



## **GUIDELINES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION IN THE DIOCESE OF RALEIGH**

*Use this document to complete the Liturgy Preparation Form for the Sacrament of Confirmation*

### **ORDINARY SCHEDULE FOR CONFIRMATION**

Weeknights:

5:00pm Light Dinner with Bishop(s), Clergy, and Catechists  
5:45pm Meeting with the Confirmandi  
6:15pm Prepare for Mass  
6:30pm Mass

Saturday:

10:15am Meeting with the Confirmandi  
10:45am Prepare for Mass  
11:00am Mass

### **BISHOP BURBIDGE'S MEETING WITH THE CANDIDATES**

Bishop Burbidge will meet with the Confirmation candidates as a group 45 minutes prior to the start of the liturgy.

- A. Meeting is for Bishop and candidates ONLY.
- B. Meeting space should accommodate adequate seating for candidates. A microphone should be provided.

### **PREPARATION OF THE CHURCH**

- A. In accord with the sanctuary design and space, the Presider's chair should be appropriately arranged (e.g., not in front of the tabernacle). Servers should be seated in chairs from which they can best perform their duties, but not next to the Presider's chair since deacons and/or other priests will sit next to or near the Bishop.
- B. At the beginning of the liturgy, the altar should be clear except for necessary candles and an altar cloth (GIRM, 304).

- C. The credence table should have two dry finger towels, a water pitcher, a basin, a hand towel, and one lemon cut in quarters in a bowl in addition to other appropriate items needed for the liturgy. (*See checklist below for items.*)
- D. Bread, wine, and optional gifts for the poor (not water) should be at a table provided for the presentation of gifts procession.
- E. The Bishop will bring his own vestments and the Sacred Chrism. The Emcee, who is provided by the Office of Worship, will bring the Confirmation Rite for the liturgy.
- F. Checklist – Please provide for the following:

- \_\_\_ Bishop, Clergy and ministers' chairs appropriately arranged
- \_\_\_ Altar cleared except for necessary candles and altar cloth
- \_\_\_ 2 finger towels
- \_\_\_ Water pitcher
- \_\_\_ 2 Water basins – one for washing of hands after anointing; one for washing of hands during the Preparation of the Gifts
- \_\_\_ Water cruet filled with water and sufficient in water volume for the washing of hands after anointing; one for the washing of hands during the Preparation of the Gifts
- \_\_\_ 1 lemon, cut in quarters, in a separate bowl
- \_\_\_ Sacramentary (Missal)
- \_\_\_ Chalice
- \_\_\_ Main Chalice and Communion chalices (metal)
- \_\_\_ Communion ciboria (metal)
- \_\_\_ 2 corporals
- \_\_\_ Purificators (sufficient for the number of chalices used)
- \_\_\_ Bread and wine at a table provided for presentation of gifts procession

## LITURGICAL PREPARATION

- A. Planners and Musicians – The Norms in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, the *General Norms for the Celebration of the Sacred Liturgy of the Mass in the Diocese of Raleigh* and *Sing to the Lord* are to be followed. The Responsorial Psalm should be sung. The *Entrance*, *Communion* and *Recessional* hymns are to be congregational. The following acclamations should be sung: Gospel Acclamation, Eucharistic Acclamations and Lamb of God. The Lord's Prayer is not ordinarily sung.
- B. Servers – If possible, at least six will be needed to assist including the miter bearer and the crozier bearer.
- C. Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion – Readers, catechists, or confirmation candidates proclaim the first two readings. A deacon, if present, will read the Prayer of the Faithful; otherwise, a reader, catechist, or candidate offers the petitions. A deacon or a concelebrating priest (in the absence of a deacon), usually the Dean or the Pastor of the Host Parish, proclaims the Gospel. Concelebrating clergy will distribute Communion and will be assisted, as needed, by Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY

- A. Are made prior to the beginning of the liturgy to provide any information they may need during the liturgy, such as the procedure for the distribution of Holy Communion.

## ORDER OF THE MASS

Unless otherwise required by the Liturgical Calendar (i.e. the Easter Season, a Solemnity or Feast), the Mass for Rite of Confirmation, with its Readings and Propers is ordinarily celebrated.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### *Entrance Hymn*

If the candidates are going to process, please ensure that the procession begins **BEFORE** the start time of Mass. Please allow of enough time taking into account the number of candidates and/or sponsors.

- Altar is incensed after reverencing unless directed otherwise.

### *Welcome*

- The Deanery Faith Development Coordinator or the Lead Confirmation Catechist of the host church will welcome the assembly after the Bishop says “Peace be with you,” unless the pastor or dean determines otherwise.

### *Sprinkling Rite*

- During the Easter season, ordinarily the Sprinkling Rite is used.

### *Act of Penitence*

- To be recited or sung by the deacon or Bishop. It may also be sung by the cantor.
- The Bishop normally will use Form C from the Ritual Mass of Confirmation. This is used if, and only if, there is no Sprinkling Rite.

### *Gloria*

- This hymn is sung or said only on Sundays outside Advent and Lent, on Solemnities and feasts.

### *Opening Prayer*

- On Sundays, solemnities, and feasts the Opening Prayer of the day is used. On all other days the Opening Prayer is from the ritual for Confirmation.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

- Readings, except on the Sundays and Solemnities or Feasts, will be taken from the Lectionary selections for the confirmation liturgy, number 763 - 767. **One of the following combinations of Readings is to be chosen:**

**A**

First Reading – Isaiah 42: 1-3

*Here is my servant upon whom, I have put my spirit.*

Second Reading – Ephesians 4: 1-6

*One body, one Lord, one faith, one Baptism.*

Gospel – Matthew 16: 21-27

*Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.*

**B**

First Reading – Isaiah 61: 1-3a, 6a, 8b-9

*The Lord anointed me and sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, and to give them the oil of gladness.*

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 12: 4-13

*But one and the same Spirit produces all these gifts, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.*

Gospel – Luke 4: 16-22a

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.*

**C**

First Reading – Acts: 19: 1b-6a

*Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?*

Second Reading – Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

Gospel – John 14: 23-26

*The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.*

- Three readings should be selected as is done on Sundays and Solemnities.
- Readings which are not printed in and read directly from the *Lectionary* or *Book of the Gospels* are to be printed on a sheet of paper and paper-clipped to the front inside cover of the *Lectionary* or *Book of the Gospels*. Binders are not to be used. Loose sheets of paper are not to be carried by the reader to the ambo.
- The Responsorial Psalm may be chosen from the options given in the Lectionary (766) or a comparable Psalm.
- Hymnody or sacred music other than a psalm or biblical canticle (e.g., Magnificat) may not be substituted. Likewise the Psalm should not be hymnody based on a psalm text.
- Psalm is ordinarily led by a cantor from the ambo and sung responsorially, with a sung response and verse.
- The deacon (or priest in the absence of a deacon) goes to the Bishop for a blessing prior to proclaiming the Gospel and brings the Book of the Gospels back to the Bishop for him to reverence after the proclamation.
- Incense may be used.

## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

### *Presentation of the Candidates as a Group*

- Candidates are presented **by the dean or the pastor of the host parish** using the following words (also included in *Appendix II*): ONLY THIS TEXT IS TO BE USED.

**FOR PARISH CELEBRATIONS: Let all to be confirmed please stand.**

**FOR DEANERY CELEBRATIONS: Let all to be confirmed please stand as your parish is announced.**

*Bishop Burbidge:*

*The [parish community of \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_  
Deanery] is honored by the presence of a successor of the Apostles. I present to you our sons and daughters who are candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Under the guidance of their parents and catechists and with the prayerful support and encouragement of this [parish or deanery], they have been prepared to complete their initiation into the Body of Christ, the Church, which was begun at their baptism. I ask that you impose hands upon them and anoint them with the Sacred Chrism, sealing them with the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

- At the conclusion of the presentation of the candidates, the dean or pastor should ask the congregation to applaud.

### *Homily - Given by Bishop*

- Bishop Burbidge will preach in the center aisle. Please provide lavalier or hand-held microphone. The Bishop does not use an ear piece microphone.

### *Renewal of Baptismal Promises*

- The candidates alone stand with the Bishop for the renewal. The Creed is omitted.

### *Laying on of Hands*

- Bishop and concelebrating priest(s) stand.
- The candidates alone stand; congregation is seated.
- The Bishop, with outstretched hands, says the prayer, imposing his hands over the candidates.

### *Anointing with Chrism*

- The designated place for the Anointing should allow the Bishop, candidates and sponsors to stand on the same level.
- A deacon, or in his absence a server, holds the Chrism vessel for the Bishop.
- During the anointing, (a) suitable hymn(s) may be sung. The music should not overwhelm the conferral of the sacrament so that the Bishop and the candidates may address each other in a normal tone of voice. In addition, the soft music should cover the entire action of the anointing.

- Sponsor actions and flow of line: Each sponsor proceeds behind the candidate to the Bishop. The sponsor should assist the candidate to stand close to the Bishop. The sponsor places his or her right hand on the right shoulder of the candidate to present the candidate and as the candidate is being confirmed (see box below). Candidates should be approaching the Bishop as the candidate in front of them is moving away from the Bishop. Several candidates may be in the aisle at the same time to better facilitate this process.
- After the anointing and the greeting of peace, each newly confirmed and his or her sponsor returns to their places.
- Candidate actions: Please duplicate the sample card and review with each candidate the information in the box which follows.

**INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE PRESENTATION TO THE BISHOP**  
**ONLY THIS TEXT IS TO BE USED**

The candidate is presented by the sponsor to the Bishop. The candidate stands in front of the Bishop. The sponsor, with his/her right hand on the candidate's right shoulder says, "***Bishop, I present (Confirmation Name) for the Sacrament of Confirmation.***" The Bishop will anoint the candidate.

Candidates should be instructed to:

- (1) Stand close to the Bishop to be anointed
- (2) Respond "***AMEN***" to their reception of the sacrament

Bishop: "*Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.*"

Candidate: "***Amen.***"

After anointing, the Bishop will exchange the Sign of Peace (handshake) with the newly confirmed.

- (3) Look at the Bishop while shaking hands and exchanging the Sign of Peace

Bishop: "*Peace be with you.*"

Candidate: "***And also with you.***" (*After which the candidate shakes the Bishop's hand.*)

**SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS:** The *Code of Canon Law* (CIC/83, Canons 889-896) requires sponsors to: 1) have completed their 16<sup>th</sup> year of age; 2) be a Catholic who has been confirmed and received First Eucharist, and who leads a life of faith in harmony with undertaking the role of sponsor and 3) when possible, the sponsor for Confirmation be the same sponsor from Baptism. Parents are not permitted to be sponsors.

*Washing of the Bishop's Hands*

- When the last candidate is confirmed, the Bishop will cleanse his hands using a water basin, water cruet, sliced lemon, and a finger towel.

*Prayer of the Faithful*

The Bishop will open and close the Prayer of the Faithful which should be read by the deacon or, in his absence, one or more of the newly confirmed. The Prayer of the Faithful provided by the Rite as found in Appendix IV is to be used. One intention may be added to those listed in Appendix IV. This intention is to be submitted for approval with the Liturgy Preparation Form to the Office of Worship four weeks prior to the celebration.

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

*Presentation of Gifts*

- Bread and wine (and optional gifts for the poor) are brought to the altar.
- During the procession of gifts, a hymn or instrumental music may accompany the Preparation of the Altar and Gifts.
- The Bishop may incense the gifts and the altar. The deacon (or in his absence, a concelebrant) may incense the Bishop, the clergy, and the assembly.
- For the washing of the Bishop's hands, the servers are to bring the water basin, water cruet and finger towel.

*Prayer over the Gifts*

*Preface*

*Eucharist Prayer*

Eucharistic Prayer III will be used unless otherwise instructed.

*Communion Rite*

*Lord's Prayer* – to be recited

*Sign of Peace*

*Lamb of God*

*Distribution of Holy Communion:*

- Holy Communion is distributed under both species, if possible, with two chalices for each ciborium.
- Determine the procedure for the distribution of Communion, for example, the Communion station for the Bishop. The pastor and/or dean should distribute Holy Communion next to the Bishop.
- When there is a deacon, by virtue of his office/ministry, he is to distribute the Precious Blood.
- Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, when needed, should stand in a place distinct from the priests while waiting to receive Holy Communion.
- Communion Hymn(s) – are to conclude as the ministers finish distributing the Eucharist.
- Hymn of Praise after Communion (optional).
- The sacred vessels will be purified by previously designated clergy after the Mass.

*Period of Thanksgiving*

- This is a time of silence.

*Prayer after Communion*

**AFTER COMMUNION**

*Announcements/Remarks*

This should be a combined presentation and **offered by one of the newly confirmed.**

- Include any specific extensions of gratitude as appropriate, e.g. to the Bishop, host pastor, catechists, choir, others.
- If group photographs are to be taken following the liturgy, information on the location, participants, coordinators, etc. should be provided to the assembly at this time.
- Announce that the Bishop welcomes individual photographs to be taken with the newly confirmed and their families if desired. This should ordinarily take place at a designated area where the reception is to take place. The specific location for these photographs is to be provided to the assembly at this time.
- If there is a reception, this information should be provided to the assembly at this time. The Bishop will be available to greet the faithful at the reception.

*Concluding Rites*

*Blessing*

*Dismissal*

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**PROGRAM FOR THE CELEBRATION**

- After the *Liturgy Preparation Form for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation* and the program for the celebration have been approved by the Office of Worship, please insure that the Office of the Bishop receives a printed copy of the program in advance of the liturgy.

**APPENDIX I – Lectionary Readings**

**One of the following selections of readings is to be chosen for the Confirmation Liturgy**

**A**

First Reading – Isaiah 42: 1-3

*Here is my servant upon whom, I have put my spirit.*

Second Reading – Ephesians 4: 1-6

*One body, one Lord, one faith, one Baptism.*

Gospel – Matthew 16: 21-27

*Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.*

**B**

First Reading – Isaiah 61: 1-3a, 6a, 8b-9

*The Lord anointed me and sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, and to give them the oil of gladness.*

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 12: 4-13

*But one and the same Spirit produces all these gifts, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.*

Gospel – Luke 4: 16-22a

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.*

**C**

First Reading – Acts: 19: 1b-6a

*Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?*

Second Reading – Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

Gospel – John 14: 23-26

*The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.*

**APPENDIX II – Group Presentation of the Candidates**

**ONLY THIS TEXT IS TO BE USED**

FOR PARISH CELEBRATIONS: Let all to be confirmed please stand.

FOR DEANERY CELEBRATIONS: Let all to be confirmed please stand as your parish is announced.

(Please wait until all are standing before continuing.)

Bishop:

The [parish community of \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_ Deanery] is honored by the presence of a successor of the Apostles. I present to you our sons and daughters who are candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Under the guidance of their parents and catechists and with the prayerful support and encouragement of this [parish or deanery], they have been prepared to complete their initiation into the Body of Christ, the Church, which was begun at their baptism. I ask that you impose hands upon them and anoint them with the Sacred Chrism, sealing them with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### APPENDIX III – Individual Candidate Presentation to the Bishop

#### **ONLY THIS TEXT IS TO BE USED**

The candidate is presented by the sponsor to the Bishop. The candidate stands in front of the Bishop. The sponsor, with his/her right hand on the candidate's right shoulder says, "***Bishop, I present (Confirmation Name) for the Sacrament of Confirmation.***" The Bishop will anoint the candidate.

Candidates should be instructed to:

- (1) Stand close to the Bishop to be anointed.
- (2) Respond "***AMEN***" to their reception of the sacrament.

Bishop: "*Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.*"

Candidate: "***Amen.***"

After anointing, the Bishop will exchange the Sign of Peace (handshake) with the newly confirmed.

- (3) Look at the Bishop while shaking hands and exchanging the Sign of Peace

Bishop: "*Peace be with you.*"

Candidate: "***And also with you.***" (After which the candidate shakes the Bishop's hand).

#### APPENDIX IV – Prayer of the Faithful

Bishop: My dear friends:  
Let us be one in prayer to God our Father  
as we are one in the faith, hope, and love his Spirit gives.

Deacon/  
Lector: For these sons and daughters of God,  
confirmed by the gift of the Spirit,  
**Reader:** that they give witness to Christ  
by lives built on faith and love. (Pause)  
Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon/  
Lector: For their parents and godparents who led them in faith,  
that by word and example they may always encourage them  
**Reader:** to follow the way of Jesus Christ. (Pause)  
Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon/  
Lector: For the holy Church of God,  
in union with N. our pope, N our Bishop, and all the Bishops,  
**Reader:** that God, who gathers us together by the Holy Spirit,  
may help us grow in unity of faith and love until his Son returns in glory. (Pause)  
Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon/  
Lector: For more vocations to the Priesthood:  
That young men from our Diocese will be given the gift of vocation along  
**Reader:** with the strength and encouragement to follow that call and that all young  
people of the Diocese will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit with the  
wisdom, courage, and desire to accept God's plan for their lives (Pause)  
Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Bishop: God our Father,  
you sent your Holy Spirit upon the apostles,  
and through them and their successors you give the Spirit to your people.  
May his work begun at Pentecost  
continue to grow in the hearts of all who believe.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.