

***DIRECTIVES FOR CONFIRMATIONS
WINTER AND SPRING, 2022***

Effective: March 14, 2022

The following guidelines will be observed for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Bridgeport from January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

GENERAL NORMS

1. The conferral of the sacrament of Confirmation can occur in **two ways**: (1) within a Celebration of the Word of God, or (2) within Holy Mass. The choice of celebration will be made by the respective pastor of each parish and indicated in the Confirmation planning sheet.
2. **Delegation will no longer be given to Pastors** for the celebration of Confirmation in their parishes unless there is an emergency situation.
3. **The same mandate that governs the use of Masks** at Sunday Mass at the time of Confirmation will also be observed by everyone who participates in the celebration of Confirmation.
4. **White** gowns may be worn by all Candidates for Confirmation.
5. Each candidate is to **wear a nametag** with his or her **Confirmation name** printed legibly in large script.
6. **Sponsors** ordinarily stand behind their candidate during the rite of Confirmation. However, whether they place their hands on the shoulder of their candidate will be dependent upon the consent of the candidate and his or her parents.
7. The **minimum number of candidates** needed for the celebration of Confirmation in any parish is **30 candidates**. If a parish has fewer than 30 candidates, they may combine with another parish to reach that number or hold off the Confirmation ceremony until the following year.

NORMS FOR CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT

8. **Altar servers**: The conferral of Confirmation in either manner requires **five** altar servers when a bishop is the celebrant; only **three** altar servers are necessary when the Vicar General or another delegated priest is the celebrant. If this number cannot be met, please inform the bishop's Master of Ceremonies a few days in advance. For a bishop, required servers are a cross bearer, two candle bearers and two insignia bearers (miter and crozier); white gloves are worn by the insignia bearers and are brought to the parish by the Bishop or the Master of Ceremonies. All altar servers should be vested and ready for the rehearsal **30 minutes before** the ceremony begins.

9. All candidates and sponsors must be seated in church **10 minutes before** the start of Mass. This will allow the Bishop to address the sponsors and the congregation before the start of Confirmation.
10. **Incense** is not used during the celebration of Confirmation.
11. If available, a **lapel microphone** with fresh batteries should be made available for the Bishop's use.
12. **A stock of Sacred Chrism** is normally brought by the Bishop or the Vicar General, but not by a visiting bishop.
13. In the Diocese of Bridgeport, vestments of a **red color** are to be worn for the Ritual Mass. The Bishop will wear a red or white cope for the conferral of confirmation within a Celebration of the Word of God. On those occasions when the Ritual Mass is prohibited, vestment color must correspond to that of the liturgical day.
14. The **prayers** for Mass depend on the ritual context:
 - a. When Confirmation is conferred within Holy Mass, Mass texts are taken from *Ritual Masses for the Conferral of Sacraments of Christian Initiation: 4. For the Conferral of Confirmation*, found in the Third Typical Edition of the *Roman Missal for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America* (2010 edition). However, on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, on Solemnities, the days within the Octave of Easter, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), on Ash Wednesday, and during Holy Week, the Mass texts of the respective day are to be used¹.
 - b. When Confirmation is conferred within a Celebration of the Word of God, the *Order for the Conferral of Confirmation without Mass* contained in Chapter Two of the *Order of Confirmation for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America* (2016 edition) is employed.
15. The **readings** for the Service or Mass must be indicated on the planning sheet.
 - a. If the *Ritual Mass for the Conferral of Confirmation* is used, the readings are taken from those contained in the *Ritual Masses for the Conferral of Christian Initiation: 4. Confirmation*, found in numbers 764-768 of Volume IV of the Second Typical Edition of the *Lectionary for Mass for use in the Dioceses of the United States of America* (2002 Edition). On those occasions when the Ritual Mass is prohibited, the readings are taken from the mass of the day.
 - b. If the *Order for the Conferral of Confirmation without Mass* is used, the readings are taken from those found in the *Ritual Mass of Confirmation* as specified above, with the traditional order of readings being followed in choice selection, "that is, from the Old Testament, the Apostle, and the Gospel"².

¹ GIRM, n. 372

² OC 37.

16. After the proclamation of the Gospel, the Pastor/Administrator will go to the ambo and present 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 Bishop may ask the congregation to show its approval with a round of applause, followed by an instruction for all to be seated.
17. 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.
18. The Bishop will **sit** for the anointing with Chrism (1) at the presider's chair; (2) in a chair that is placed in front of the altar (if space permits) or (3) in a chair placed in another prominent place in the sanctuary (never in the main aisle). Candidates will kneel before the Bishop to receive the sacrament, kneeling on a pad that will be placed before the chair. The Pastor will hold the Vessel with the Chrism standing on the Bishop's right. Music must always be played during the anointing.
19. The Bishop will **disinfect** his hands **before** and **after** the anointing. Alcohol and a towel that should be placed on a table where he is to confirm, on his **right side**, for use at both times. **There is no need to provide lemons for the cleansing of the Bishop's hands, given the continued use of alcohol as a disinfectant.**
20. The anointing will be done in the prescribed fashion, **with the use of cotton balls**. **Two bowls should be placed on the table located at the Bishop's right- one with the clean cotton balls and the other to hold the used cotton balls.**
21. Music must always be played during the anointing. Appropriate Sacred Music for this particular moment in liturgical ritual is the chant "*Veni, Creator Spiritus*", or an equivalent.
22. **The Universal Prayer of the Faithful:**
 - a. The Universal Prayer of the Faithful follows the *Anointing with Chrism*. The formula contained in the *Order of Confirmation for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America* (2016 edition) is employed.
 - b. After the minister of Confirmation says the invitatory, the individual intercessions are to be proclaimed by the Deacon of the Word, or in his absence, by the Reader.
23. The candidates should **not** receive Holy Communion prior to everyone else. There should be no distribution of the chalice during the celebration of Confirmation.
24. Only in the absence of Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (i.e, bishop, priest, deacon and instituted acolyte) should **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** be assigned.

ADDITIONAL NORMS

25. The pastor's remarks should immediately follow the Prayer after Communion. He is invited to thank all those involved in preparing the candidates for the sacrament and offer instructions regarding photographs.
26. The Bishop will be available for **pictures** immediately after Mass.
 - a. The candidates **and sponsors** should remain in their places at the end of Mass or the Service. Photos will be taken **in front of the sanctuary**, maintaining a line formation.
 - b. Parents and sponsors who wish to be included in photographs should be instructed to wait until all the candidates have been with the Bishop. These photographs will not include the bishop.
27. 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 per session is suggested for the Bishop and \$100 per session for the Master of Ceremonies. 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.