



**DIRECTIVES FOR
CONFIRMATIONS
IN THE
DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT**

School Year 2011 - 2012

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<http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com/index.php/diocesanresources>

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The Sacrament of Confirmation

The Most Reverend William E. Lori has asked that the following guidelines be observed for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

PREPARATION BEFORE MASS BEGINS

1. Please have the lapel microphone and a glass of water ready for the Bishop at the location indicated on the planning form where he will vest for Mass.
2. Confirmation takes place at Mass. The **prayers** may be taken from the Ritual Mass for Confirmation except on the Sundays of Advent, Lent and the Easter season, solemnities, and the days of the Holy Week and Easter Octave when the prayers of the day must be used.
3. **White vestments** are worn when the Ritual Mass of Confirmation is celebrated. However, during Advent, Lent and Easter, on Ash Wednesday, all solemnities, and during the Holy Week and Octave of Easter, the color of the vestments corresponds to the day.
4. The **readings** for the Mass need to be chosen in advance of the ceremony. They may be taken in whole or in part from the Rite of Confirmation which is found in the “Lectionary for Mass” 2002 Edition, Vol. IV, pages 330 and on. On the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, on solemnities, and during the Holy Week and Octave of Easter, the prayers and readings from the day must be used. During the Easter season, Old Testament readings are not used; the first reading is usually from the Acts of the Apostles.
5. Normally the bishop’s master of ceremonies brings a stock of **Sacred Chrism** for the anointing; however, additional Chrism from the parish is appreciated. The stock of Chrism is placed on the credence table with two purificators.
6. In **preparation for the Mass**, please arrange: a water cruet plus an additional lavabo set, purificators and a lemon sliced on a dish, as well as the sacred vessels for Mass with sufficient number of hosts. Please make sure that the number of vessels, including ciboria in the Tabernacle, corresponds to the

number of Holy Communion stations during Mass. If Holy Communion is to be distributed under both species, please prepare chalices with purificators.

7. Confirmation Mass requires six altar servers: cross bearer and two candle bearers (acolytes), insignia bearers (miter and crozier) and book bearer. If this number cannot be met, please inform the bishop's master of ceremonies a few days in advance. Vimps or white gloves are worn by the insignia bearers and are brought to the parish by the bishop's master of ceremonies. **Incense** is ordinarily not used at this Mass. **PLEASE NOTE: It is requested that all altar servers be vested and ready for the rehearsal 30 minutes before the ceremony begins. This rehearsal is not a "training session," hence it is expected that the altar servers have a good knowledge of their role and function; parishes are asked to assign experienced altar servers to serve Confirmation Masses.**
8. 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.
9. Each candidate is to **wear a nametag** with his or her Confirmation name printed legibly in large script. Candidates should be gathered in an auditorium or the church hall half an hour before the Mass. The Bishop will visit with them briefly (unless the time and schedule will not permit him to do so). During that session, the Bishop generally asks the candidates questions on the basics of the faith. **PLEASE NOTE: The candidates and their sponsors should be pre-seated in the church before the liturgical procession begins.**
10. Generally speaking, the use of **photography** during the Mass is discouraged so that the solemnity of the celebration is maintained. Photography and videography by a professional are acceptable, providing they are done discretely. Moreover, the bishop will also be available for pictures immediately after Mass (preferably in the hall or outside the church.)
11. There will be a **minimum number of 20 candidates** for a Confirmation ceremony. If a parish has fewer than 20 candidates in a given year, they may combine with another parish, or hold off the Confirmation ceremony until the following year.

12. It is requested that, if a **program** is prepared, the **USCCB Guidelines** for the Reception of Holy Communion be included:

Guidelines for the Reception of Communion

provided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For our fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 § 4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 § 3).

For those not receiving Holy Communion

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

13. It is expected from the parish to provide the **stipends** for the bishop and his MC. These are used for the charitable works and business travels. 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 checks out to the Most Reverend William E. Lori.**

THE CONFIRMATION MASS

14. The liturgical **procession** includes (in this order) the cross bearer, acolytes, [deacon of the Gospel], [attending deacons], concelebrants, pastor, master of ceremonies, bishop, deacon chaplains, insignia bearers, and the book bearer.
15. If the **Kyrie** is sung, the choir is asked to do so after the *Confiteor* and *Absolution*. The **Gloria** is said or sung.

16. The **Opening Prayer** is taken from the ritual Mass or from the Mass of the day.
17. The **readings** need to be proclaimed from the *Lectionary* rather than from loose sheets. If Confirmation candidates serve as readers, please ensure that they are able to do so audibly and with a clear sense of the reading's meaning.
18. For Confirmations which take place in the **Easter Season**, it is recommended that at least the processional and recessional hymns be Easter hymns. Likewise, for Confirmations in Advent and Lent, seasonally appropriate liturgical music is requested.
19. If the deacon, who ordinarily proclaims the **Gospel**, is not present, the Pastor or another assigned priest does so. *The Gospel Book is brought to the Bishop to be revered after the Gospel is proclaimed.*
20. The Pastor then goes to the ambo and invites the candidates to **stand**. He **presents** the candidates to the Bishop *as a group*. The pastor may choose to read the individual names of the candidates **only if there are fewer than 30**.
21. The bishop will then give his **homily** from the center aisle. It will be necessary that the bishop have a lapel or handheld **microphone** both for his homily and for the Rite of Confirmation.
22. When the bishop has finished his homily he will stand in front of the altar and invite those to be confirmed to stand for **the renewal of baptismal promises**.
23. The bishop will then invite those to be confirmed to kneel for **the laying on of hands** and everyone else to stand.
24. The bishop, himself, will stand for **the anointing with chrism**, which is to be administered in **silence** or with **very soft instrumental music**, so that the bishop's words to those being confirmed (and their responses) are easily heard. **PLEASE NOTE:** When candidates approach the Bishop for the anointing with Chrism, it would be very helpful to have a *catechist or Confirmation teacher* **guide** the candidates up to the Bishop, so that he can conveniently confirm without reaching.

25. 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, and approach the bishop at his chair.
26. The **General Intercessions** are to be taken directly from the Ritual for Confirmation with an additional one for vocations (see attached). Those who have been confirmed may read them; a few other intercessions may be added.
27. A deacon is to **prepare the altar** in the customary manner when the General Intercessions are concluded. According to the local custom, a collection during the preparation of the altar and gifts may be taken.
28. The bishop will receive **the gifts** in front of the altar with the deacon and servers.
29. One of the following **prefaces** is to be used: Holy Spirit I (in *Votive Masses*, #9a), Holy Spirit II (in *Votive Masses*, #9b) or on Pentecost Sunday, the Preface of Pentecost (found within the Mass for Pentecost Sunday).
30. The bishop will say or intone, “*Let us proclaim the mystery of faith,*” just as the principal celebrant does at every Mass.
31. It is necessary to know before Mass whether the “*Our Father*” is to be sung.
32. After the Bishop distributes **Holy Communion** to his deacons, he and the pastor will distribute to the ministers in the sanctuary. The Bishop alone will distribute the Hosts to the newly confirmed ***unless there is a large number, in which case the Pastor will join.*** After the newly confirmed have received, the pastor joins the Bishop in distributing to the sponsors and the assembly if he has not done so already.
33. Communion under both species is optional. If the Precious Blood is to be distributed, it is appropriate that there be assigned two ministers of the Chalice to every one minister of the Hosts. Those assigned to distribute the **Precious Blood** to the newly confirmed need to go immediately to their assigned stations after they have themselves received Holy Communion.
34. After the Bishop has concluded distributing Holy Communion, he goes to the chair, where **the servers wash his hands**. The water from this washing is to be poured down the *sacrarium* or on the ground outside.

35. After the Prayer after Communion but before the Blessing and dismissal, the pastor (or another suitable minister) goes to the ambo and makes any general **announcements**, if desired. **PLEASE NOTE: It is requested that the Pastor ask that applause be held to the end of the thank-yous.**
36. The order of the **recessional** is the same as the opening procession, except that the newly confirmed should follow **after** the bishop to the reception area.

CONFIRMATION MASS WITH ARCHBISHOP CRONIN

37. **Archbishop Cronin** will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation as it is described in the above directives for Bishop Lori. A larger print *Roman Missal* would be much appreciated if one is available.
38. The Archbishop's title (for use if programs will be prepared) is: The Most Reverend Daniel A. Cronin, Archbishop Emeritus of Hartford.
39. When the Archbishop is ready for the anointing with chrism, he will be at the step, and the deacon (or other designated priest or minister) should stand on his **left**, holding the chrism stock, and the pastor should stand on his **right**, *reading the candidates' names aloud*.
40. Please have a **Missal stand** ready for the Archbishop to use at the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
41. During the Eucharistic prayer, **only** the name of Bishop Lori is mentioned (for Benedict our Pope and William our Bishop...) even if the celebrant is a bishop other than the local ordinary.
42. The coordinator for Archbishop Cronin is **Father Shawn Cutler**. Please contact him with any questions you might have pertaining to the liturgies with the Archbishop. Please also make sure that the planning guide form is emailed / faxed to Father Cutler (at Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Greenwich). Contact info: Tel. (203) 448-6848, Fax: (203) 869-0169, email: FrCutler@diobpt.org .
43. Regarding stipends for Archbishop Cronin and his MC, please refer to the schedule on page 5. Checks should be made out to his name. Thank you.

Rite of Confirmation:

Please note:

It is desirable for all the candidates to sit together as a group in the first several pews of the church, with their sponsors seated as a group behind them, rather than alternating rows of candidates and sponsors.

This more clearly delineates the group of those to be confirmed, and it allows the candidates an unobstructed view (and everyone else, a clear view of them) when they are kneeling for the Laying on of Hands.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

After the homily the candidates stand and the bishop questions them:

Do you reject Satan and all his works and all his empty promises?

The candidates respond together: I do.

Bishop: **Do you believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?**

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: **Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?**

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: **Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in confirmation?**

Candidates: I do.

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

Candidates: I do.

The bishop confirms their profession of faith by proclaiming the faith of the Church:

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

The whole congregation responds: Amen.

The Laying on of Hands

Bishop faces the people (all stand, candidates kneel) and with hands joined, sings or says:

My dear friends, in baptism God our Gather gave the new birth of eternal life to his chosen sons and daughters. Let us pray to our Father that he will pour out the Holy Spirit to strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts and to anoint them to be more like Christ the Son of God.

All pray in silence for a short time.

The bishop sings or says:

All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

The Anointing with Chrism

The deacon brings the chrism to the bishop. Each candidate goes to the bishop wearing his or her nametag with the Confirmation name written in a large print. The sponsor places his right hand on the candidate's shoulder.

The bishop dips his right thumb in the chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says:

N. (Confirmation name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

The newly confirmed responds: Amen.

The bishop says: **Peace be with you.**

The newly confirmed responds: And with your spirit.

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 reader:

1. For **us / these** sons and daughters of God, confirmed by the gift of the Spirit, that **we / they** give witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love, we pray to the Lord: *R. - Lord, hear our prayer.*
2. For **our / their** parents and godparents who led **us / them** in faith, that by word and example they may always encourage **us / them** to follow the way of Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord: *R.*
3. For the Holy Church of God, in union with **Pope Benedict XVI**, with **Bishop William Lori** 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 to the Lord: *R.*
4. For all people, of every race and nation, that they may acknowledge the one God as Father, and in the bond of communion seek his kingdom, which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord: *R.*
5. For vocations to the Sacred Priesthood and to the Consecrated Life: that the young people Christ is calling will hear his voice and will be given the grace to respond with courage and generosity, we pray to the Lord: *R.*

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. *R. Amen.*

These intercessions are required for the Mass; a few others may be added if desired.

Confirmation Planning Form

Diocese of Bridgeport

Please complete **1 week prior** to the ceremony and email or fax to Father Marcello for Bishop Lori or Father Cutler for Archbishop Cronin.

General Information:

Parish:		Town:	
Contact Person		Date:	
Tel:		Time:	
Email:		Fax:	
If you would like to invite the Bishop for a meal – PLEASE contact Father Marcello for Bishop Lori or Father Cutler for Archbishop Cronin. Contact info is on the bottom of this form.			

<p>Mass Propers: ROMAN MISSAL, #4 in <i>Ritual Masses</i> <small>Propers of Confirmation (Sacramentary p. 834) are used, except on the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, solemnities, Ash Wednesday and the weekdays of Holy Week and during Octave of Easter. The patronal feast day of a parish receives a status of a solemnity, so proper texts are used in that case. White vestments are used for Confirmations, unless the above mentioned exceptions require another color.</small></p>	Page:
Age of the Candidates:	Grade:
Adults?	Number:
Number of those receiving the Sacrament:	Total:
If some candidates are joining from a different parish, please indicate:	
Place of vesting for the Bishop:	
Location for Bishop's meeting with Candidates before the Mass:	
List of the attending priests and deacons:	
Location for taking pictures with the Bishop after Mass:	

I. Entrance Rite

Processional Hymn:	
Penitential Rite:	A B C
Kyrie:	Sung / Recited
Gloria:	Sung / Recited
Opening Prayer:	ROMAN MISSAL page:

II. Liturgy of the Word

Lectionary for Mass, 2002 Edition, Vol. IV – Ritual Masses, p. 330 ...
 (unless other propers are used – e.g. solemnities)

First Reading:	
Psalm :	Sung / Recited
Second Reading: (if applicable)	
Gospel :	
Gospel Read By:	

III. Liturgy of Confirmation

Candidates presented by: (normally the Pastor)	
General Intercessions read by:	

IV. Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn:	
Collection:	Yes / No
Any symbolic gifts?	
Prayer over the Offerings	ROMAN MISSAL page:
Preface Dialogue:	Sung / Recited
Holy Holy:	Sung / Recited
Mystery of Faith:	Sung / Recited

Great Amen:	Sung / Recited
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V. Communion Rite:

Lord's Prayer:	Sung / Recited
Lamb of God:	Sung / Recited
Both Species:	Yes / No
Number of Communion Stations:	Sacred Body: Precious Blood (if applicable):
Hymn at Communion:	
Communion Meditation:	Yes / No
Closing Prayer:	ROMAN MISSAL page:
Second Collection:	Yes / No

VI. Concluding Rite:

Announcements: (please include location for pictures, and ask that all applause be held until end)	Yes / No By Whom:
Recessional Hymn:	

Thank you for your help!

Please send this form, **1 week** prior to the ceremony or earlier,

For Confirmations with Bishop Lori, to:

Father Joseph Marcello, Bishop's Office

Fax: (203) 371-8323

Tel: (203) 416-1352

Email: FrMarcello@diobpt.org

For Confirmations with Archbishop Cronin, to:

Father Shawn Cutler, St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Greenwich:

Fax: (203) 869-0169

Tel: (203) 448-6848

Email: FrCutler@diobpt.org