



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of the Archbishop

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFIRMATION LITURGY

The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation remains an important event in the life of the Church, including those to be confirmed and their families, the sponsors and parish communities.

“Those who have been baptized continue on the path of Christian initiation through the sacrament of confirmation. In this sacrament they receive the Holy Spirit whom the Lord sent upon the apostles on Pentecost. This giving of the Holy Spirit conforms believers more fully to Christ and strengthens them so that they may bear witness to Christ for the building up of his Body in faith and love” (Rite of Confirmation, Introduction).

Great care should be taken that there is adequate preparation for all those involved.

PREPARATION

Role of the pastor

- To welcome the bishop to the parish and provide hospitality.
- To ensure that the sacristy is prepared with space for the bishop to vest, sufficient hangers for vestments and clothing, and available water.
- To provide hospitality for visiting clergy.
- To be seated proximate to the bishop as directed by the Master of Ceremonies.
- To proclaim the Gospel in the absence of a deacon.
- To introduce the candidates attesting to their preparation for the sacrament(see prepared text below).
- To stand adjacent to the bishop during the rite.

Rehearsal

A rehearsal should be held for all liturgical ministers, the Confirmation candidates and their sponsors which help ensure familiarity with the movement and rite of Confirmation. The rehearsal should include walking through the entire Confirmation Rite with all participants.

Scripture Readings and Roman Missal Sacramentary Prayers

The Ritual for Confirmation states that the Readings may be taken from the Mass of the Day. The readings of the day will always be used unless stated otherwise in a letter to the pastor. When Confirmation is celebrated on a Sunday Vigil, Sunday or Solemnity during the Easter Season, the **entire readings and prayers for that day must be used.**

Music

Confirmation is a celebration of faith within the midst of the community of the Church. Music carefully selected and well rendered can heighten the celebration and strengthen the faith of the assembled believers. Please be sure to plan for music.

Confirmation Candidates Participation

Confirmation candidates are discouraged from serving as lectors, ushers, cantors, altar servers, etc., at the Confirmation liturgy so that their role as candidates of the sacrament is clear.

Name Tags:

Name tags for the candidates are recommended using a large font for clarity.

Archbishop's Parking

A place should be reserved for the bishop's car near the church/rectory and clearly marked.

CEREMONY

Choosing Ministers

Those selected for various ministries within the Confirmation liturgy should be individuals who are prepared and who regularly serve in this capacity for the community.

Lectors

While it may seem desirable to include Confirmation candidates as proclaimers of the Word, it is more effective to encourage their full participation in other ways. Freed from the anxiety of reading well or being in the right place at the right time, candidates are better able to reflect on the importance and meaning of the celebration and even feel supported by the witness of adult members who serve as readers. A fully trained lector from the parish is preferred. A trained Lector can proclaim the scriptures with dignity and clarity.

Acolytes

Six trained altar servers for the Confirmation liturgy is ideal.

Deacon

The participation of a deacon (permanent or transitional) is welcomed. The deacon serves as a minister to the bishop, proclaims the Gospel, presents the sacred chrism to the bishop, and assists the bishop as the rubrics specify.

Credence Table:

A large credence table is necessary, holding:

Chalice and paten for the bishop.

Corporal and purificator.

Additional chalices or cups with purificators for the assembly's communion- if it is a practice already in place to receive under both species. These are brought to the altar during the preparation of the altar; the chalices should be prefilled with wine.

Ciboria—sufficient number for the orderly distribution of the Body of Christ.

Cruet of water.

One or two lemon, quartered, two small white towels for the bishop, pitcher of water, and a small bowl, bread is not used for the washing of the bishop's hands.

An additional small bowl and towel for the lavabo during the offertory.

Table for the Gifts:

The table is located in the nave of the Church. On that table should be one or two large ciboria with a sufficient number of hosts, and a cruet of wine.

CONFIRMATION LITURGY

Procession of Candidates

If the parish plans to invite the candidates to process into the church, the candidates should be lined up and ready to process fifteen minutes prior to the start of Mass. The pace of their entrance should not be slow nor should it resemble a graduation ceremony. The candidates should be in their seats at least ten minutes prior to the start of Mass to allow a period of silence before the start of the liturgy.

The **bishop** expects to enter the aisle of the church at the time set for the start of the Mass.

The *Confiteor* will always be recited and a *Kyrie (Lord have mercy, Señor ten piedad)* sung.

Liturgy of the Word

Within the Liturgy of the Word, the *Responsorial Psalm* and *Gospel Acclamation* should *always* be sung.

Gospel

The deacon proclaims the Gospel. In his absence the pastor goes to the bishop and asks for the blessing, proclaims the Gospel and brings the Book of the Gospels to the bishop to be revered.

Presentation of the Candidates:

After the Gospel, and before the homily, the Pastor presents the candidates for Confirmation in these or similar words:

The Pastor invites the candidates for Confirmation to **please stand**.

Archbishop (Bishop) <name>, the parish community of <parish name here> wishes to present to you its young men and women [and adult candidates] who have prepared and are ready to receive the fullness of Christian Initiation in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Each candidate has been well instructed and is accompanied by a sponsor. It is my privilege to present them to you at this time.

The Confirmation candidates remain standing until the Bishop invites them to be seated.

Homily

The bishop will preach at which time there should be no distractions such as walking around or taking of photographs. The parish ushers should encourage a sense of respect and decorum.

Procession to the Bishop:

Candidates for confirmation are to form **two lines** when approaching the bishop for anointing. It is a good practice to have an adult staff member in the middle of the center aisle helping the candidates to approach as closely as possible to the bishop for the anointing. The staff member should remind the sponsor to place their hand on the shoulder of the candidate as they step before the bishop.

Anointing with Chrism

The anointing is accompanied by a dialogue between the Bishop and Candidate. Background music should accompany this rite.

General Intercessions:

It is desirable to have one reader, or if prayers are multilingual then it is desirable to have one reader for each language. The Prayers should include intercessions for the Church, civil authorities, those in need, and the needs of the local community related to the celebration. There should be **no more** than five petitions. This is an especially opportune time to include petitions for religious and priestly vocations.

Formal photographs:

Photographs with the bishop and the candidates can be arranged previous to or after the Confirmation liturgy- arrangements need to be made beforehand with the Bishop's Master of Ceremonies. Please rehearse the picture setup for the sake of time and to ensure an attractive memento. No more than 2 groups- 2 pictures maximum.