

THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS

The liturgy of the Word is celebrated in accordance with the rubrics. The readings, however, may be taken in whole or in part from the Mass of the day or from the texts for Confirmation in the Lectionary for Mass (nos. 764-768) and listed below (nos. 61-65).

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

After the Gospel the Celebrant (as do the Priests who are associated with him) take assigned seats. The candidates for Confirmation are presented by the Pastor or another Priest, or by a Deacon, or even by a catechist, in accordance with the custom of each region, in this way: if possible, each of those to be confirmed is called by name and individually approaches the sanctuary; but if they are children, they are accompanied by one of their sponsors or parents and stand before the celebrant.

If there are very many candidates, they are not called by name; but they are assigned to a suitable place before the Bishop.

Priest/Deacon or Catechist: **Will the Confirmation candidates please stand.**

If addressing a Bishop begin with: **Most Reverend Father,**

If addressing a Pastor begin with: **Dear Father, (or Dear Monsignor)**

Followed by these or similar words:

These candidates have prepared for Confirmation by participating in the sacramental life of the Church, by meditating on the word of God, by attending Faith Formation classes, by participating in a retreat and other activities, and by demonstrating Christian service. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayer and example. Now they ask to be confirmed and I testify that they are ready.

THE HOMILY OR ADDRESS

The celebrant then gives a brief homily, by which, shedding light on the readings, he leads, as if by hand, those to be confirmed, their sponsors and parents, and the whole gathering of the faithful to a deeper understanding of the mystery of confirmation.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

After the homily the celebrant questions those to be confirmed, who stand, as he says:

Celebrant: **Do you renounce Satan,
and all his works
and all his empty promises?**

Candidate: I do.

Celebrant: **Do you believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?**

Candidate: I do.

Celebrant: **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?**

Candidate: I do.

Celebrant: **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?**

Candidate: I do.

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

Candidate: I do.

The celebrant gives his assent to the profession by proclaiming the faith of the Church:

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

All/Candidate: Amen.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

Then the celebrant standing, facing the people, with hands joined, says:

Celebrant: **Dearly beloved,
let us pray to God the almighty Father,
for these, his adopted sons and daughters,
already born again to eternal life in Baptism,
that he will graciously pour out
the Holy Spirit upon them
to confirm them with his abundant gifts,
and through his anointing
conform them more fully to Christ,
the Son of God.**

And all pray in silence for a while.

Then the celebrant lays hands over all those to be confirmed (as do the Priests who are associated with him). But the celebrant alone says:

Celebrant: **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;
fill them with the spirit of fear of the Lord.
Through Christ our Lord.**

All: Amen.

THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

The sacred Chrism is brought to the celebrant. Each of those to be confirmed goes to the Celebrant. The sponsor who presents the person to be confirmed places his (her) right hand on his (her) shoulder and says the name of the one to be confirmed to the celebrant; or the one to be confirmed alone says his (her) own name. It is highly suggested that candidates have their Confirmation name printed legibly on a name tag that is clearly visible to the celebrant.

The celebrant dips the tip of the thumb of his right hand in the Chrism and, with the thumb, makes the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says:

Celebrant: **N., BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

The newly confirmed replies: Amen.

Celebrant adds: **Peace be with you.**

The newly confirmed: And with your spirit.

During the anointing, a suitable chant may be sung. After the anointing, the celebrant washes his hands.

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

The Universal Prayer follows in this or a similar form determined by the competent authority.

Celebrant: **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, Lector or Catechist:

**For the holy Church of God, together with our Pope,
and our Bishop, and all the Bishops:
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.***

**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.***

**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.***

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

Celebrant: **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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the Universal Prayer, the Liturgy of the Eucharist is celebrated according to the Order of Mass, with these changes:

- a) The Creed is omitted, since the Profession of Faith has already taken place;*
- b) some of the confirmed may join those who bring forward the offerings;*
- c) when the Roman Canon is used, the proper form of the *Hanc igitur* (Therefore, Lord, we pray) is said. When Eucharistic Prayer II or Eucharistic Prayer III is used, the proper forms for these Prayers are said.*

Adults who are confirmed, and, if appropriate, their sponsors, parents, spouses, and catechists may receive Communion under both kinds.

CONCLUDING RITES

If there are announcements, they are typically made at this time. It is usual that the pastor makes these announcements.

Facing the people, the celebrant extends his hands and sings or says:

Celebrant: **Peace be with you.**

All: **And with your spirit.**

THE BLESSING

Instead of the usual blessing, the following blessing or Prayer over the People is used at the end of Mass. The Deacon or, in his absence, the minister of Confirmation himself, says the invitation: Bow down for the blessing.

The celebrant, with hands extended over the newly confirmed, says:

Celebrant: **May God the Father almighty bless you,
whom he has made his adopted sons and daughters
reborn from water and the Holy Spirit,
and may he keep you worthy of his fatherly love.
R. Amen.**

**May his Only Begotten Son,
who promised that the Spirit of truth
would abide in his Church
bless you and confirm you by his power
in the confession of the true faith.
R. Amen.**

**May the Holy Spirit,
who kindles the fire of charity
in the hearts of disciples,
bless you and lead you blameless and gathered as one
into the joy of the Kingdom of God.
R. Amen.**

And he blesses all the people adding:

Celebrant: **And may almighty God bless all of you,
who are gathered here,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

*Instead of the preceding formula of blessing, the Prayer over the People may be used.
The Deacon or, in his absence, the minister of Confirmation himself, says the invitation:
Bow down for the blessing.*

The celebrant, with hands extended over the people, says:

Celebrant: **Confirm, O God,
what you have brought about in us,
and preserve in the hearts of your faithful
the gifts of the Holy Spirit:
may they never be ashamed
to confess Christ crucified before the world
and by devoted charity
may they ever fulfill his commands.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
R. Amen.**

The celebrant adds immediately:

**And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father , and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you forever.
R. Amen.**

DISMISSAL

The Deacon or minister gives the invitation in these or similar words:

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

OR

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

OR

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

***R.* Thanks be to God**