

# CONFIRMATION PROCEDURES

## Before Confirmation

### Notes for the Confirmation Candidates

1. The dress of the candidates should be appropriate and modest (short or tight fitting clothing is not appropriate) for the festive occasion. Confirmation robes are not used, since they are easily confused with graduation robes. *Confirmation stoles are not used, since the stole is a liturgical garb distinct to an ordained minister.*
2. If you are going to wear a corsage/boutonniere, have it pinned on **before** you get seated in the pew.
3. *Please* – NO gum or candy in your mouth at ANY time during the Confirmation liturgy. All portable devices on your person shall be turned OFF.
4. *Please* be in church **no later than** 8:30 am that day.
5. The candidates will be seated in front, next to their sponsors. Each sponsor will sit next to their candidate. The candidates DO NOT process in or out. A parish gift will be presented after the Mass.
6. You MUST actively participate in this Sacrament. This means that there will be NO goofing around, no horseplay, etc. Any verbal response you are to give, must be given in a clear voice. Your attention will always be focused on the altar.
7. When you go up to Bishop to get confirmed, you will look Bishop in the eye and sincerely say “Amen” to the words he says to you. Be sure to give him a firm, not tight, handshake when he says “Peace be with you,” and respond: *And with your spirit.*
8. A group picture will be taken after the Mass, so please stay in church for that. There is a parish reception following the Confirmation.

### Presentation of the Candidates

Following the proclamation of the Gospel, Deacon Mike will say:

Bishop \_\_\_\_, Fr. Luke, parents, friends and relatives,  
St. Martin of Tours Catholic Parish is honored to present to you  
our sons and daughters – candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation.  
Etcetera . . . . .

Then, Confirmation Facilitator, Deacon Ken, will then come to the **choir side**, to a microphone. He will have a printed list of all the candidates and he will call off each name out loud, one at a time. When the candidate’s name is called, they will stand up straight and say: *Present!* Then, Deacon Ken will ask the candidate: *What is it you ask of the Church?* The response will be: *I wish to be confirmed.* Each candidate remains standing until all have answered.

# The Confirmation Ritual

## **Homily**

The bishop gives the homily.

## **Renewal of Baptismal Promises**

After the homily, Deacon Ken will ask the candidates and the assembly to all stand. Bishop will then lead them in the renewal of their Baptismal Promises, and all in the assembly will join their responses. At the conclusion, all are seated.

## **Imposition of Hands**

The entire community is to offer silent prayer for the candidates during the laying on of hands. This is a time of sacred silence as the sacrament is conferred. The bishop invites all to pray in silence. Suitable importance should be given to the period of silent prayer preceding the imposition of hands. The bishop and any concelebrating priests extend their hands over the candidates, but the bishop, alone, says the prayer out loud.

The candidates stand for the imposition of hands (extension of hands over the candidates) and prayer invoking the Holy Spirit. All others in the assembly are seated.

## **The Anointing**

The assembly is seated during the anointing. The deacon brings the Sacred Chrism to the Bishop. The Bishop takes his place, standing in the center at the foot of the altar (so nothing should be blocking this area). The first row of candidates and sponsors stand, and row by row, approach by proceeding all the way to the bishop. The foreheads of the candidates must be *completely uncovered*, for example, no veils, hats, or flowers, on or around the face for the anointing with Sacred Chrism.

Sponsors stand directly behind the candidates, placing one hand on the candidate's shoulder. Each candidate will have wear a nametag with his/her name clearly printed and visible to the bishop. During this time, the servers should prepare the lemon, water and other things for washing bishop's hands as soon as the last candidate is confirmed.

Each sponsor then presents the candidate saying, *Bishop \_\_\_\_\_, I present N. \_\_\_\_\_, my \_\_\_\_\_, who is taking the name \_\_\_\_\_.* The bishop then anoints the candidate's forehead with chrism saying, "*N\_\_\_\_\_ Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.*" The newly-confirmed then responds, **in a clear voice while looking at the bishop:** "*Amen.*"

The bishop then extends his right hand in a greeting of peace with the newly-confirmed saying: "*Peace be with you,*" to which the newly-confirmed shakes his hand and responds: "*And with your spirit.*"

The newly-confirmed and sponsor then walk past bishop and continue, circling back to their row. It is important that the newly-confirmed and sponsor move out quickly after the exchange of peace and the next candidate/sponsor move into place immediately.