



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS
Office for Worship

Fall 2020 Confirmation Preparation Documents

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Preparing Candidates for the Conferral of Confirmation

Blessings on all who prepare “those who have been baptized (to) continue on the path of Christian Initiation through the Sacrament of Confirmation, by which they receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, whom the Lord sent upon the Apostles at Pentecost” (The Order of Confirmation, par. 1).

What follows for your reference are the **updated** procedures from the Office for Worship of the Diocese of Grand Rapids regarding preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Choice of Sponsors

Each of those to be confirmed should be assisted by a Sponsor, “who will bring them to receive the Sacrament, will present them to the minister of Confirmation for the sacred anointing, and afterwards will help them to fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully in accordance with the Holy Spirit whom they have received” (*The Order of Confirmation, par. 5*).

If the godparent at Baptism is available, that person should also be the Confirmation sponsor to express more clearly the link between Baptism and Confirmation. However, a member of the Catholic Church who is of sufficient maturity, has received all three sacraments of initiation, and otherwise fulfills the requirements of [Can. 874 §1](#) may serve as Sponsor (*The Order of Confirmation, par. 6*).

Confirmation Timeline

Each parish will receive its assigned date for the celebration of Confirmation from the Office of the Bishop. Once you receive your date, consult the Confirmation section of the [Worship webpage](#) for documents that will aid your preparation.

Liturgical Ministers

Participating parishes will be required to supply liturgical ministers from the parish community to serve the Confirmation liturgy at the Cathedral. Each liturgy will require 1 Reader and 2 Greeters/Ushers. A photo coordinator will also be needed to maintain order after Mass as the newly confirmed take pictures with Bishop Walkowiak. The Office of Worship will communicate with parish Confirmation Coordinators to ensure that all positions are filled.

Visiting Priests

If there will be a visiting priest with your group, please let him know he is welcome to concelebrate the mass with the Bishop, provided he send a letter of good standing in advance.

Baptismal certificates

Those responsible for the preparation of the candidates for Confirmation should obtain baptismal certificates from each candidate at the beginning of the preparation process. These can then be used to notify each of the proper parishes of the fact of Confirmation for entry into those baptismal registers.

Recording and Notification of Confirmation by the Parish

Soon after the celebration of the sacrament, the pastor of the newly confirmed is to ensure that the appropriate entries are made in the Confirmation register of his parish. These entries note the names of each of those confirmed, their parents and sponsors, the place and date of the conferral, and the name of the minister.

A notation of the date and place of Confirmation must also be made in the baptismal register of each candidate. The pastor of the place where Confirmation was celebrated is to ensure that the pastor of the church of the baptism is informed so that the appropriate entry can be made in the baptismal register of each person confirmed (canon 895).

Please contact the Office for Worship at worship@grdiocese.org or 616-288-0908, with questions regarding liturgical ministers or the Worship webpage.

Additionally, if the number of your candidates has changed from the time your Confirmation date was originally designated, please contact the Office for Worship prior to the Confirmation liturgy so that you will have the appropriate number of pews reserved.

Please contact the Coordinating Sacristan for the Cathedral, Julie Bartholomew, at julie@cathedralofsaintandrew.org to request special seating accommodations for individuals with physical handicaps.



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Confirmation Liturgy Guidelines

“Dearly beloved, the gift of the Holy Spirit, which you are about to receive, will be a spiritual seal, by which you will be conformed to Christ and will be made more fully members of his Church.”

- The Order of Confirmation, par. 22

What follows for your reference is the **updated** information from the Office for Worship of the Diocese of Grand Rapids regarding the liturgical celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Dress Code for Candidates

Candidates for the Conferral of Confirmation Within Mass should dress modestly in at least business casual. In general, this means that men are attired in long dress pants and dress shirt and women in skirts or dresses of knee length or longer, or dress pants, with shoulders covered and no open backs. Please note that these guidelines apply to sponsors as well.

Name Tags for Candidates

The parish must provide name tags for the candidates. Only the Confirmation name should be printed on the name tag, in a font size of at least 24. The name tag should be placed on the **left shoulder or clavicle (no lower)** of the candidate upon arrival at the Cathedral. When the sponsor and candidate approach the Bishop to be anointed, the sponsor is to state the candidate’s Confirmation name to the Bishop.

Arrival Time Schedule

Greeters/Ushers from the individual parishes should arrive **60 minutes** prior to the beginning of the Confirmation liturgy and check in with the Cathedral Greeter/Usher Coordinator at the back of the church. Refer to the instructions document for [Parish Ministers of Hospitality](#) for further information.

The **Reader** should arrive **60 minutes** prior to the ceremony and check in with the Coordinating Sacristan at the sign-in location at the back of the church. The readings will be placed on the ambo prior to your arrival. Please note that the readings will be posted on the [Worship website](#) for your review.

Candidates for Confirmation and their sponsors should be at the Cathedral no less than **30 minutes** prior to the announced time of the liturgy.

If the **presenter of the candidates is not the pastor**, that individual should check in with the Coordinating Sacristan outside the vesting sacristy of the Cathedral upon arrival. The presenter should arrive no less than **30 minutes** prior to the ceremony to review his or her role in the liturgy.

Seating

Candidates will sit with their parents. Sponsors who are not part of the candidate's household will sit at the other end of the same pew (center sections) or in a neighboring pew (side sections). Sponsors from the candidate's household are free to sit next to their candidates. Please have the candidates go to the front of your parish's assigned section (marked by pew tags) and fill each available pew before going to the next pew.

Please address any questions or concerns regarding special accommodations for those with physical handicaps that were noted on the Confirmation Planning Form to the Coordinating Sacristan of the Cathedral.

Photographs

Bishop Walkowiak will be available for individual photos after Mass, either outside (weather permitting) or in the sanctuary area. He will not be available for group photos.

The sanctuary is set aside for liturgical action; please do not enter the sanctuary before or after Mass. Generally, photos are discouraged during Confirmation Mass. However, any photos taken during Mass must be done discreetly (without flash) and not be a distraction or inhibit the liturgical action taking place.



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS
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Order for Conferral of Confirmation Within Mass

“Dearly beloved, the gift of the Holy Spirit, which you are about to receive, will be a spiritual seal, by which you will be conformed to Christ and will be made more fully members of his Church.”

- The Order of Confirmation, par. 22

What follows for your reference is the **updated** information from the Office for Worship of the Diocese of Grand Rapids regarding the liturgical celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

PLEASE REVIEW THIS PROCEDURE WITH THE CANDIDATES PRIOR TO ARRIVAL AT THE CATHEDRAL FOR THE CONFIRMATION LITURGY

The procedure for Conferral of Confirmation Within Mass is as follows:

Presentation of the Candidates: After the Gospel and before the homily, the candidates are presented to the Bishop by the pastor or his delegate. The candidates are called by the pastor as a group and stand at their places for recognition by the Bishop and the congregation.

Homily: Given by the Bishop.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises: After the homily, the candidates are asked to stand to renew their baptismal promises per *The Order of Confirmation*.

The response from the candidates to each question asked by the Bishop is “I do.”

Please prepare the candidates to answer with a strong voice so that they may be heard.

Laying On of Hands: As the candidates continue to stand in their places, the Bishop lays hands over all those to be confirmed as he recites a prayer.

Anointing with Chrism: The Bishop then comes to the center aisle. The ushers will invite the candidates and sponsors to come forward by way of the side aisles.

Each candidate and sponsor will be directed to approach the Bishop and stand before him. Blue tape on the floor will indicate where the candidate is to stand. The sponsor stands behind the candidate with his or her right hand on the right shoulder of the candidate and announces the candidate's Confirmation name to the Bishop, either by stating the name alone or by saying, "Bishop [Walkowiak], I present [Name]."

The Bishop will make the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of each candidate saying, "***[Name], be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit,***" to which the newly confirmed replies, "***Amen.***"

The Bishop will then say, "***Peace be with you,***" to which the newly confirmed replies, "***And with your spirit.***"

The newly confirmed and their sponsors return to their seats by way of the main aisle.

Mass then continues as usual with the Universal Prayer.

Please Note: *Candidates/sponsors are not to stop and take photos while in procession.* This disrupts the flow and prevents the other candidates from being visible when they are receiving the Sacrament. Please see the [Confirmation Liturgy Guidelines](#) (page 6) for more information on photos.



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Confirmation FAQ's

1. Who can serve as liturgical ministers?

Because of limitations on attendance it would be appreciated if parents were willing to serve as readers or ushers. Otherwise, anyone from your parish who is trained in that capacity may minister.

2. Can a sponsor serve as a liturgical minister?

It is preferred that sponsors not serve as liturgical ministers during the Confirmation Mass, allowing them to give greater attention and support to their candidates. They may, nonetheless, proclaim the readings if no other reader is available. Parents are encouraged to serve as readers or ushers.

3. I can't get family members to commit to serving. They prefer to remain in the assembly.

The Church invites family of the candidates to “express their faith by means of the fruits the Holy Spirit has produced in them” (*Order of Confirmation* 4). Propose to family members that serving as a liturgical minister will be an excellent way to share the fruits of their own Confirmation with those who are now receiving the sacrament.

4. Where do I find guidelines for candidates' dress? Where do I find the readings for our lectors?

All guidelines can be found on [page 5](#) of this document. Readings can be found on the [website](#). (Note: If you are participating in a bilingual liturgy, the Office of Worship will specify which reading is in Spanish, and which is in English.)