a Solemnity, the Readings prescribed for the day are to be used.

Only after the Bishop is seated and has received the miter is the reader to approach the Ambo. If the reader is a *confirmand*, he/she should be prepared beforehand and be able to read well. Before reading, he/she should adjust the microphone to his/her height.

No Readings should be read from typed or photocopied sheets, they are to be always read from the Lectionary only.

Readers are to introduce the Readings exactly as they appear in the Lectionary. They are not to begin: "*The first reading is...the second reading is...*" At no time are any indications in small red print to be read. Readers are to be made aware that the Readings end first with a pause, followed by the proclamation: "THE WORD OF THE LORD."

Readers, deacons, and all who proclaim the Word are to refrain from raising the Lectionary/Book of the Gospels at the conclusion of the Readings.

IX. The Responsorial Psalm should be sung and should indeed be a Psalm.

X. The Verse before the Gospel, as well, should be sung. The readers/organists/cantors should also be instructed not to indicate: "Please stand for the Gospel." Incense will not be used at the time of the Gospel.

XI. The Deacon or, in his absence, the Pastor reads the Gospel. The Pastor asks the Bishop for a blessing if proclaiming the Gospel ("Your blessing, Father" remains the formula for the Bishop). The Deacon/Priest is not to extend his hands at "The Lord be with you." Immediately afterward, the Pastor will present the candidates to the Bishop. The presentation is included in the Confirmation packet on a separate sheet of paper, clearly marked. The Pastor should see to it that this presentation is at the Ambo before Mass begins.

XII. The Bishop will speak to the *confirmandi* during the homily. The questions will no longer be part of the homily for Confirmation. ****N.B.**** It is the Pastor's responsibility to review each of the questions with the *confirmandi* PRIOR to the Confirmation Liturgy to ensure their preparedness.

XIII. All of the *confirmandi* will be invited to stand and renew their baptismal promises and remain standing for the prayer of invocation. Candidates should make their response in a clear and enthusiastic manner.

XIV. After the MC has prepared the Bishop at the chair for Confirmation, the reader/commentator will instruct the candidates to come forward. Please be sure the *confirmandi* kneel as close to the chair as possible. A kneeler for the *confirmandi* is preferred unless they kneel on the first step.

The sponsor will hand the card with only the Confirmation name on the front of it to the Master of Ceremonies or priest or deacon. Meanwhile the sponsor places his/her hand on the right shoulder of the candidate.

XV. Candidates are to have practiced and know the responses at the time of their anointing:

Bishop: _____, *be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit*

Candidate: AMEN

Bishop: *Peace be with you.*

Candidate: AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

Please note: no other gesture or response is permitted.

XVI. The *Veni Creator Spiritus* or *Come Holy Ghost* should accompany the anointing but should not begin until the first couple of candidates are anointed. Music during the Anointings cannot be of such a volume as to overpower the dialogue taking place between the Bishop and the *confirmand*.

XVII. The Bishop will wash his hands at his place after the anointing. The following should be available in the sacristy beforehand:

- a. Two white linen towels (*small powder room towels*).
- b. One lemon cut in quarters.

Note: The Bishop does not require bread for the cleaning of his hands.

XVIII. Up to four of the *confirmandi* are to present the gifts. They will be led to the rear of the Church by an altar server. They are not to leave during the intercessions. The altar server will lead the young people to the Bishop/MC, who will assist them. While walking up the aisle, they are to hold the gifts up, come to the Bishop and present him their gift, step to the side and wait until all four gifts have been given. The MC will instruct them to bow. They return to their places, unaccompanied by the server. They are to be instructed beforehand that no genuflection takes place at the time of the presentation of the gifts. Music should accompany this action, followed by the hymn at the time of the preparation. Incense will be used at the preparation of the Altar. A song or an instrumental piece of music should accompany the incensation. The deacon should incense the Bishop, concelebrants, and the people.

XIX. The recessional hymn should be sung by the assembly. The procession will move at the start of the hymn. The order of the procession: thurifer, cross, candles, priests, Bishop, insignia bearers and book bearer. The newly confirmed and their families will remain in their pews and not participate in the final procession.

XX. Altar servers are to be experienced high school students. If you do not have high school servers, the local Catholic high school will willingly supply them. They are to be in the sacristy 45 minutes before the ceremony. Do not assign the servers to various positions; the MC will be responsible for determining their roles. If possible, have the names of the servers (and grade) available on the vesting case for the MC. Seats should be provided in the sanctuary for the servers. Seventh and eighth graders can substitute for high school servers, in extreme necessity, but servers in lower grades are not preferred. Before the Confirmation, Bishop will speak to the servers and a prayer will be said before beginning with the servers and clergy.

XXI. Records: The Confirmation Register must include: name of the minister of Confirmation, the confirmed, parents, sponsor, and date and place of the sacrament.

Notation is also to be made in the baptismal register, or sent to the Parish of Baptism. This is the principal reason for the retention of the "traditional" cards carried by the candidates. They can be mailed to the Parish of Baptism for notification purposes.

XXII. Indulgence: Please announce either at Mass or in the parish bulletin the week prior to Bishop Schlert's visit:

As the Bishop is present for his canonical visitation, the following indulgences may be gained:

- a. A plenary indulgence to the faithful who assist at ceremonies at which the Bishop presides during his pastoral visitation.
- b. A partial indulgence to the faithful who make a visit to their parish church at the time of the Bishop's visitation.

XXIII. Readers/Commentators/Lectors: These terms have been combined merely to read: "Reader". This is to simplify matters in the case where one person fulfills all these functions. It is the task of the pastor/DRE/school community to distribute these roles if they are to be taken by more than one person.

XXIV. Confirmation Robes: Those who are to be confirmed are permitted to wear Confirmation robes at the Mass in which the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered. The decision to use Confirmation robes is to be made locally by the Pastor and those with whom he wishes to consult. Only red robes for both male and female *confirmandi* are to be worn. Confirmation "stoles" may not be used. If a parish decides to utilize Confirmation robes they are reminded that they should be of distinguished quality worthy of the celebration. The Rose Therese Cap and Gown Company (1-888-266-4696 or www.rosetherese.com) has both rental and retainable robes. They are a recommended company for those who wish to utilize them, however, no Pastor or Parish is obligated to do so. You may wish to use this company or any other.
(Recommended by the Council of Priests on 19 September 2005).

XXV. Liturgy of the Hours: Priests, Deacons, and Consecrated Religious are dispensed from the Hours that coincide with the Bishop's Pastoral Visit.

Other Practical Considerations for the Pastor and Others

- Please reserve a parking space for the Bishop that is easy to enter and exit and is close to the rectory. Please be sure to type on the planning form the location of the parking spot.
- Presentations of any kind (*Spiritual bouquets, flowers, baskets, gifts, etc.*) should be made in the rectory or vesting area before the Ceremony begins.
- Bishop Schlert will bring his own Sacred Chrism for the Ceremony. However, please have extra available.
- Individual pictures may take place after the ceremony.
- Bishop Schlert and the Master of Ceremonies will stay for dinner with the clergy of the Parish(es). If there is an exceptional circumstance when this is not possible, please feel free to discuss with Father Mathur.
- As always, in compliance with the Diocesan Code of Conduct, no minors are to be involved in the serving of post-Confirmation meals.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

**Bishop, the parish(es) of _____
presents to you our sons and daughters who are candidates
for Confirmation.**

Will the candidates please stand?

**Under the guidance of their parents and catechists, and with
the prayerful support of this community, they have prepared, and
are now ready to complete their initiation into the Body of Christ
begun at their baptism. I ask that you impose hands upon them
and anoint them with Sacred Chrism.**

**May our celebration on this sacred day enkindle the fire of love
in the hearts of our candidates, nurture our parish family and
strengthen all of us in word and in deed to be true disciples of
Jesus Christ and His witnesses in the world.**

Please be seated.



RITE OF CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS

Greeting

Bishop Schlert:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

All:

Amen

Bishop Schlert:

Peace be with you.

All:

And with your spirit.

Act of Penitence

Bishop Schlert:

**Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge
our sins and prepare ourselves to celebrate
the sacred mysteries.**

(pause)

Penitential Rite: Form A

I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (strike breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Bishop Schlert:

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All:

Amen.

Either recited or sung:

Lord, Have Mercy (Congregation responds)

Christ, Have Mercy (Congregation responds)

Lord, Have Mercy (Congregation responds)

Gloria

(normally sung)

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

Bishop Schlert:

Let us pray.

Grant, we pray, almighty and merciful God, that the Holy Spirit, coming near and dwelling graciously within us, may make of us a perfect temple of his glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit God, forever and ever.

All

Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

Homily

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Following the homily, the commentator/cantor gives the following instruction:

Will the Candidates for Confirmation please stand. (pause) At this time, the Candidates will renew their baptismal promises.

BISHOP SCHLERT:

Do you renounce Satan, and all his works and empty promises?

I do.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation is given to you in a special way just as he was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost?

I do.

Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

I do.

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Imposition of Hands

Dearly beloved, let us pray to God the almighty Father, for these, his adopted sons and daughters, already born again to eternal life in Baptism, that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon them to confirm them with his abundant gifts, and through his anointing conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God.

with hands extended over the candidates

Almighty God, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who brought these your servants to new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, freeing them from sin:

Send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete; give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety, fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Individual anointings follow using the prescribed formula.

Universal Prayer

BISHOP SCHLERT: My dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly pray to God the Almighty Father and be of one mind in our prayer, just as faith, hope, and charity, which proceed from his Holy Spirit, are one.

Deacon: For these his servants, whom the gift of the Holy Spirit has confirmed: that, planted in faith and grounded in love, they may bear witness to Christ the Lord by their way of life, let us pray to the Lord...

Deacon: For their parents and sponsors: that by word and example they may continue to encourage those whom they have sponsored in the faith to follow in the footsteps of Christ, let us pray to the Lord...

Deacon: For the holy Church of God together with Francis our Pope, Alfred our Bishop, and all the Bishops: that, gathered by the Holy Spirit, the Church may grow and increase in unity of faith and love until the coming of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord...

Deacon: For the newly confirmed, that the seven fold gifts of the Holy Spirit will guide them in discerning their vocation to the married life, the priesthood, or the religious life so that God's will for them will be fulfilled, let us pray to the Lord...

BISHOP SCHLERT: O God, who gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles and willed that through them and their successors the same Spirit be handed on to the rest of the faithful, listen favorably to our prayer, and grant that your divine grace, which was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, may now spread through the hearts of those who believe in you. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

BISHOP SCHLERT:

Let us pray:

Accompany with your blessing from this day forward, O Lord, those who have been anointed with the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Sacrament of your Son, so that, with all trials overcome, they may gladden your Church by their holiness and, through their works and their charity, foster her growth in the world. Through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

(Pastor's comments)

Final Blessing

BISHOP SCHLERT

The Lord be with you.

All:

And with your spirit.

Deacon (if present) or the Pastor:

Bow down for the blessing.

BISHOP SCHLERT:

May God the Father almighty bless you, whom he has made his adopted sons and daughters reborn from water and the Holy Spirit, and may he keep you worthy of his fatherly love.

All:

Amen.

May his Only Begotten Son, who promised that the Spirit of truth would abide in his Church, bless you and confirm you by his power in the confession of the true faith.

All:

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, who kindles the fire of charity in the hearts of disciples, bless you and lead you blameless and gathered as one into the joy of the Kingdom of God.

All:

Amen.

May almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Deacon (if present): Go forth, the Mass is ended. All: Thanks be to God.

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

**St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.**

**Be our protection against the wickedness and
snares of the Devil.**

**May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,**

**O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world seeking
the ruin of souls.**

Amen.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS

SCRIPT FOR LECTOR/COMMENTATOR

This outline must accompany the reader/musicians/others for the Confirmation ceremony.

READER: 4 minutes before Mass please read:

Good Afternoon!

Welcome to our parish's celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. A reminder that all cell phones should be turned to silence or off at this time.

ENTRANCE RITE

- I. *Do not begin until the master of ceremonies signals the reader/commentator to begin:*

Bishop Schlert is the Main Celebrant at our Holy Sacrifice of the Mass this afternoon.

Please stand and join in singing our entrance chant #_____.

- II. **SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GREETING**

- III. **ACT OF PENITENCE** *led by Bishop or Deacon*

- IV. **KYRIE** *sung or recited*

- V. **GLORIA** *sung or recited, even during Lenten season. If sung, the Bishop will not intone it*

- VI. **COLLECT**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- VII. **READINGS / PSALM**

After the Bishop has received his miter, the lector comes forward to proclaim the Readings. If the lector passes before the Bishop, the lector should bow reverently.

The lector should read from and introduce the Reading as they appear in the Lectionary, never saying: "The first Reading is from..." or, "Please stand for the Gospel, " etc. The book is NOT to be raised at the end of the Reading.

Please note that the Readings conclude with: "THE WORD OF THE LORD."

The Responsorial Psalm is always sung and is to be a Psalm.

After the Second Reading an appropriate Gospel Acclamation is sung, never recited.

VIII. GOSPEL

A deacon or, if none is present, the Pastor, receives the Bishop's blessing by standing before the Bishop and proceeds to the Ambo for the Gospel.

The Gospel concludes: "THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD."

IX. PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

After everyone has been seated, the Pastor presents the candidates

(SEE ENCLOSED SHEET FOR THE TEXT OF THE PRESENTATION)

X. HOMILY

XI. RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES/IMPOSITION OF HANDS

At the conclusion of the questions and after the Bishop has returned to the sanctuary area, the MC will give the reader/cantor the signal. The candidates should be instructed to speak their answers loudly.

READER: Will the Candidates please stand.

At this time, the candidates will renew their baptismal promises.

Bishop:

Do you renounce Satan, and all his works and empty promises?

I DO.

Do you believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

I DO

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

I DO

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation is given to you in a special way just as he was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost?

I DO

Do you believe in the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

I DO

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

AMEN

The Bishop introduces the prayer and then prays the following:

Almighty God, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who brought these your servants to new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, freeing them from sin: send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete; give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety; fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

XII. ANOINTING

Bishop Schlert will sit in the front of the Altar. The MC will give the reader/cantor the signal to announce the following:

READER: Will those who are to be confirmed and their sponsors please come forward.

If the congregation is standing, also announce:

All others may be seated.

During the Anointing, hymns are sung, but only after the first few young people have been confirmed. Afterwards, hymns can be sung/announced, but not continuously.

If hymn is sung, announce:

"Our hymn during the anointing is _____."

After the Anointing, the Bishop will wash his hands.

XIII. UNIVERSAL PRAYER

If a deacon is present, their ministry requires that they lead the intercessions, otherwise an adult or one of the young people may lead the community.

Please stand.

Bishop:

My dear friends: let us humbly pray to God the almighty Father and be of one mind in our prayer, just as faith, hope and charity, which proceed from his Holy Spirit, are one.

Deacon/Reader:

For these his servants, whom the gift of the Holy Spirit has confirmed; that, planted in faith and grounded in love, they may bear witness to Christ the Lord by their way of life, let us pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon/Reader:

For their parents and sponsors: that by word and example they may continue to encourage those whom they have sponsored in faith to follow in the footsteps of Christ, let us pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon/Reader:

For the Holy Church of God, together with Francis, our Pope, Alfred, our Bishop, and all the Bishops: that, gathered by the Holy Spirit, the Church may grow and increase in unity of faith and love until the coming of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon/Reader:

For the newly confirmed, that the seven fold gifts of the Holy Spirit will guide them in discerning their vocation to the married life, the priesthood, or the religious life so that God's will for them will be fulfilled, let us pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bishop:

O God, who gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles and willed that through them and their successors the same Spirit be handed on to the rest of the faithful, listen favorably to our prayer, and grant that your divine grace, which was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, may now spread through the hearts of those who believe in you. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Deacon/Reader: Please be seated.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Reader:

The hymn during the preparation of the gifts is _____.

XIV. PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

The Mass follows as usual. The Eucharistic prayer, acclamations, Great Amen will be indicated on the Confirmation Liturgy Planning Form. It should not be necessary to introduce these by announcement.

The reader should be sensitive to the fact that the young people, often enough, are uncertain as to when they are to stand/kneel. If needed, a simple gesture or announcement from your place is all that is necessary: "please stand...please kneel."

XV. COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer, Sign of Peace and Lamb of God follow. Again, if the young people need direction to kneel after the Lamb of God, this can be done by the reader.

At the time that the Bishop receives from the chalice and the concelebrants intinct from a separate chalice, while the reader announces:

"Our Communion chant is # _____."

XVI. THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

The reader waits until the Tabernacle is closed and announces the following. A reminder that the preference is for silence after Holy Communion. If a meditation song must be done it is not to exceed two verses.

XVII. PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Words of thanks, invitations to the reception to follow, greetings by the pastor, etc. can be made after the closing prayer.

XVIII. BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Bishop or the deacon, if present, indicates:

"Bow down for the blessing."

After the blessing, the Bishop or the deacon, if present, indicates:

"Go forth, the Mass is ended."

Reader:

"Our recessional chant is # _____."



THE CONFIRMATION QUESTIONS (FROM THE BASIC CATECHISM)

Please note that it is the Pastor's responsibility to review each of these questions with the Confirmandi PRIOR to the Confirmation Liturgy to ensure their preparedness. These questions will no longer be a part of the homily for Confirmation.

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is the sacrament in which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to join us more closely to Jesus and His Church and to seal and strengthen us as Christ's witnesses.

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WHAT ARE THE SACRAMENTS?

The Sacraments are sacred signs through which Jesus gives us His Spirit and makes us holy and pleasing to Him by grace.

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HOW MANY SACRAMENTS ARE THERE?

There are seven sacraments.

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WHAT ARE THE NAMES OF THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS?

The seven sacraments are: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony.

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HOW IS CONFIRMATION GIVEN?

The Bishop extends his hands over the person and anoints the forehead in the form of a cross while saying: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." The person being confirmed answers, "Amen," meaning, "Let it be so." The Gift is the Holy Spirit Himself. He is the Gift of the Father and the Son to us.

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WHAT IS CHRISM?

Chrism is a blessed mixture of oil and balm used during the baptismal ceremony, in Confirmation, during the Ordination of Priests and Bishops, and in the Consecration of Churches, Altars, and other things.

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WHO IS THE MINISTER OF CONFIRMATION?

The Bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation.

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WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF CONFIRMATION?

The effects of Confirmation are: an increase of sanctifying grace, the gift of a special sacramental grace and the imprint of a lasting character on the soul.

WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, right judgment (or counsel), courage (or fortitude), knowledge, reverent love (or piety) and holy fear.

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