



Diocese of Brownsville

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Office of the Bishop

2026 Confirmation Guidelines

- I. The candidate is to be in tenth grade or, if not in school, at least 16 years of age. Please attempt to involve the whole family (parents, sponsors, siblings, grandparents, etc.) and the entire parish community in the preparation of the candidates.
- II. Please keep in mind that if a baptized adult is not able to fruitfully receive Confirmation (i.e., cohabitating or civilly married), then Confirmation is to be deferred until after the celebration of the sacrament of Marriage.

Tenga en cuenta que si un adulto bautizado no puede recibir la Confirmación de manera fructífera (es decir, cohabitando o casado civilmente), entonces la Confirmación se pospondrá hasta después de la celebración del Sacramento del Matrimonio.
- III. The sponsor must be at least sixteen (16) years of age, a Catholic who has already been confirmed, and not the candidate's parent, spouse, or fiancé.
- IV. **Please ensure certificates are sent** to the correct office for the bishop's signature: Chancery in Brownsville for **Bishop Flores' signature** and San Juan Pastoral Center for **Bishop Aviles' signature**. We also ask that the Confirmation Certificates be placed in a folder or envelope with the minister's name.

Certificates must be submitted to the corresponding bishop's office at least **two weeks in advance** to ensure they are returned to you in time for distribution before or after the confirmation. **Certificates must not be distributed during the Mass but at some other time.**

Please do not use Glossy paper. Mate cardstock or thick paper is recommended.

- V. Please have the ceremony coordinator call the bishop's office **one week before** the date set for the parish confirmation to advise him of the total number of candidates to be confirmed and any other pertinent information.
- VI. Please assign a sacristan for the Mass to assist with anything needed during the confirmation Mass.

- VII. Candidates should have their names legibly printed on a label placed on the left shoulder. If any saint's name is to be employed, please have it printed in a smaller font underneath the candidate's name.
- VIII. **The use of stoles is strictly prohibited.**
- IX. No pictures are to be taken during Mass
- X. The bishop will arrive approximately half an hour before the Mass to speak with candidates and sponsors. Please notify the candidates and sponsors to arrive at least half an hour before the celebration.
- XI. **Please have the candidates sit together so that the bishop may address them directly and enter into dialogue with them. This can be either in the parish hall or in the church itself.**
- XII. The bishop will bring his Alb, the sacred Chrism, and the order of Confirmation. **Please provide him with a stole and chasuble.**
- XIII. Please do not add other ceremonies before, during, or after the Confirmation Mass and rite.
- XIV. It is liturgically fitting that parts of the Mass be sung by the whole congregation, not the choir alone. The hymns and other music are not to interfere with the liturgical flow.
- XV. Liturgy of the Word: The proper for the Sacrament of Confirmation or the readings of the day (the pastor's choosing) may be used unless it is a **Sunday or Solemnity** when the Mass of the day is obligatory, and its Proper readings must be used.

Please be sure to use the ***Lectionary for Mass (Volumes I-IV)*** in English or ***Leccionario (Tomos I-III)*** in Spanish for the proclamation of the readings. Be sure to select lectors ahead of time and practice with them so that they may be readily heard and understood.

- XVI. After the Gospel, the pastor will ask the candidates to stand to present them (as a group) to the bishop. He will attest that they are well prepared and ready to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

In this or similar dialogue:

Pastor: Dear Bishop, I have the honor to present to you these candidates for confirmation.

Bishop: Do you judge them to be ready?

Pastor: I testify that they have been catechized and are ready to receive the sacrament

The bishop will address the catechist with the same or similar questions.

Then, the Bishop will ask the candidates the following question: Do you wish to be confirmed?
The candidates will answer **"yes"**.

- XVII. After the homily, the bishop leads the candidates in the renewal of the Baptismal promises.
- XVIII. Please have two ushers exclusively lead the candidates during the rite.
- XIX. The Bishop Anoints with chrism, saying, "N_____, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit," the candidate alone responds, **"Amen"**. The bishop then says, "Peace be with you," and the candidate responds, **"And with your Spirit."**
(Practice with candidates)

If the candidate indicates on the name label the desire to receive the sacrament in Spanish, the Bishop says, "N_____, recibe por esta señal el don del Espíritu Santo". El candidato responde **"Amen"**. Luego el obispo dice, "La paz este contigo". El candidato responde: **"Y con tu espíritu"**.
(Practique con los candidatos)

Please provide one sliced lemon, water, a basin, and a towel for washing the bishop's hands after the anointing.

There is no Creed (the Baptismal promises are the profession of Faith). The Prayers of the Faithful follows. Please limit the number of petitions to six; they may be taken from the rite.

- XX. The "Our Father" may be recited or sung according to the Pastor's preference.
- XXI. Communion is to be distributed under one species. Please ensure hand sanitizer is available for the bishop and whoever will assist the Bishop with the Distribution of Holy Communion.
- XXII. If any announcements are to be made, e.g., inviting the people to the parish hall for the informal reception afterward, they should be made immediately after the communion prayer.
- XXIII. **After the Mass, the Bishop will be available for one (1) group picture. The use of masks is at the discretion of individual parishioners and families.**
- XXIV. **A professional photographer will only be allowed if the parish has hired him.** Please notify the candidates and their families in advance.

Family members and friends are invited to take photographs with their cameras. If the parish hires a professional photographer, families should be allowed to take pictures simultaneously when a candidate and the bishop are posing with the professional photographer.

Please have two ushers after the Mass directing the candidates for picture taking.

Thank you for your assistance in this very important moment in the life of our candidates.