



MEMORANDUM

TO: Clergy, DREs and Confirmation Coordinators
FROM: Deacon Modesto Cordero, Director, Office for Worship
RE: **2027 Liturgical Youth CONFIRMATION Mass Guidelines
for the Diocese of Orange**
DATE: **September 10, 2026**

This memorandum contains general information and guidelines regarding the celebration of the Order of Confirmation for youth programs in the Diocese of Orange. This information is meant to remind you of the basics of the Order 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 Order of Confirmation takes place within the celebration of Mass and normally 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). In the Diocese of Orange, the confirmation season begins on the Monday of the Octave of Easter and concludes at the end of June.

These guidelines are intended for the 2027 Youth Confirmation Season and are updated annually in July/August.

1) Confirmation Faculty:

- a) Confirmations will be celebrated by the bishops and scheduled with the Office of the Bishop. A link from the Bishop's office to sign up for your date and time will be sent on **Monday, October 5, 2026 at noon**, to all pastors. Pastors are to schedule ONE Confirmation Mass, if additional masses are needed, they can be scheduled with the permission of the Bishop's Office. If a parish schedules more than one Confirmation mass without permission, all previously scheduled masses will be canceled. If you do have questions, contact Juan Arellano at jarellano@rcbo.org or (714) 282-4212.
- b) Multiple Confirmation Masses at each parish may need to be scheduled this year as we continue experiencing an increase of the number of candidates for Confirmation. The maximum number of confirmandi for Masses with Bishop Timothy Freyer and Bishop Thanh Thai Nguyen should be 15% of your church capacity. Bishop Kevin Vann will confirm 25 candidates maximum per Mass. The Masses at which Bishop Vann will preside will be assigned directly to specific parishes by the Bishop's Office.
- c) 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) Other Sacraments

- a) The celebration of other Sacraments within the Confirmation Mass (e.g., the celebration of First Communion for children) is not permitted without prior notification to and approval from the Office of the Bishop.



3) Preparation:

- a) A Liturgy Sheet/Planner is to be sent in at least one month prior to the scheduled liturgy (see liturgical planner for Confirmation Masses). If there is any special ritual or announcement that will occur in the Confirmation ceremony, please inform the Office for Worship. This should also be noted on the Liturgy Sheet/Planner. **It is strongly recommended to arrange a meeting 3 months before the Mass involving the pastor, liturgy and music coordinator, Confirmation Coordinator and any other pertinent individuals involved in the Confirmation liturgy. This meeting will serve to thoroughly discuss and finalize the planner, ensuring seamless coordination and execution of the ceremony.**
- b) Music: Full, active, and conscious participation is a liturgical principle to consider in your liturgical preparation, 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 so 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. Being amid a Eucharistic Revival, it is desirable to avoid using the memorial acclamation, **"When we eat this bread..."** and use an alternative acclamation.
- c) A teen who is already confirmed and who is journeying with their peers who seek Confirmation may 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.
- d) Bishop Letters: 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 one month 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 pastorally cared for.** This year the teens are to reflect on the Gospel of Luke 8:4-10a, 11b-15, or the Gospel of the day if your confirmation falls on the Octave of Easter, a Sunday or Feast Day/Solemnity, 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, hole punched, *in a binder* to the Pastoral Center, ATTENTION: Office for Worship, **one month before your Confirmation along with the Liturgy Sheet.** NOTE: DO NOT place the letters on plastic sheets or document protectors. **Please submit one binder for each of your confirmation masses, do not place letters for multiple confirmation masses in one binder.**
- e) 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 should not assume liturgical functions during the Mass in which they are confirmed (e.g., Lector, Altar Server, Cantor).** Such functions are best fulfilled by those thoroughly prepared like the regular parish liturgical ministers. During the Confirmation Mass, the confirmandi should refrain from giving a personal testimony or speech. Such expressions are best shared outside the context of the Mass to maintain the focus on the sacramental significance and communal celebration, respecting the sacred atmosphere of the liturgy.



- f) The Deacons of the Mass are assigned by the Office of the Permanent Diaconate. The Master of Ceremonies is assigned by the Office for Worship.
- g) Five altar servers are to be dressed (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 do 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.
- h) The parish (sacristan) is responsible to set up the items in the "Confirmation Check List", in Appendix 1. 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.
- i) The Ritual Mass of Confirmation may be celebrated on weekdays, Sundays in Ordinary Time, and Feast Days. When the Ritual Mass of Confirmation is celebrated, the color of the vestments is red. However, when Confirmation is celebrated on a Sunday in Easter, Solemnity or another day of higher liturgical importance, the proper liturgical day is observed, and the vestment color prescribed for that celebration is to be used. Parishes should also consider whether the Confirmation Mass is a Vigil Mass, celebrated at 4:00 p.m. or later on the preceding day, typically Saturday evening, as it anticipates the Sunday celebration.
- j) 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 complete this action so that they are in their places for the bishop to enter at the hour indicated as the "start" of the liturgy.
- k) The candidates should also be well rehearsed for the reception of the sacraments. The **rehearsal** should be as close to the Confirmation mass as possible and 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. Please note the date and time of the rehearsal on the planner and consider extending an invitation to the Bishop's Master of Ceremonies.
- l) 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.** See Appendix 2 for further details on Dress Code.
- m) 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). Confirmation Coordinators and Pastors should work together to ensure that an opportunity for the sacrament of Penance be offered or encouraged to Candidates and sponsors in the final month of preparation. Sponsors are also to have recently received the sacrament of Penance and therefore be able to receive Holy Communion. Sponsors are not to be the parents of the confirmed. None of the parents can act as proxy. Sponsors are to be fully initiated in the Catholic Church and if married, married in the Church. Only one sponsor is appropriate for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- n) Clear directions on photography/videography during the celebration of the Mass and rite 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. If applicable, please note on the Liturgy Planner where



pictures with the Bishop will be taken after the mass and whether you prefer a group picture OR picture with the individual confirmandi and his/her sponsor.

- o) Instructions for picture taking after the Mass with the bishop is provided in Appendix 3.
- p) The Master of Ceremonies is expected to meet with the sacristan, choir, altar servers, deacons, priests, and gift bearers at least 15 minutes before the Mass.

4) Beginning of the Mass:

- a) 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.
- b) 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 (and salt, if used), 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.
- c) 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. See Appendix 4. The gospel reading is selected by the bishop. For the 2026 Confirmation season the gospel is from **Luke 8:4-10a, 11b-15** and can be found in the Lectionary, Volume IV no. 768 #6. Songs or hymns may not be used in place of the responsorial psalm. This includes songs that are paraphrasing of the psalm.
- d) A deacon, if present, is to read the gospel, or in his absence, by the pastor or other concelebrating priest.

5) Celebration of Confirmation:

- a) An altar server will hold ***The Order of Confirmation*** book for the celebrant throughout the confirmation ceremony.
- b) 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). **Refer to Appendix 5 for an example.** If a bishop is the celebrant, the presentation is to be done by the pastor or parochial administrator of the parish, **not by the confirmation coordinator or any other representative.**
- c) The rite provides a sample address that can be helpful to the bishop and/or priest in preparing his **homily** (no. 22).
- d) Following the homily is the **Renewal of Baptismal Promises (no. 23)**. The confirmandi should be rehearsed to respond "**I DO**" loudly and clearly.
- e) Next is the Laying of Hands. Please carefully review the rubrics (nos. 24, 25). During this step, the bishop will pray out loud with his hands outstretched over the entire group. Meanwhile, the concelebrating priests will extend their hands over the candidates but will remain silent.
- f) Bishop Vann will confirm while SITTING. All other Bishops or 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, 2' to 3' between each of them to ensure an efficient flow, and to see that they stand close enough to the bishop so that he can reach to anoint them. If necessary, the Master of Ceremonies will assist in ensuring an efficient flow of the candidates.



- g) For the Anointing with Chrism, please review rubrics 26-27 carefully. Candidates, accompanied by their sponsor, approach the bishop in a reverent and orderly manner. When Bishop Nguyen presides, **each candidate introduces themselves to the bishop by stating their Saint's Name clearly (e.g., "My name is Peter," or "My name is Mary.")**. When Bishop Vann or Freyer presides, a card with the confirmandi's saint name will be shown to the bishop. It is recommended to have a printed name card (i.e. a 3X5 card) or name tags for each candidate, with **ONLY** the name, of the patron saint in large print, that the celebrant can read. **Do not add additional information to the front of card such as the confirmandi's name, sponsor name or any other information.** The sponsor should hold the name card up for the presider to see the name. Candidates and sponsors should position themselves in such a way that they do not obstruct the view of the congregation. This could mean standing to the side or ensuring that the central aisle remains clear and sitting down or kneeling immediately when returning to their pew.
- h) Due to the unity between Baptism and Confirmation, the candidates may 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/blessed, or of virtues (e.g., faith, charity). If the name of a saint is chosen, the title "saint" / "blessed" is omitted. (i.e., if St. Catherine of Siena is chosen, then the Confirmation name is "Catherine of Siena.") Saints/Blessed names may be given in Spanish, Vietnamese or other language. See Appendix 6 for examples. **In the Diocese of Orange, the Patron Saint chosen must be the same sex as the confirmandi (ie. men cannot select Mary, and women cannot select Peter).**
- i) 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. It should be avoided assigning the deacon to receive the name cards.
- j) 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. Songs with lyrics are not sung during the anointing rite.
- k) 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.
- l) A deacon, if present, is to read the intentions of the **Universal Prayer** as prescribed (no. 30) in the ritual book, not the newly confirmed or another minister. See Appendix 7.
- m) 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.
- 6) **Blessing and Dismissal:** Ordinarily a Solemn Blessing or Prayer over the People will be used. Everyone answers "**AMEN**" after each of the invocations. **The Double Alleluia is used only during the Octave of Easter and on Pentecost Sunday.** It is not used at Confirmation Masses, nor on the Sundays of Easter following the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday).

For more information contact the Office of Worship at (714) 282-3041 or email Deacon Modesto Cordero at mcordero@rcbo.org or Julian Venegas at jvenegas@rcbo.org.

Blessings!



Appendix 1

Confirmation Checklist

- ☐ Roman Missal with ribbons at appropriate prayers.
- ☐ Book of the 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 salt, if used) and sprinkler at credence table or alternate location.
- ☐ All sacred vessels for the Celebrant, Concelebrants, and Assembly in place.
- ☐ Sufficient hosts and wine (for the celebrants ONLY) 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 are 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 (with batteries fully charged) in place.
- ☐ Secure a parking space for Mass Ministers (i.e., Bishop, MC's, Deacons)



Appendix 2

Dress Code for Sponsors & Candidates for Confirmation in the Diocese of Orange

Gentlemen

Dress as if attending a wedding. The following guidelines apply:

- Wear a long-sleeve dress shirt with a collar. White or light-colored shirts are recommended.
- A conservative tie is required (red is preferable).
 - No cartoon or graphic ties.
- Dress slacks are required.
 - **Jeans are not permitted.**
- Wear dark dress socks.
- Dress shoes only.
 - **No sandals or athletic shoes.**
- A belt should be worn.
- Hair should be neatly combed and **off the forehead** (to allow for the anointing).

Please Note:

- A sport coat or suit is optional.
- Do not wear clothing with visible logos or messages.

Ladies

Dress as if attending a wedding. Please follow these guidelines:

- Wear a white, light-colored, pastel, or floral dress, or a pant suit.
- No thin straps or off-the-shoulder dresses. If worn, shoulders must be covered.
- Dress shoes or dressy sandals are appropriate.
 - No flip-flops.
 - No heels over 3" high.
- Hair should not cover the forehead.
- Skirts and dresses should be of conservative length—to the knees or longer.
 - No mini skirts.
- Avoid low necklines or low backlines.

Note: A stole is a vestment of the ordained and is not to be used by the Confirmation candidates.



Appendix 3

Photo Guidelines in the Diocese of Orange

As we prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Bishops of the Diocese of Orange along with the Office for Worship would like to remind all Confirmation Coordinators of the REQUIRED guidelines for photos with the bishop that typically follow the Confirmation Mass.

GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY WITH THE BISHOPS

- When the Bishop arrives, the plan for photos after the Mass must be clearly and concisely communicated to the bishop and anyone else accompanying him. It should explain the location of the photos, the process of how they will line up and any other pertinent details.
- If Bishop Vann is the celebrant, then there will only be one group photo. Please be prepared to coordinate this group photo in an organized and efficient manner immediately following the Mass. Bishop Vann must be seated for this photo.
- If there is another Bishop celebrating the Mass, individual pictures immediately following the Mass are permitted. Here are the guidelines:
 - For efficiency, only ONE photo per Confirmand. It may be taken with whomever he or she wishes. Only ONE camera/phone is allowed to take this photo.
 - There must be an orderly line and process for taking these pictures. Please have this planned out and communicate beforehand to all those involved.
 - There must be at least 2 volunteers from the parish who are responsible for helping the Confirmandi line up, pose and take the photo.
- It is highly recommended to hire a professional photographer.
- Flash photography is highly discouraged as it is distracting

Please be sure to carefully review all these guidelines, communicate them to everyone involved and be prepared to execute them well on the day of Confirmation. Thank you!

If there are any questions, please contact the Coordinator of Confirmation Preparation, Laura Schuberg, lschuberg@rcbo.org

Appendix 4

Liturgy of Word Options

(Nos. 61-64)

OLD TESTAMENT:

(Lectionary No. 764)

Is 11:1-4ab

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A Spirit of counsel and of strength, a Spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, But he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted.

The word of the Lord.

Is 42:1-3

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, Upon whom I have put my Spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, Not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench.

The word of the Lord.

Is 61:1-3abcd, 6ab, 8c-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, To announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God, to comfort all who mourn; To place on those who mourn in Zion a diadem instead of ashes, To give them oil of gladness in place of mourning, a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit. You yourselves shall be named priests of the LORD, ministers of our God you shall be called. I will give them their recompense faithfully, a lasting covenant I will make with them. Their descendants shall be renowned among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; All who see them shall acknowledge them as a race the LORD has blessed.

The word of the Lord.

Ek 36:24-28

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord GOD: I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new Spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my Spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The word of the Lord.

Jl 2:23a, 26-3:1-3a

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel

Children of Zion, exult and rejoice in the LORD, your God! You shall eat and be filled, and shall praise the name of the LORD, your God, Because he has dealt wondrously with you; my people shall nevermore be put to shame. And you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel; I am the LORD, your God, and there is no other; my people shall nevermore be put to shame. Then afterward I will pour out my Spirit upon all mankind. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; Even upon the servants in those days, I will pour out my Spirit. And I will work wonders in the heavens and on the earth.

The word of the Lord.



NEW TESTAMENT:

(Lectionary No. 765)

Acts 1:3-8

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Jesus showed the Apostles that he was alive by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the Kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The word of the Lord.

Acts 2:1-6, 14, 22b-23, 32-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them: “You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. “Jesus the Nazorean was a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs, which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know. This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him. “God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured it forth, as you both see and hear.”

The word of the Lord.

Acts 8:1bc, 4, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On that day, there broke out a severe persecution of the Church in Jerusalem, and all were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria, except the Apostles. Those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. When the Apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Acts 10:1, 33-34a, 37-44

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Cohort called the Italica. Cornelius said to Peter: “I sent for you immediately, and you were kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to listen to all that you have been commanded by the Lord.” Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, “You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the Devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.” While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word.

The word of the Lord.



Acts 19:1b-6a

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
Paul came to Ephesus where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They answered him, "We have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." He said, "How were you baptized?" They replied, "With the baptism of John." Paul then said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them.

The word of the Lord.

Rm 5:1-2, 5-8

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans
Brothers and sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

The word of the Lord.

Rm 8:14-17

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans
Brothers and sisters: For those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The word of the Lord.

Rm 8:26-27

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans
Brothers and sisters: The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.

The word of the Lord.

1 Cor 12:4-13

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians
Brothers and sisters: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. 12:4-13 To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; another faith by the same Spirit; another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; another mighty deeds; another prophecy; another discernment of spirits; another varieties of tongues; another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Gal 5:16-17, 22-23a, 24-25

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians
Brothers and sisters: Live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh. For the flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you may not do what you want. In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Eph 1:3a, 4a, 13-19a

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He chose us in Christ, before the foundation of the world. In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory. Therefore, I, too, hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus and of your love for all the holy ones, do not cease giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe.

The word of the Lord.



Eph 4:1-6

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians
Brothers and sisters: I, a prisoner for the Lord, 4:1-6
urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have
received, with all humility and gentleness, with
patience, bearing with one another through love,
striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the
bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit, as you were
also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one
faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is
over all and through all and in all.

The word of the Lord.

RESONSORIAL PSALMS:

(Lectionary No. 766)

Ps 22:23-24, 26-27, 28 and 31-32

R: I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters.

Or:

R: When the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will be my
witness.

I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in
the midst of the assembly I will praise you: "You who
fear the LORD, praise him; all you descendants of
Jacob, give glory to him." **R**

By your gift will I utter praise in the vast assembly; I
will fulfill my vows before those who fear him. The
lowly shall eat their fill; they who seek the LORD shall
praise him: "May your hearts be ever merry!" **R**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the
LORD; All the families of the nations shall bow down
before him; my descendants shall serve him. Let the
coming generation be told of the LORD that they may
proclaim to a people yet to be born the justice he has
shown. **R**

Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5-6

R: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall
want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant
pastures he gives me repose; Beside restful waters he
leads me; he refreshes my soul. **R**

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even
though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you
are at my side With your rod and your staff that give me
courage. **R**

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **R**

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of
my life; And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for
years to come. **R**

Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 9-10a, 11-12

R: Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all
you lands; Sing to the LORD; bless his name. **R**

Announce his salvation, day after day. Tell his glory
among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous
deeds. **R**

Worship the LORD in his holy attire. Tremble before
him, all the earth; say among the nations: The LORD is
king. **R**

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea
and what fills it resound; let the plains be joyful and all
that is in them! Then shall all the trees of the forest
exult. **R**

Ps 104: 1ab and 24, 27-28, 30-31, 33-34

R: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the
earth.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD, my God, you
are great indeed! How manifold are your works, O
LORD! In wisdom you have wrought them all the earth
is full of your creatures. **R**

They all look to you to give them food in due time.
When you give it to them, they gather it; when you open
your hand, they are filled with good things. **R**

When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and
you renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the
LORD endure forever; may the LORD be glad in his
works! **R**

I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to
my God while I live. Pleasing to him be my theme; I
will be glad in the LORD. **R**



Ps 117: 1, 2

R: You will be my witnesses to all the world.

Praise the LORD, all you nations, glorify him, all you peoples! **R**

For steadfast is his kindness toward us, and the fidelity of the LORD endures forever. **R**

Ps 145: 2-3, 4-5, 8-9, 10-11, 15-16, 21

R: I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

Every day will I bless you, and I will praise your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD and highly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. **R**

Generation after generation praises your works and proclaims your might. They speak of the splendor of your glorious majesty and tell of your wondrous works. **R**

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The LORD is good to all and compassionate toward all his works. **R**

VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL:

(Lectionary No. 767)

John 14:16

I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always.

John 15:26b, 27a

The Spirit of truth will testify to me, says the Lord; and you also will testify.

John 16:13a; 14:26d

When the spirit of truth comes, he will guide you to all truth and remind you of all I told you.

Revelation 1:5a, 6a

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness, firstborn from the dead; you have made us a kingdom of priests to serve our God and Father.

GOSPEL (for 2027):

(Lectionary No. 768)

Luke 8:4-10a, 11b-15

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to Jesus, he spoke in a parable. "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear." Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, "The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of temptation. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD, and let your faithful ones bless you. Let them discourse of the glory of your Kingdom and speak of your might. **R**

The eyes of all look hopefully to you and you give them their food in due season; You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. **R**

May my mouth speak the praise of the LORD, and may all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever. **R**

Other

Come, Holy Spirit; shine on us the radiance of your light

Or:

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light from the clear celestial height, thy pure beaming radiance give.

Or:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love



Appendix 5

Presentation of Candidate Script

For Group Presentation

Candidates for Confirmation, please stand.

Bishop _____, I present to you the candidates of **N.** parish, who have completed a period of preparation for Confirmation. They have deepened their knowledge of Jesus Christ by studying the truths of our faith. They have been strengthened by God's grace in the Sacraments and have been supported by the prayers and example of our parish community. I now ask you to celebrate the completion of their initiation into the life of Christ and to seal them with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.



Appendix 6 Saint Names

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

Please note: Candidates are only allowed to select a Patron Saint that is the same sex as them (i.e. Men can only select male saints and women can only select female saints)



Appendix 7

Universal Prayer

Bishop: My dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly pray to God the almighty Father and be of one mind in our prayer, just as faith, hope and charity, which proceed from his Holy Spirit, are one.

Deacon or Minister: For these his servants, whom the gift of the Holy Spirit has confirmed: that, planted in faith and grounded in love, they may bear witness to Christ the Lord by their way of life, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Deacon or Minister: For their parents and sponsors: that by word and example they may continue to encourage those whom they have sponsored in the faith to follow in the footsteps of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Deacon or Minister: For the holy Church of God together with **Leo**, our Pope, **Kevin**, our Bishop, his Auxiliary Bishops **Timothy** and **Thanh**, that, gathered by the Holy Spirit, the Church may grow and increase in unity of faith and love until the coming of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Deacon or Minister: For the whole world: that all people, who have one Maker and Father, may acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters, without discrimination of race or nation, and with sincere hearts seek the Kingdom of God, which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Bishop: O God, who gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles and willed that through them and their successors the same Spirit be handed on to the rest of the faithful, listen favorably to our prayer, and grant that your divine grace, which was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, may now spread through the hearts of those who believe in you. Through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen