



**ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE of ORANGE**

PASTORAL CENTER: OFFICE FOR WORSHIP  
13280 CHAPMAN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Clergy, DREs and Confirmation Coordinators

**FROM:** Deacon Modesto Cordero, Director, Office for Worship

**RE:** **2022 Liturgical CONFIRMATION Mass Guidelines for the Diocese of Orange**

**DATE:** January 11, 2022

This memorandum contains general information and guidelines regarding the celebration of the Rite of Confirmation in the Diocese of Orange. This information is meant to remind you of the basics of the Rite of Confirmation, as well as specifically enunciate many of the guidelines for the Diocese of Orange. Thank you for taking the time to be familiar with the many facets of the rites and ministry.

The Rite of Confirmation takes place within the celebration of Mass and during the Easter Season “in order to express more clearly the fundamental connection of this sacrament with the entirety of the Christian initiation” (CSL 71).

1. Confirmation Faculty:

1. Confirmations will be celebrated by the bishops and scheduled with the Office of the Bishop. If you haven't do so, you need to contact Santiago Avila at [savila@rcbo.org](mailto:savila@rcbo.org) or (714) 282-4212 to schedule your Confirmation Mass.
2. A request for a priest to confirm baptized Catholics can be obtained by simply sending a request via email to the Office of the Bishop. Confirmations administered without the faculty are invalid.

2. Preparation:

1. Full, active, and conscious participation is a liturgical principal to consider in your liturgical preparation, in particular for choosing music. This means that the assembly is expected to sing at your Confirmation liturgy. Participation is of greater value than even the artistic quality of a music piece or program, though it is the bishops' expectation that both participation and quality of music will be considered. The objective is that music (texts, genre, and language) be selected that the Confirmation candidates, their sponsors, and the assembly are capable and prepared to sing. This is especially important for: the Gathering (entrance) Hymn, the Responsorial Psalm, the Antiphon, the Eucharist Acclamations, the Communion Hymn, and the Recessional Hymn.
2. A Liturgy Sheet/Planner is to be sent in at least three weeks prior to the scheduled liturgy. If there is any special ritual or announcement that will occur in the Confirmation ceremony, please contact the Office for Worship. This should also be noted on the Liturgy Sheet/Planner.



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3. A teen who is already confirmed and who is journeying with their peers who seek Confirmation will receive a blessing at the Confirmation liturgy and this would be noted on the Liturgy Sheet/Planner so that the Master of Ceremonies can have the blessing ready for the Bishop/Celebrant. Also, if there is a young person to be confirmed who is celebrating Eucharist for the first time, it should be noted on the Liturgy Sheet/Planner.
4. Ordinarily the Bishop celebrating Confirmation receives and reads letters from the candidates and it is his expectation that these letters will get to him in a timely fashion (at least three weeks in advance of the Confirmation). The Bishops enjoy the letters, and it helps them prepare their homily. It is expected for the Confirmation Coordinator to read all the teen letters to appreciate their desire to receive the sacrament of Confirmation as well as gain insight into their reflection of the Gospel to be proclaimed at the Confirmation Liturgy. **It is important that any issues that are brought up in the letter are addressed by parish staff before letters are sent to the Bishop. Please indicate on the letter actions that were taken so Bishops know that teens have been pastoral cared for.** This year the teens are to reflect on the Gospel as well as why they wish to be confirmed in their letters. The letters must be no longer than **ONE** page and typed. Please send these letters *in a binder* to Pastoral Center, ATTENTION: Office for Worship, **three weeks before your Confirmation along with the Liturgy Sheet.**
5. The primary liturgical role of the confirmandi is their fruitful reception of the sacraments of initiation, which includes a lifting up of their hearts and minds in prayer and worship. They are not to undertake liturgical functions at the Mass in which they are confirmed. Such functions are best fulfilled by those thoroughly prepared.
6. If your Parish has a Deacon(s) he should serve at the Confirmation Liturgy. Please note his name on the Liturgy Sheet. The Master of Ceremonies is assigned by the Office for Worship.
7. Five altar servers are to be vested (six if incense is to be used) and prepared to meet with the Bishop's Master of Ceremonies at least 30 minutes before the liturgy begins. We would ask that the servers be experienced, follow instructions closely and promptly and be reverent and mature enough to aid us in providing appropriate liturgical ministry at the altar. It is highly recommended that siblings of Confirmation candidates **not** serve as altar servers. Our experience is that they wish to watch their sibling be confirmed and it conflicts with the duties of altar servers.
8. The parish (sacristan) is responsible to set up the items in the attached "Confirmation Check List." Please make sure all is prepared before the MC arrives. Holy Communion is normally distributed in the positions that the parish has established and a "chart" or description on how this happens in your parish is appreciated.



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9. The color of vestments: if your Confirmation is on a weekday (not Feast/Solemnities), vestments color is Red and on Sundays (which would include 4:00 PM or later on a Saturday night, which anticipates Sunday) the color of the vestments is that of the Sunday (i.e. Green during Ordinary time or white during Easter Season).
  10. Please note the time that your confirmation is to begin. This time indicates when **the bishop enters**, not when the candidates enter. The candidates are to be in their **places/seats/pews** at the time indicated. Therefore, the candidates are to enter the church at least **10 to 15 minutes** before the “starting time”. If you plan some special procession or ritual action of the candidates and their sponsors, make sure you give sufficient time for them to “do it” so that they are in their places for the bishop to enter at the hour indicated as the “start” of the liturgy.
  11. Consider confirming candidates in profile so that parents and sponsors may see the ritual action from their seats.
  12. The candidates should also be well rehearsed for the reception of the sacraments. The **rehearsal** may fittingly include practicing the prayers that will be used during the celebration. This can facilitate authentic participation in the liturgy by the candidates and sponsors.
  13. Since Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation and since the newly baptized are given a white garment, **white** should be considered as the preferred color for shirts or dresses. A stole is a vestment of the ordained and is not to be used by the Confirmation candidates.
  14. All those receiving the sacrament of Confirmation must have already been prepared for and have received the **sacrament of Penance and First Holy Communion** (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1457 and canon 914). Sponsors are also to have recently received the sacrament of Penance and therefore be able to receive Holy Communion.
  15. Clear directions on photography/videography should be given so that the sacredness of the event is maintained and the view of the assembly is never impaired by those taking photos or videos.
3. Beginning of the Mass:
1. The sacred chrism should be put in a prominent place, but not on the *mensa* of the altar. If the sacred chrism is carried in procession, it is carried before the *Book of the Gospels*. If two deacons are present at Mass, one may carry *the Book of the Gospels* and the other the sacred chrism.



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2. Since Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation and are intimately connected with Baptism, the use of the *Blessing and Sprinkling of Water* in place of the Penitential Act is appropriate. After the main celebrant blesses the water, an appropriate baptismal song should accompany the sprinkling. The *Gloria* should be sung (if permitted) after the celebrant says the prayer that concludes the sprinkling, **NOT** during the sprinkling.
  3. The proper Readings assigned in the Lectionary for the day are to be used on all Sundays, the Octave of Easter and Solemnities. For other days, the texts for Confirmation found in the Lectionary, Volume IV (Nos. 764-768), and texts suitable to the occasion, may be used. The gospel reading is selected by the bishop. For the 2022 Confirmation season the gospel is from **Matthew 25:14-30** and can be found in the Lectionary, Volume IV no. 768 #3. Songs or hymns may not be used in place of the responsorial psalm. This includes songs that are a paraphrasing of the psalm.
  4. A deacon, if present, is to read the gospel, or in his absence, by the pastor or other concelebrating priest.
4. Celebration of Confirmation:
1. An altar server will hold **The Order of Confirmation** book for the celebrant throughout the confirmation ceremony. (If you have not yet purchased a copy of the rite, you can do so at <https://store.usccb.org/The-Order-of-Confirmation-p/7-521.htm>.)
  2. The **presentation of the candidates** takes place after the gospel but before the homily. Please review the rubrics carefully (*The Order of Confirmation*, no. 21). If a bishop is the celebrant, the presentation is to be done by the pastor or administrator.
  3. The rite provides a sample address that can be helpful to the bishop and/or priest in preparing his **homily** (no. 22).
  4. Following the homily is the **Renewal of Baptismal Promises (no. 23)**. The confirmandi should be rehearsed to respond "**I DO**" loudly and clearly.
  5. Next is the **Laying on of Hands**. Review the rubrics carefully (nos. 24-25). The bishop with his hands outstretched over the entire group will pray in silence.
  6. The Bishops and Celebrants will confirm **STANDING**. The sponsor stands behind the candidate either on the same level or one step lower. There should be a parish representative (Confirmation team member or other adult who has been a part of the confirmation process) assisting in lining up the candidates and to see that they stand close enough to the bishop so that he can reach to anoint them .
  7. For the **Anointing with Chrism**, again, review the rubrics carefully (nos. 26-27). It is a good idea to have a printed name card (i.e. a 3X5 card) for each candidate, with the name the celebrant will say prominent. Consider printing the name with bold letters so that the celebrant may see the name and the candidate may forgo saying the name in the proximity of the celebrant. The sponsor should hold the name card up for the



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presider to see the name. Care should be taken that the confirmandi and sponsors do not block the view of the assembly as they come forward.

8. Due to the unity between Baptism and Confirmation, the candidates are encouraged to use their baptismal **name** when being confirmed. However, if desired, they may take a different name for Confirmation. A new Confirmation name may be chosen from among the names of holy men and women of the Scriptures, of the saints, or of virtues (e.g., faith, charity). If the name of a saint is chosen, the title “saint” is omitted. (i.e., if St. Catherine of Siena is chosen, then the Confirmation name is “Catherine of Siena.”) Saints names may be given in Spanish, Vietnamese or other language.

**Examples of correct names:**

Francis of Assisi  
Francis de Sales  
John the Evangelist  
John the Baptist  
Therese of Lisieux  
Teresa of Avila  
Mary, Mother of God  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
(or any other approved Marian Title)

**Incorrect Names:**

Francis  
  
John  
  
Therese  
  
Mary  
Mary

9. A deacon, if present, or a concelebrating priest, or if necessary, an acolyte or server, should hold the **chrism** for the celebrant on his right. A **purificator** should also be available for wiping excess chrism.
10. Appropriate instrumental **music** during the anointing should begin only after the celebrant has anointed the first few candidates so that the assembly is able to hear the formula which accompanies the anointing. Song with lyrics won't be sung during the anointing rite.
11. After the anointing rite of Confirmation, the oil might be on the Celebrant's fingers and rest of his hand. The bowl for the washing of his hands should be large enough to accommodate both his hands as he uses the lemon and sliced bread and washes with water (in the same bowl). The sliced bread is left whole and not torn into pieces.
12. A deacon, if present, is to read the intentions of the **Universal Prayer** as usual.
13. It is expected that the sponsor, as well as the candidate, will receive Eucharist at the Confirmation Mass. Please continue to encourage sponsors to prepare and receive Eucharist at this liturgy.



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5. Blessing and Dismissal: Ordinarily a Solemn Blessing or Prayer over the People will be used. Everyone answers “*AMEN*” after each of the invocations.

For more information contact the Office of Worship at (714) 282-3041 or email Deacon Modesto Cordero at [mcordero@rcbo.org](mailto:mcordero@rcbo.org).

Blessings!



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### Confirmation Check List

- Roman Missal with ribbons at appropriate prayers
- Book of Gospels marked
- Readings marked in Lectionary and in place
- The Universal Prayer for Confirmation (a.k.a. Prayers of the Faithful) at the ambo or alternate location where they will be read.
- Incense (if used regularly at your parish) prepared. Incense is **only** used if the parish uses incense at other solemn liturgies, in other words at Easter and Christmas at the minimum.
- Vessels for the Sprinkling Rite in place by font OR bowl with un-blessed water and sprinkler at credence table or alternate location
- All Eucharistic vessels for the Celebrant, Concelebrants, and Assembly in place.
- Sufficient hosts and wine for communion as planned.
- All linens (purificators, corporal(s) towels, etc.) in place.
- Preparation for hand washing for the Celebrant who washes his hands 3 times in the ceremony:
  - after anointing (lemon and 2 slices of bread intact, not torn up in a bowl),
  - at the usual lavabo where a second bowl and towel is used and after distribution of Holy Communion with the same bowl
- All chairs for all ministers (Celebrant, Deacons, and concelebrants), in place; the Celebrant sits in presider's chair with deacons at his side(s), all others (parochial vicars, guest priests) sit somewhere else in the sanctuary (not beside Celebrant) or in pews.
- All microphones in place