

POLICY 2.6.1 Guidelines for the Sacrament of Confirmation

It is strongly recommended that in the parishes of the deanery where the annual pastoral visitation of the archbishop is taking place in a given year, the Sacrament of Confirmation take place during the visitation. All other parishes in the archdiocese may request a date for Confirmation outside of those dates.

The Sacrament of Confirmation may take place at any time of the year. Dates during the weeks of Lent are to be avoided.

The parish and our Catholic schools (where they exist) both have a valued role to play in the preparation of our young people for this sacrament, but the parish must take the lead. The pastor or an assigned parish catechist is to be in touch with the school, and to take part in a collaborative effort. There will always be some youngsters from outside our Catholic schools who will need to be included in catechesis and preparations for the celebration.

Please keep in mind these directives for the celebration itself of the sacrament of Confirmation:

- When the celebration of Confirmation takes place at a Sunday Mass, the prayers of the Sunday liturgy are to be used, as well as the readings prescribed for that Sunday. If the celebration happens on a weekday, there is greater flexibility for choosing the Mass texts and the readings.
- During the anointing with Sacred Chrism, both the archbishop and those receiving Confirmation will stand.
- In planning the liturgy for the Sacrament of Confirmation, every effort is to be made to avoid the feel of a “graduation”. When we graduate from a school or program, we have finished our study and learning; with Confirmation, we are deepening a relationship which will demand even more from us.
- Please avoid using power-point audio-visual presentations in the church, or during the liturgy. During the reception following the liturgy is a very appropriate time to show these.
- The music at a Mass of Confirmation is to be good liturgical music, which encourages the active participation of everyone. A suitable question to ask in the selection of music is, “Is this song or piece of music something we would use at any other Sunday Mass?”
- The flow of the Confirmation liturgy is the following:
 - **Gospel** (*proclaimed by the pastor or deacon or other priest*)
 - **Presentation of the Candidates** (*by the pastor or a catechist; using option A on page 93 of the ritual book Rite of Confirmation, ©CCCB 198*)
 - **Homily**
 - **Renewal of Baptismal Promises**
 - **Laying on of Hands** (*the bishop’s hands are extended over the candidates, who are standing*)

- **Anointing with Chrism** (*while sponsors lay their hands on the confirmandi's shoulders*)
 - **General Intercessions**
- Please contact the archbishop in advance if you are planning any adaptations to the rite. If you are printing a program, please provide a draft copy before printing multiple copies.

Accepted by the College of Consultors on 25 September 2010
Amended by the College of Consultors on 16 February 2011

**REQUEST FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
TO BE CELEBRATED IN YOUR PARISH**

Parish Name and Place _____

Contact Person _____

Telephone _____

Fax Number _____

Email Address _____

Number of Candidates for Confirmation (approximate) _____

Suggested dates and times for the Celebration of Confirmation

Please select four possible dates and times, and list them in order of preference. Try to include two possibilities of dates during the week, and two possibilities of Saturday evening / Sunday.

First choice _____

Second choice _____

Third choice _____

Fourth choice _____

Return by fax to 780 532-9706 or by e-mail to exec.agm@live.ca as soon as you have date options and number of candidates.