



Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Parish During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The following information has been put together to assist pastors and their staff to planning for the Confirmation liturgy in your parish. If your parish has been livestreaming Mass, you may want to consider livestreaming these liturgies. Do not forget to include copyright notations when livestreaming or on any printed materials you may be producing for these or any other liturgical event at the parish.

- On August 21, 2020, the Bishop granted the faculty to Confirm to priests whose parishes had a Confirmation scheduled from March to the end of 2020. This does not extend to Confirmations beyond 2020 as it is the hope that Confirmations in 2021 can be carried out by Bishop Brennan.
- Follow the protocols for social distancing that your parish has set into place.
- The Confirmandi should not process into the Church, but be in their seats. Sponsors should not be seated next to them unless they are from the same family unit living together.
- Music can be led by a cantor and accompanist and kept simple.
- The Sundays in Ordinary Time allow the option to use the Confirmation Ritual Mass. You may also use the Ritual Mass on any day in the liturgical year when it is permitted. For clarification see the Ordo or contact the Office for Divine Worship with questions about the appropriateness of using the Ritual Mass vs. the Mass of the Day.
- Use the Rite for Confirmation from the new translation of the Order of Confirmation. The link for which can be found [here](#).
- You may wish for each confirmand and sponsor to approach the sanctuary steps individually for confirmation and return to their seats via another route to address concerns regarding social distancing.
- The candidate, the sponsor and the priest confirming should wear masks.
- The celebrant may extend outstretched hands over the candidates during the laying on of hands in the Rite of Confirmation. Gloves must not be worn by the celebrant. It is not necessary to use an instrument for the confirmation. You may choose to have the confirmandi wipe their foreheads with an alcohol-based sanitizer prior to confirming them to reduce the potential for any contaminants. If the aforementioned is not done by the confirmandi, then you will need to purify your hand after each Confirmation.
- Fresh Chrism should be supplied in the stock and afterwards soaked up with cotton balls and burned.
- Sponsors may extend outstretched hands over the confirmand's right shoulder instead of laying their hand on their shoulder.
- There should be no offertory procession.
- Distribution of the Eucharist should follow the same protocols for regular parish Masses.
- There are to be no receptions; and any group photos should maintain proper social distancing procedures.