THE CONFIRMATION LITURGY

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The Sacrament of Confirmation normally occurs within the context of the Eucharistic Liturgy which is the culmination of the candidate’s preparation. Confirmation is a parish celebration and its planning should reflect the community’s role in both the preparation and celebration of this sacrament. Confirmation is part of the ritual of initiation which brings persons to new life in Christ and full membership in the Christian community.

Contained in this publication is a Confirmation Liturgy Outline which contains specific information about items needed for the celebration of the rite and particulars of the rite itself. A Confirmation Liturgy Preparation Worksheet that outlines the entire service is also included. Additional copies of this, as well as the ritual text of the Rite of Confirmation, are available from the Office of Christian Worship, (269) 903-0193 dreilly@dioceseofkalamazoo.org. An understanding of the Rite will enable you to be more confident about the mechanics of the ceremony and allow you to use your energies for the celebration of a joyful, uplifting liturgy for the candidates and the gathered assembly. The following information and outline is intended to help in your preparation of the liturgy of Confirmation.

Readings for the Sacrament of Confirmation
On Sundays in Ordinary time, Bishop Bradley allows the parish to use one or all the readings of the Sunday if you deem any or all appropriate for the celebration.

On weekdays you may select the readings from those within the Rite of Confirmation (Lectionary #’s 764-768) unless the date falls on one of the higher ranked liturgical days listed below.

On the Sundays of Advent, Lent, Easter, and on solemnities, the days of the week within the Octave of Easter, All Souls’, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week the readings of the day take precedent and are to be used instead of those for the Ritual Mass of Confirmation (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, #372).

Practical Matters
1. Liturgical information should be sent to the Bishop four weeks in advance of the celebration. This includes the choice of readings, music and options within the Rite. Please enclose a list of the names of the Confirmation candidates, include their baptismal name, their family name, their chosen Confirmation name, the name of their Sponsor and the relationship of the Sponsor to the candidate when you return this form. Bishop Bradley will pray for each candidate and sponsor by name.

2. Liturgical ministers should be informed of plans well in advance of the celebration. Lector(s) should have the reading(s) to prepare. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should be recruited only if ordinary ministers (Bishop, priests & deacons) are not available in sufficient numbers. Plan to have twice as many ministers of the Precious Blood as there are ministers of the Body of Christ. Ushers should be available to help as needed, especially to welcome and care for visitors and parishioners.
3. A Master of Ceremonies will also attend. His role is to help brief the altar servers, take care of the Bishop’s mitre and crosier and assist in other ways as necessary.

4. Incense is optional. If used, an additional server will be required to act as thurifer.

5. Items needed:
   - Red vestments, cincture, alb and amice for the bishop if needed.
   - Purple vestments are worn for Confirmation on Sundays (and the Saturday Vigil) of Advent, Lent and Holy Week.
   - White vestments are worn on Sundays of the Christmas season and Solemnities and their Vigils.
   - A presider’s chair for the bishop and seating for clergy and other ministers.
   - Lemons, cruets of water and a small basin and towel for the bishop to clean his hands following the anointing.
   - A cloth to protect the Bishop’s vestments,
   - The Lectionary and Sacramentary with proper texts and options for Mass marked.

SUGGESTED ORDER OF PROCESSION

(Thurifer – optional)
Cross Bearer & 2 Candle Bearers
(Confirmandi - unless seated beforehand)
(Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist - optional)
Lectors
Minister with Chrism Oil (DRE or Confirmation Catechist)
Deacon carrying the Book of the Gospels
Concelebrants
Bishop
MC, Mitre Bearer & Crosier Bearer

ORDER OF CONFIRMATION MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Procession
Penitential Rite or Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling
Gloria  (Omit on the Sundays of Advent and Lent; include on Sundays and weekdays through the year and on the weekdays of Advent and Lent)
Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD¹

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm  (should be sung)
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation  (sung or omitted)
Gospel Reading

¹ Readings may be taken in whole or in part from the Mass of the day, especially at a regular Sunday Mass or from the texts for Confirmation in the Lectionary for Mass (# 764-768). Note: on the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, Solemnities, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week the readings proper for the day are used.
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION  (refer to the Rite of Confirmation)
  Presentation of the Candidates  (each candidate is to be called by name;
  candidate stands when name is called and stand in their place)
  Homily  (by Bishop)
  Renewal of Baptismal Promises  (replaces the Creed)
  Laying on of Hands² (candidates kneel at this time)
  Anointing with Chrism
  General Intercessions³

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
  Preparation of the Gifts
  Eucharistic Prayer
    Holy, Holy  (should be sung)
    Memorial Acclamation  (should be sung)
    Amen  (should be sung)

COMMUNION RITE
  Lord’s Prayer
  Sign of Peace
  Lamb of God
  Reception of Communion
  Prayer after Communion
  Announcements

CONCLUDING RITE
  Final Blessing
  Dismissal
  Recessional

If you need additional information or assistance, please contact the Diocesan Office of
Christian Worship at (269) 349-8714 ext. 245 or email dreilly@dioceseofkalamazoo.org

² The ritual of the Laying on of Hands is done over all the confirmandi at once. The candidates kneel and the sponsors remain
seated. This ritual is done in silence; no music is used.

³ Examples of the General Intercessions can be found in The Rite of Confirmation  (pp. 23-24). Candidates are encouraged to
compose their own prayers which would include petitions for the world, the Church, their faith community, the sick and the
deceased.
CONFIRMATION LITURGY PREPARATION WORKSHEET

BASIC INFORMATION

Parish ___________________________ City ___________________________

Date and time of Confirmation ________________________________________

Address _____________________________________________________________

Contact Person __________________ Phone __________________________

Sometimes the Bishop’s Master of Ceremonies will need to call a contact person at the liturgy site within 30 minutes of the liturgy. What phone number(s) should he try and thus avoid answering machines/services if different from above?

Other than the sacristy where will the Bishop vest? ______________________

Group Photograph? □ Yes □ No Taken: □ Before Mass □ After Mass

Location of photograph ________________________________________________

Meal? □ Yes □ No □ Before Mass □ After Mass Location _________________

Reception after Mass? □ Yes □ No Location _____________________________

MINISTERS

Concelebrant(s) ________________________________________________________

Deacon(s) __________________________________________________________________

Lectors 1. ___________________________ 2. ________________________________

Number of Confirmation Candidates _________________________________

Presentation of the Candidates for Confirmation by Pastor _________________

Leader of the General Intercessions □ Deacon □ Other _______________________  

The deacon would normally lead these if present.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, if needed (NOTE: the bishop, pastor, concelebrants and deacon will be the ordinary ministers of Holy Communion)

ALTAR SERVERS

2. Candle Bearer _______________ 5. Crosier Bearer _____________________
3. Candle Bearer _______________ 6. Thurifer ___________________________
THE CONFIRMATION LITURGY

Mass to be Celebrated  □ Ritual Mass of Confirmation  □ Mass of the day

Color of Vestments  □ White  □ Red  □ Purple

Candidates in the procession?  □ Yes  □ No

MUSICAL PRELUDES

ENTRANCE SONG

PENITENTIAL RITE  Form  □ A  □ B  □ C  □ Sung  □ Recited

WELCOME BY PASTOR  □ Yes  □ No

RITE OF BLESSING AND SPRINKLING OF HOLY WATER  □ Yes  □ No

(On Sunday the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling Holy Water may replace the Penitential Rite. See the Sacramentary for more information.)

Song during Sprinkling

GLORIA  □ Recited  □ Sung (setting) ___________

(omit on the Sundays of Advent and Lent; include on Sundays and weekdays through the year and on the weekdays of Advent and Lent)

OPENING PRAYER - the Rite of Confirmation  □ A  □ B  □ C  □ D  or ___________

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Parish leaders may select readings of the Sunday or those from the Rite of Confirmation (Lectionary #’s 764-768) unless the date falls on a higher ranked liturgical day.

FIRST READING ___________________________ Lectionary #_____

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  □ Sung (setting) ___________ □ Recited-Lectionary #____

SECOND READING ___________________________ Lectionary #_____

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION  □ Sung (setting) _________________ □ Omitted

GOSPEL READING ___________________________ Lectionary #_____

Deacon__________________________
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION by Pastor

HOMILIST  Bishop

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

LAYING ON OF HANDS
   Bishop to be joined by all priests concelebrating

ANointing with chrism  Hymns (s) ________________________________

General intercessions  Led by  □ Deacon  □ Other _________________
   The deacon would normally do this if one is present.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the altar and the gifts
   Procession with the gifts (names) ________________________________

Number of gifts/type ____________________________________________

Song/music _______________________________________________________

Eucharistic prayer #  □ 1  □ 2  □ 3  □ 4  □ Bishop’s Choice

Preface ___________________________________________________________
   For the Rite of Confirmation the Preface most commonly used is Holy Spirit II.

Holy holy □ Recited □ Sung (setting) ________________________________

Acclamation □ Recited □ Sung (setting) ______________________________

Amen □ Recited □ Sung (setting) _____________________________________

COMMUNION RITE

The Lord’s prayer □ Recited □ Sung (setting) ________________________

The sign of peace

Breaking of the bread  Lamb of God □ Recited □ Sung (setting) ______

Reception of communion
   Communion under both species  □ Yes  □ No

Communion hymn(s) _______________________________________________
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

From the Rite of Confirmation □ A □ B □ C □ D or other ____________

Announcements/Concluding Remarks: □ Yes □ No by whom _____________

SOLEMN BLESSING □ From the Rite of Confirmation □ Other ____________

DISMISSAL

RECESSIONAL ____________________________

Candidates in Recessional? □ Yes □ No

Please return to: The Office of the Bishop
215 N. Westnedge Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3760 or
FAX to (269) 349-6440