

GUIDELINES FOR CONFIRMATION

Summary

1. Candidates and sponsors should be dressed appropriately and modestly.
2. It is recommended that the lectors, extraordinary ministers of Communion and servers be selected from those who regularly exercise well these ministries in the parish.
3. Music should be selected that fosters an atmosphere of prayer and encourages participation by the candidates, sponsors and entire assembly. Anything akin to performance and entertainment should be avoided.

Accompaniment should sustain song and never drown out voices, thereby discouraging “full, conscious and active participation.” For this reason, use of percussion instruments, especially drum ensembles, is not recommended.

During the anointing of the candidates there should be neither vocal nor instrumental music, but silence, in order for the assembly to pray quietly for each of the candidates by name during the conferral of the sacrament.

Silence is preferred to a meditation song after the distribution of Communion.

4. Candidates/newly confirmed and sponsors should not be part of the liturgical processional or recessional.

Candidates and sponsors are to be in their places before the time the Mass is scheduled to begin. If they do so by way of a simple pre-Mass procession, there may be instrumental accompaniment, but nothing is to be sung. Once in their places, they should join the assembly in the entrance song.

5. The Bishop will only give permission for pictures of the candidates as they are anointed if this can be done without flash and in an inconspicuous manner.
6. If it is appropriate for certain prayers or readings to be prayed or proclaimed in Spanish or another language, they should not be repeated in English.
7. Witness talks or other types of sharing by candidates should not be inserted into the Mass of Confirmation.
8. If the newly confirmed are to receive certificates of Confirmation or gifts from the parish, these should not be distributed during the Mass.

9. **Without reviewing the formation program, the presentation of the candidates should be done very briefly and as a group, with the option of doing so individually only if the number is small.**

10. Candidates do not hold lighted candles at the renewal of baptismal promises.
11. Candidates and their sponsors, one sponsor for each candidate, should approach the Bishop immediately after one another and without gaps between them.
12. Sponsors place a hand on the shoulder of their candidate; they do not verbally introduce them.

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13. Candidates should come right up to the Bishop and vocally give him their Confirmation name in an audible and clear fashion. **Name tags are recommended as a backup.**
14. The dialogue at the time of anointing is very important and should be carefully rehearsed.
15. It is recommended that the petitions be taken by the deacon or one of the lectors who should approach the ambo while the Bishop is purifying his hand.
16. It is recommended that several of the newly confirmed bring the gifts of bread and wine and nothing more to the Bishop. There should be a sufficient number of hosts to consecrate for all in the assembly who will come to Communion and enough wine to consecrate for at least the newly confirmed and their sponsors to have the opportunity for reception from the cup.
17. Brief concluding comments and expressions of gratitude may be made after the Prayer after Communion by the pastor or person designated by him. This is not the time for repeated applause.
18. The Bishop will usually have time after the ceremony to pose for ONE PICTURE WITH EACH OF THE NEWLY CONFIRMED ALONE OR WITH THEIR SPONSORS.