

DIRECTIVES FOR CONFIRMATIONS
2017

Revised: January 1, 2017

The following guidelines will be observed for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

GENERAL NORMS

1. **White** gowns will be worn by all Candidates for Confirmation.
 - a. Each candidate is to **wear a nametag** with his or her **Confirmation name** printed legibly in large script.
2. The **minimum number of candidates** needed for a Confirmation ceremony to be held in any parish is **30**.
 - a. 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.

PREPARATION FOR MASS

3. Confirmation always takes place during the celebration of **Mass**.
 - a. The prayers for Mass may be taken from the Ritual Mass for Confirmation.
 - b. On all Sundays, all days of Advent (both daily and Sunday), Lent (both daily and Sunday) and all Solemnities of the Lord, the prayers of the respective day must be used.
4. **Red vestments** are worn when the Ritual Mass of Confirmation is celebrated.
 - a. During the seasons of Advent, Lent, Easter, and all Solemnities, the color of the vestments must correspond to the liturgical day.
5. **Altar servers:** Confirmation Mass requires **five** altar servers. They are:
 - a. A cross bearer, two candle bearers and two insignia bearers (miter and crozier).
 - i. If this number cannot be met, please inform the Bishop's Master of Ceremonies a few days in advance.

- b. All altar servers should be vested and ready for the rehearsal 30 minutes before the ceremony begins.
 - c. White gloves are worn by the insignia bearers and are brought to the parish by the Bishop's Master of Ceremonies.
6. **Incense** is ordinarily not used during Confirmation Mass.
- a. However, if a pastor wishes to use incense at the Mass, he must arrange to have two additional servers available for this purpose.
7. **Other items to be prepared:**
- a. A water cruet plus an additional lavabo set,
 - b. A purificator and lemon juice,
 - c. The sacred vessels for Mass with sufficient number of hosts.
 - d. If available, a lapel microphone ready for the Bishop to use.
8. **A stock of Sacred Chrism** is normally brought by the Bishop.
- a. The stock of chrism is placed on the credence table with one purificator.

THE CONFIRMATION MASS

9. **Opening Procession:** If the candidates are to **process** in, they should do so prior to the liturgical procession that begins the Mass.
- a. Instrumental Music should be played while the candidates process to their seats.
 - b. Once the candidates are seated, the liturgical procession will begin, accompanied with the singing of the opening hymn.
10. The **readings** for the Mass need to be chosen in advance of the ceremony and indicated on the planning sheet.
- a. The readings may be taken part in whole or in part from the Rite of Confirmation [i.e., "Lectionary for Mass" 2002 Edition, Volume IV, pages 330 etc.].
 - b. On all Sundays and Solemnities, the readings of the day must be used.
 - c. During the weekday celebration of Mass in the seasons of Advent, Lent and Easter, the readings may be taken from either the respective day or from the Rite of Confirmation (see #A above).

11. After the reading of the Gospel, the Pastor goes to the ambo and presents the candidates to the Bishop **either as a group or by individual name**.
 - a. There will be **no formal response** by the Bishop to the presentation of candidates, since the ritual for Confirmation does not envision it.
 - b. The pastor may ask the congregation to show its approval with a round of applause, followed by an instruction for all to be seated.
12. 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.
13. The Bishop will stand for **the anointing with Chrism**. The Pastor will hold the Vessel with the Chrism standing on the Bishop's right.
 - a. Music **must always** be played during the anointing.
14. The Bishop will **wash his hands** after the anointing. Servers should take the lavabo set and towel, as well as lemon juice and approach the Bishop before he returns to his chair.
15. Ordinarily there should be an **offertory procession** during which the candidates can participate.
16. The candidates should **not** receive Holy Communion prior to everyone else. Rather, the Bishop will offer Holy Communion to the newly confirmed as other ministers begin to offer Communion to the rest of the faithful.
 - a. If Holy Communion is to be distributed under both species, please prepare a sufficient number of chalices with a corresponding purificator.
17. Only in the absence of Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should **Extraordinary Ministers** of Holy Communion be assigned Communion stations in the church.

ADDITIONAL NORMS

18. The Bishop will be available for **pictures** immediately after Mass.
 - a. If the confirmed are processing out of Church at the end of Mass, they are always to follow at the **end of the closing procession**. They should immediately walk to the place where the photos will be held, maintaining a line formation.

- b. If the confirmed are not processing out of Church at the end of Mass, they are to remain at their places until photos can begin.
- c. Parents and sponsors who wish to take photos or be included in the photos should be instructed to immediately proceed to the place where they will be taken after Mass.

19. 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