

ORDER OF THE MASS - CONFIRMATION

- **Prior to Mass**

Parents and other family members and friends will arrive at their convenience and immediately go into the church to pray.

✓ Holy water is in the font to bless yourself with before entering the sanctuary.

✓ Please genuflect to the Blessed Sacrament, the Real Presence of Jesus, before entering your pew. If you suffer from a physical issue, you may bow to the altar.

✓ While sitting in the church waiting for Mass to begin, please sit in Sacred Silence.

+ Pray the *Divine Praises* on page 228 of the missalette.

+ Pray an *Act of Contrition*; if you don't have it memorized, use the missalette, page 234. Follow it up with the *Jesus Prayer* on page 226.

+ Pray for your child. If you don't know how to do this, here's an example to use or inspire: *Creator Spirit, strengthen my child with Your gifts of grace, to love and serve as a disciple of Christ. Grant that s/he may grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ. Fill her/him with the joy of Your presence. Increase in her/him the fruit of your Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of love, patience and gentleness, the spirit of wonder and true holiness. With a grateful heart, I ask for these things in the holy and powerful Name of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*

+ Pray for your family (see the two short prayers at the bottom of page 229 (missalette) if you don't know how to start).

- **Processional**

Confirmands and their Sponsors will participate in the Processional. The Music Director and Choir will begin the Opening Hymn. Confirmands and Sponsors will enter the church first, followed by the Altar Servers, followed by the Deacons, followed by the Priests, including the Bishop.

{Reminder: genuflect to the Blessed Sacrament, the Real Presence of Jesus, before entering your pew. If you suffer from a physical issue, you may bow to the altar.}

- **Opening Rites and Liturgy of the Word**

Confirmation Mass looks exactly like a typical Sunday Mass: Mass opens with the Greeting, the Penitential Rite, the Glory to God, and the Opening Prayer. We then move into the Liturgy of the Word as usual.

- **Rite of Confirmation**

Before moving into the Liturgy of the Eucharist, which is normal, the Church inserts the Rite of Confirmation at this point.

1. Presentation of the Candidates

Father Tri will approach the ambo and “Present the Candidates.” This means he will swear to the Bishop that the Confirmands of Holy Family parish are knowledgeable and well-prepared to defend and spread the Faith by word and deed, and that they are freely choosing this confirmation.

Bishop Barbarito will accept this and begin speaking. He may, or may not, ask the Confirmands questions. When a Confirmand answers, s/he will answer with a confident, powerful voice so that the entire congregation can hear her/him.

2. Renewal of Baptismal Promises

After this, Confirmands will renew their Baptismal Promise. This is usually done on Easter, so this will be familiar to you if you attend Easter Mass. Today, all Confirmands will respond to the Bishop with a confident, powerful voice so that the entire congregation can hear them:

BISHOP Do you renounce Satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises?

ALL **I do.**

BISHOP Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth?

ALL **I do.**

BISHOP Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right Hand of the Father?

ALL **I do.**

BISHOP Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, Who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation is given to you in a special way, just as He was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost?

ALL **I do.**

BISHOP Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

ALL **I do.**

BISHOP This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ALL **Amen.**

3. Imposition of Hands, Anointing, and Sign of Peace

“Imposition of Hands” means that the Bishop’s hands will hover over or touch your head while he prays. Our Bishop normally does this from the ambo while you are standing as a group in your pews.

“Anointing” means that he anoints you by smearing chrism oil in the form of a cross on your forehead.

**This is the part where the Confirmand and his/her Sponsor will leave their pews and come to the front. This is also the part where you change from a *Confirmand* to a *Confirmati*. Both the Anointing and the Sign of Peace happen as you are standing as an individual face-to-face with the Bishop.

“Sign of Peace” means that the Bishop will shake the Confirmand’s hand and wish him or her peace. He might not shake the Sponsor’s hand – no offense!

Let’s break it down:

1. For the Imposition of Hands, the Bishop normally faces the congregation and says a short prayer while you bow your head and hold your hands in prayer position. After a moment of silent prayer, he will say one other short prayer to which you respond *Amen*. The Imposition of Hands prayer goes something like this:

BISHOP Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who brought these servants to new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, freeing them from sin: send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete; give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety; will them with the spirit of fear of the Lord. Through Christ our Lord.

ALL **Amen.**

2. One Confirmand will come out of the pew and stand directly in front of the Bishop. The Sponsor will exit the pew at exactly the same time and stand behind the Confirmand, slightly off-center to the right. The Episcopal Secretary (Father King) or Father Tri will be standing to the Sponsor’s right.
3. Immediately, the Sponsor places his or her right hand on the candidate’s right shoulder. The Sponsor will not remove his or her hand until the Bishop says, “Peace be with you.”
 - Immediately after standing in front of the Bishop, with the Sponsor’s right hand on the Confirmand’s right shoulder, that individual’s Sacrament begins. The photographer will take your picture during this time. Don’t look at the photographer. Don’t look for your mom. Don’t look at your sponsor – just look at the bishop. You can smile – this is a happy time!
4. The Bishop will read your saint name off of the name card, which will be pinned to your robe near the left shoulder {so make sure you are holding it with no obstructions}. He will begin the Sacrament by dipping the tip of his right thumb into the chrism, saying a short prayer (below), and applying the oil:

BISHOP ___[saint name]___, be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.
 {applies Sacred Chrism}

CONFIRMATI **Amen.**

BISHOP Peace be with you. {extends hand to you}

CONFIRMATI **And with your spirit. {shake his hand}**

- There is no need to make the Sign of the Cross. Confirmatis and Sponsors separate and return to their pews.
5. This will happen over and over again, once for each Confirmand. Then we move on to the next part of a typical Sunday Mass: the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

- **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

This Liturgy happens just like a typical Sunday Mass.

When the bishop elevates the consecrated Host, whisper to yourself, “My Lord and my God.”

When the bishop elevates the consecrated wine, the Blood of Christ, whisper to yourself, “Jesus, have mercy.”

This is your last chance to say an *Act of Contrition* before you get in the line for Communion. If you don’t have it memorized, you can find it in the missalette on page 234.

Ushers will indicate when to leave the pew to receive Holy Communion, just like a regular Sunday Mass.

After returning to the pew, try to say your own genuine prayer of thanks. If you can’t think of anything to pray, say the Anima Christi (pages 231-232). Follow up your thank-you to Jesus with a prayer to the Holy Spirit. For ideas, see <https://connectusfund.org/7-confirmation-prayers-for-children>.

- **Concluding Rites**

The Concluding Rites include the final prayer and blessing. All congregants, not just the Confirmatis, will respond to the Bishop, something like this:

BISHOP The Lord be with you.

ALL **And with your spirit.**

BISHOP Blessed be the Name of the Lord,

ALL **Now and forever!**

BISHOP Our help is in the Name of the Lord,

ALL **Who made Heaven and Earth.**

Confirmatis and Sponsors will exit at this time during the Recessional Hymn while families and friends will remain in their pews and sing the recessional. Confirmatis and Sponsors will exit in two, side-by-side lines, followed by the Altar Servers, then the Deacons, then the Priests including the Bishop. Immediately at the conclusion of the hymn, the Confirmatis, Sponsors, Deacons, Priests, and Bishop will return to the foot of the altar so that our Photographer can take photos.

Parents and family and friends will remain in their pews during the entire recessional hymn. When the music is *completely finished*, one person from each family may enter the front pews to take the group photo using their cell phones. *Choose this person in advance of Mass.* Remember that our Photographer will take the best photo – **no one is allowed in the center aisle at this time** except for the Holy Family Photographer.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE MASS

When the photos are finished, you will go into the Parish Hall to drop off your robe and pick up your personal belongings, including your certificates.