CONFIRMATION 2027



rooted in CHRIST
DIOCESE OF SASKATOON

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COORDINATION

Your parish's celebration of Confirmation requires collaboration between key members of the parish and diocesan offices.



DIOCESAN OFFICES

Bishop's Office

- Confirmation Schedule

Office of Evangelization & Catechesis

- Discuss any questions you may have concerning your celebration

Parish

- Pastor
- Confirmation Catechist
- Music Director
- Liturgical Ministers (lector, altar servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, environment and decor, hospitality, etc.)

REHEARSAL

A rehearsal should take place in advance so that all ministers as well as candidates, sponsors and parents, understand their roles and have an opportunity to to practice.

The catechesis offered to the candidates for Confirmation should include an explanation of the texts and rituals of the celebration.

Walk through the entrance of the candidates and sponsors and their movement toward the Bishop. Be sure to also practice the flow for taking pictures following the liturgy. The movement of all people should be organized and unhurried to emphasize the importance and solemnity of the occasion.

PHOTOGRAPHS

There is to be **one designated photographer** who may take pictures discreetly during the liturgical celebration. After the celebration, all are welcome to take pictures with the Celebrant. Due to the time commitment, only one photo per candidate will be permitted. The Catechist or designated person(s) should assist in organizing the group for the group photo.

ROLES AT THE CELEBRATION

CONFIRMANDI

- have undergone a suitable period of catechesis
- are in a state of grace before the celebration
- are capable of renewing their baptismal promises
- have been prepared with the texts of the rite and can respond with confidence

BISHOP

- the Bishop is the Celebrant and confers the sacrament of Confirmation

PRIESTS

- the parish pastor should concelebrate with the Bishop
- if no other clergy are present, the pastor should proclaim the Gospel
- other priests may concelebrate and assist the Bishop as needed

CATECHISTS

- assist candidates for Confirmation and their sponsors so that processions into the church, towards the Bishop for anointing, and out of the church flow smoothly and without confusion
- presents the candidates to the Bishop (see Order for the Conferral of Confirmation within the Mass)

SPONSORS

- ideally the godparent at Baptism serves as the sponsor at Confirmation but the sponsor can be someone else if necessary
- the sponsor must be mature, fully initiated, having received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist and not impeded by law of fulfilling the responsibility of a sponsor

LECTORS

- readings can be proclaimed by adults or by a candidate who is well prepared
- the newly confirmed may also bring up the gifts

MUSICIANS

- the parish music ministry makes selections that are in line with the parish repertoire and show good liturgical, musical and pastoral judgement



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

SEATING

Candidates should be seated in the front pews of the church



Candidates and sponsors can be

- seated side by side
- candidates can be seated on one side of the nave and sponsors on the other side
- all candidates are seated together in the front pews and the sponsors are seated together behind them

Whichever seating arrangement is chosen, be sure to have catechists in place to coordinate the flow of movement



LITURGY OF THE WORD

The readings of the day may be used or readings can be chosen from **The Order of Confirmation** (the red book). See page 8 of this manual for a list.

- please be sure to choose a reading from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a reading from the New Testament and a Gospel reading.
- the Psalm may be sung or read

OIL OF CHRISM

- please provide a small bowl with Oil of Chrism in it.

ALTAR SERVERS

- three altar servers are recommended for the celebration and should be mature and experienced

PARKING

- please designate and clearly mark a parking spot near the church for Bishop Mark

THE ORDER FOR THE CONFERRAL OF CONFIRMATION WITHIN THE MASS

After the Gospel, the Bishop and the Priest take their seats. The Pastor, Deacon or Catechist presents the candidates to Bishop Mark in these or *similar* words:

Bishop Mark, I present to you these young people 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.



THE HOMILY

Bishop Mark will address the candidates during the Homily

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Catechists will prepare candidates in advance to be familiar with the "Renewal of Baptismal Promises". (See page 6) Candidates should respond in clear and loud voices.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

Bishop Mark prays over all of those to be confirmed

THE ANNOINTING WITH CHRISM

It is recommended that candidates choose a ***Confirmation Name***. (See page 7 for Guidelines)

THE ORDER FOR THE CONFERRAL OF CONFIRMATION WITHIN THE MASS

THE ANNOINTING WITH CHRISM

- The candidate's name should be written on the name tag in large printing, followed by the chosen Confirmation name in parenthesis in smaller print as follows:

Candidate's Name
(Confirmation Name)

- Each candidate is to lead his/her sponsor and family to the front where the Celebrant will be waiting to receive them. PLEASE NOTE that parents/families may also come forward and place their hands on the candidates shoulder as space permits.
- sponsors place their right hand on the candidate's right shoulder and says the name of the one to be confirmed to the Bishop.
- a reasonable distance is to be maintained between candidates to emphasize the solemnity of the anointing. Candidates/sponsors and families are to be lined up in an orderly fashion, using the first pew as the starting point for the first candidate.
- it is preferred that there be silence during the anointing of the first three to four candidates, to allow for the words of anointing to be heard. After that, instrumental music is recommended

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

Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Newly Confirmed replies: Amen
Bishop: Peace be with you.
Confirmed: And with your spirit

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER (PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL)

- suggestions for Prayer of the Faithful are attached. The prayers were drafted to be read by the newly confirmed but if someone else will be doing this, please revise appropriately or use the "Universal Prayer" in The Order of Confirmation (the red book).

RECESSIONAL

- Candidates can gather with the Celebrant for the group photo during the recessional hymn
- please have someone someone assisting the photographer to move through this process efficiently and in a timely manner.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

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

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

Together, all those to be confirmed, reply: I do

Bishop: Do you believe in God, The Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth?

Candidates: I do

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: I do

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: I do

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

Candidates: I do

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

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

The gathering of the faithful gives its assent by replying: AMEN.

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

Names have always been an important part of our faith. God himself said:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1)

A new name has often signified drawing closer to God (Genesis 17:5)

For example, God changed Abram's name to Abraham meaning, "Father to the host of nations." This name change signified that God was making a covenant with Abraham that would make him the first of God's people on earth.

Jacob becoming Israel (Genesis 35:10)

Simon becoming Peter
Simon's name was changed to Peter, meaning "rock" and refers to peter becoming the first pope.



"And upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16: 17-18

A model of Christian life is chosen, a patron saint is picked out to encourage the Christian to use their gifts and talents fully for the glory of God, in the service of others and so that they may truly grow themselves. The patron saint provides a model of charity and the assurance of prayer. Some attribute of the saint's life should have particular relevance to the Confirmation candidate.

Helping your Confirmation Candidate choose a name:

- choosing a Confirmation name is an opportunity to choose a name that has special meaning to you, a name that will help you in your journey of faith. By choosing a saint's name, you are asking him or her to pray for you in a special way. Having a special connection to someone in Heaven is a big deal!
- when deciding on a Confirmation name, the goal is to pick the name of a saint you admire, can relate to, or aspire to be like. this saint will be bonded to you spiritually and will be your model in life and can be the one you turn to for guidance and protection
- Before you receive the sacrament, pray to the saint whose name you will be using as your Confirmation name. Ask this saint to help you make moral choices and to be your intercessor before God whenever you call on him or her for assistance
- After receiving the sacrament, don't forget about your namesake. Remember to continue to seek his or her protection and guidance.

BIBLE READINGS FOR CONFIRMATION

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 11:1-4a
Isaiah 42:1-3
Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9
Ezekiel 36:24-28
Joel 2:23a, 26-30a

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

Psalm 22:22-23, 25-26, 27, 303-31
R. I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
R. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want

Psalm 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 9-10a, 11-12
R. Declare God's marvelous works among all the peoples

Psalm 104:1ab+24, 27-28, 30-31, 33-34
R. Lord, send forth your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth

Psalm 117: 1, 2
R. You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth

Psalm 145:2-5, 8-11, 15-16
R. I will bless your name forever, O Lord

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 1:3-8
Acts 2:1-6, 14, 22b-23, 32-33
Acts 8:1, 4, 14-17
Acts 10:1, 33-34a, 36a, 37-44
Acts 19, 1b-6a
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
Romans 8:14-17
Romans 8:26-27
1Corinthians 12:4-13
Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23a, 24-25
Ephesians 1:3a, 4a, 13-19a
Ephesians 4:1-6

GOSPEL READINGS

Matthew 5: 1-12a
Matthew 16: 24-27
Matthew 25: 14-30
Mark 1: 9-11
Luke 4:16-22a
Luke 8: 4-10a, 11b-15
Luke 10: 21-24
John 7: 37b-39
John 14:15-17
John 14:23-26
John 15:18-21, 26-27
John 16:5b-7, 12-13a

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. For Pope Leo, Bishop Mark and all who lead the church, that they may serve by following the example of Jesus.

We pray to the Lord.

2. For our world, that the peace of Christ may rule in the hearts of all people.

We pray to the Lord.

3. For the sick and suffering, that Christ may give them courage and peace.

We pray to the Lord.

4. We pray for us who are celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation today, that we may always be led by the Holy Spirit and become instruments of God's Divine Mercy.

We pray to the Lord.

5. For our parents, families, and sponsors and for all our parish community, that called by our Baptism to the family of God and nourished at the table of the Eucharist, we may always follow Jesus and be an example to others.

We pray to the Lord.



CONFIRMATION SPONSORS

The role of the sponsor is to present the candidate to the Christian community for Confirmation and to assist the confirmed in fulfilling his/her baptismal promises faithfully with the assistance of the Holy Spirit. The task of this person who journeys with the confirmation candidate is so important that the church, in the Code of Canon Law has laid down certain requirements about the person who may serve as sponsor.

Canon 892 As far as possible the person to be confirmed is to have a sponsor. The sponsor's function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament.

Canon 893 §1. A person who would undertake the office of sponsor must fulfill the condition mentioned in Canon 874

§2. It is desirable that the sponsor chosen be the one who took this role at Baptism.

Canon 874 §1. To be admitted to undertake the office of sponsor a person must:

1. be appointed by the candidate...or by the parents or whoever stands in their place, or failing these, by the parish priest or the minister; to be appointed the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it;
2. be not less than sixteen years of age, unless a different age has been stipulated by the diocesan Bishop, or unless the parish priest or minister considers that there is a just reason for the exception to be made;
3. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and had received the Blessed Sacrament, and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be under taken;
4. not labour under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared;
5. not be either the father or the mother of the person to be confirmed.

§2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesiastical community may be admitted only in company with a Catholic sponsor, and then simply as a witness.

REGISTRATION OF THE NEWLY CONFIRMED

Confirmed candidates are to be registered in the parish registers

- when there is a cluster of parishes gathered, all candidates from all parishes are entered in the register of the hosting parish. It is still necessary to enter the names of the candidates in the register of the candidate's home parish as well

Use **Form C_RN** (attached) and refer to the attached letter from the Chancery for details.



NOTES

QUESTIONS?

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