

# DIOCESE OF PATERSON

## GUIDELINES FOR CONFIRMATION LITURGIES



### I. General Guidelines

- a. If the Confirmation falls on an optional memorial, obligatory memorial, or a feast, the color of the vestments will be **red** and the readings and orations will be taken from the proper ritual Mass for Confirmation found in the Roman Missal.
  - i. The readings will be as follows:
    1. First Reading – 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19 *or* Acts 2:1-6, 14, 22b-23, 32-33
    2. Psalm of choice
    3. Gospel – **Matthew 28:16-20**
  - ii. Please use the approved translations for the readings provided in the lectionary or in the ritual. Copies are also available on [rcdop.org/confirmation](http://rcdop.org/confirmation).
- b. If your Confirmation falls on a Saturday evening or a Sunday or one of the following, the color of the vestments and the readings and orations will be from those proper to the liturgical day:
  - i. Solemnities of precept (e.g. All Saints)
  - ii. Sundays of Advent, Lent and the Easter Season
  - iii. Solemnities not of precept, like All Souls Day

- iv. Days in the Octave of Easter
- v. Sundays of Christmas
- c. Candidates and their sponsors should be seated in their places in the Church at least five minutes before the Confirmation liturgy is scheduled to begin.
- d. Confirmation coordinators should ensure that the Confirmation names chosen are the names of approved Catholic saints or the candidate's baptismal name.
- e. The lectors should not be confirmation candidates.
- f. Three to five altar servers should be prepared to serve the Mass.

## II. The Rite

- a. The Rite of Sprinkling is only used during the octave of Easter.
- b. The Gloria is to be sung or recited, except on Sundays of Advent or Lent.
- c. A deacon or one of the concelebrating priests proclaims the Gospel.
- d. Immediately following the Gospel, the pastor presents the candidates to the Bishop in the words provided in the ritual. The whole group should be presented at one time. The individual candidates are not to be presented by name.
- e. After the homily, the candidates will stand for the renewal of baptismal promises. During the laying on of hands, the candidates kneel in their places.
- f. For the anointing, candidates come forward with their sponsor one by one. They should be organized in a line to allow the rite to be completed in a timely manner. Pictures will be available at the end of the liturgy.
  - i. The sponsor approaches the Bishop with the candidate, who should wear a nametag with his/her confirmation name. The sponsor places his/her right hand upon the right shoulder of the candidate and says: "*Bishop, I present (confirmation name).*" The Bishop says, "*N., be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" The candidate responds, "*Amen.*" After the anointing, the Bishop will say, "*Peace be with you.*" The candidate responds, "*And with your spirit.*"
- g. After the anointing, the Bishop will wash his hands. A sliced lemon should be prepared in a basin with water in a separate pitcher for washing.
- h. If it is appropriate, some of the newly confirmed may present the gifts in the procession at the offertory.

- i. The Bishop and pastor will distribute communion.
- j. After the Prayer after Communion, the pastor makes the customary brief words of gratitude.

**III. Checklist of items to be prepared beforehand**

- a. Everything normally needed for Mass
- b. Small pitcher/basin, quartered lemon, towel
- c. Roman Missal and Lectionary
- d. The Master of Ceremonies will bring the book containing the Rite of Confirmation.
- e. Sacred Chrism
- f. The provided Prayers of the Faithful should be printed and prepared.
- g. Music
  - i. Please inform the Bishop or his Master of Ceremonies before the liturgy begins which responses will be sung.
  - ii. Soft background music should be played during the anointing.