

PRIOR TO THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

- Letters should be written to Bishop Malone requesting the sacrament (once you download this document, [click here](#) for additional guidance for Confirmandi). This letter should be received in the Bishop's Office **at least one month prior to reception of the sacrament.**

ALL letters should be UNSEALED in an envelope and sent in ONE envelope per Church when sent to the Chancery.

DO NOT SEND INDIVIDUALLY SEALED LETTERS.

- The candidates should be dressed in nice Sunday dress; no robes or stoles are necessary (once you download this document, [click here](#) for additional dress code guidelines). These same guidelines are available on the website under the DRE portal.
- Confirmandi should all be wearing a name tag with their chosen confirmation name in large bold print.
- The sacramental register, which contains the section on confirmation, and lists the names of the newly confirmed, along with all pertinent information on that candidate, should be complete and ready for the bishop's signature in the sacristy following the Rite of Confirmation.
- When the sacrament is offered at the Saturday Vigil or on Sunday the readings should be those of the Sunday; otherwise, select two scriptures (Old and New Testament), a psalm (which may either be sung or recited), and a gospel reading.
- Bishop Malone will bring his own vestments, Chrism, Crozier with stand, and the Rite Book. Chrism should be placed on a prominent stand in the sanctuary, visible to the congregation.

ON THE DAY/EVENING OF CONFIRMATION

Before the Mass begins Bishop Malone would like to speak to the confirmandi as a group in a place outside the sanctuary (for approximately 15-30 minutes). Following his visit with them, they should go to the church and be seated in their assigned places with their sponsors.

The Mass begins with the gathering song and the procession of the altar servers, deacon, priest, and Bishop Malone. Bishop Malone will begin Mass with the opening rites followed by the Liturgy of the Word.

After the Gospel is proclaimed, the bishop will remain at his chair. The **pastor** goes to the ambo (welcomes the bishop) and introduces by name each of the confirmandi: ***"Mary Smith who will be confirmed Elizabeth"*** (example). As each name is mentioned, the confirmandi stands in his/her place until all the names are completed, at which time the pastor addresses the bishop: **"Most Reverend Father, as pastor and in the name of those responsible for the sacramental preparation of these candidates, I recommend that you confirm them here today."** The bishop will accept the recommendation of the pastor and he will ask the confirmandi to be seated. During his homily he will walk around addressing the confirmandi in the congregation.

The bishop will initiate the sacrament at the conclusion of his homily.

He will need the Confirmation Rite book and the Chrism. He will ask the confirmandi to stand and He will state something similar....

“And Now, before you receive the Spirit, call to mind the faith which you professed in Baptism on which your parents and godparents professed with the Church.”

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

All respond, **“I DO!”** (*with gusto*)

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Bishop Malone and the priests present will extend their hands over the confirmandi praying a blessing.

After the Laying on of hands, the bishop will invite the candidates to approach one by one with their sponsor. Candidates should proceed, one after the other with their sponsor.

During the Confirmation Rite the bishop prefers no music, he wants the congregation to hear the confirmandi asking to be confirmed.

As they approach the bishop, the sponsor will place their *right* hand on the confirmandi’s *right* shoulder (standing behind the confirmandi). Then the confirmandi would say, **“My name is (confirmation name), and I wish to be confirmed.”** The bishop will anoint their forehead, saying **“(confirmation name) be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.”** The candidate responds, **“Amen.”** The bishop then says, **“Peace be with you.”** The candidate responds, **“And with your spirit.”** and return to their place in the pew.

At the conclusion of the Rite of Confirmation, the bishop would like a bowl with water and lemon slices to be brought to him for the purpose of cleansing his hands, along with a towel to dry his hands. The Universal Prayers follow, and then the presentation of gifts.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop Malone will ask the newly confirmed to remain in their places. He will direct the altar servers to recess out during the concluding song as usual. Bishop and the pastor will stay for a photograph with the entire class of newly confirmed in the sanctuary.

Final note: The Sacramental register, which contains the section on confirmation, and lists the names of the newly confirmed, along with all pertinent information on that candidate, should be complete and ready for the bishop's signature in the sacristy.

ADDITIONAL DIRECTIONS:

Photography at the Confirmation Mass

You are welcome to hire a photographer. Please ensure that they remain behind the scenes, inconspicuous, no flash photos during Mass, no moving from side to side to get the perfect shot. Following the end of the Mass the bishop and the pastor will remain in the sanctuary for a group picture with the newly confirmed. TIP: At your confirmation practice/rehearsal, practice your line up for this picture. Make sure the students know where to stand for the photo with the bishop. This really saves time and confusion.

Participation in the Mass

Strongly encourage the students to participate in the liturgy by opening the hymnals and singing the songs, respond to the prayers of the Mass, (i.e.: "And with your spirit", "Thank be to God"), pray/sing the Gloria and the Holy, Holy, Holy, the "I do" responses to the Baptismal Promises. Note you do NOT have to have confirmandi be the lectors at the Mass. If they want to participate and they are comfortable proclaiming scripture, they are most welcome.

Appropriate Dress

I know you all have guidelines for appropriate dress at confirmation and as a rule this is not an issue. TIP: At your confirmation practice/rehearsal, have the students wear what they will wear to the confirmation Mass. This way you won't have any surprises and you will have an opportunity to address any problems (once you download this document, [click here](#) for additional guidelines).