

Diocese of Erie



Confirmation Liturgy Preparation 2026

Office for Divine Worship

Greetings to you all!

There are several updates to Confirmation Masses in 2026. Thoroughly review the entire packet to ensure you are familiar with these changes. If you have any questions regarding the Liturgy, please contact the Office for Divine Worship directly at 814.824.1271.

Thank you for your attention to these important updates.

The Office for Divine Worship

Letters to the Bishop:

Each Confirmation candidate must request the Sacrament from the Bishop in a letter that follows the instructions that can be found in the Confirmation Preparation Policies and Guidelines, 631.15.

They must be received in the Chancery four weeks prior to the celebration. Please ensure the packet of letters clearly indicates the parishes from which they originate.

General Information:

The pastor of the hosting parish will receive an email with a short questionnaire for particulars about the Confirmation Mass. The answers must be received back no less than one month before the Liturgy. The Director of Faith Formation at the hosting parish will also receive this email. Please meet to prepare the Liturgy. The pastor should send in the responses by the date requested.

Master of Ceremonies:

The Bishop is accompanied by a Master of Ceremonies (MC). The MC works with the liturgical ministers and helps them with details when Mass is celebrated with a Bishop. Servers are asked to be vested and ready to meet with the MC at least 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass.

Deacons:

When a parish has a deacon, it is presumed he will be present for the celebration of the Mass. If there are two available deacons, one serves as Deacon of the Word and the other as Deacon of the Altar. If there is no deacon present, a concelebrating priest will read the Gospel.

Candidates for Confirmation:

- The Bishop requires that students choose confirmation names which can be found in *Butler's Lives of the Saints*, or saints who have been canonized by the Church since 1900. Students should be led to choose names of saints whose lives are grounded in fact, not in legend. Please see the Confirmation Preparation Policies and Guidelines 631.14 for a full explanation of saint-selection criteria.
- **No nametags, stoles, or albs are to be worn by the candidates.**
- Candidates and their sponsors do not participate in the Entrance Procession or Recessional.

- Practice approaching the Bishop. There is no need to rush to be anointed, but there should be an orderly procession with little to no lag time between candidates.
- Pictures will be taken immediately following the ceremony. Please practice getting into formation during your rehearsal. The Bishop will not leave the sanctuary after Mass. Pictures will be taken by a staff member.

The Liturgy:

The Bishop will use the text of the **Ritual Mass for Confirmation** with red vestments whenever possible. This would apply to all confirmations except for the following days (and the anticipated Masses which precede them):

- all Sundays of Lent
- all Sundays of Easter
- The Octave of Easter
- Saint Joseph (March 19)
- Annunciation of the Lord (March 25)
- Ascension of the Lord (May 29)

Procession: The candidates and their sponsors do not participate in the Entrance Procession. They must already be in their pews.

A lector (even a candidate for confirmation) carries the Book of the Gospels only in the absence of a deacon, since the ministry of proclaiming the Gospel (and carrying the Book) belongs properly to deacons.

Gloria: The *Gloria* is required for **all** Confirmation Liturgies **except** for Sundays of Lent. (Roman Missal Ritual Masses #1,4. Conferral of Confirmation.)

Readings: The readings for the Confirmation Liturgies (except for the Sundays of Lent and Easter and solemnities) will be as follows:

Outside the Easter Season: Isaiah 11:1-4ab, Lectionary 764-1
1 Corinthians 12:4-13, Lectionary 765-9
Matthew 16:24-27, Lectionary 768-2

Easter Weekday: Acts 19:1b-6a, Lectionary 765-5
Romans 8:26-27, Lectionary 765-8
Matthew 16:24-27, Lectionary 768-2

The Conferral of Confirmation:

- The hosting pastor or his delegate is to read the prepared "Calling of Candidates" after the Gospel. The text will be sent by the Office for Divine Worship.
- In planning the method by which candidates with their sponsors will approach the Bishop for the anointing with Chrism, avoid having people standing in the pew, since this blocks the view of those sitting behind them.
- Sponsors and candidates must be well prepared for the dialog of the ritual.
 - Candidates must be prepared to renew their Baptismal Promises confidently and audibly with the response "I do."

- Sponsors must be prepared to announce the Confirmation name clearly and without prompting by the Bishop.
- Candidates must be prepared with the response “Amen” during the anointing as well as “and with your spirit” for the sign of peace.
- A lemon, cut into quarters, is to be prepared for the bishop to cleanse his hands after the anointing.

The Universal Prayer:

When a deacon is present, it is his ministry to read the Universal Prayer. Otherwise, another minister should be appointed. The Universal Prayer will be provided from the Office for Divine Worship.

Announcements/Appreciation:

Parish announcements, instructions for dismissal to the reception, words of thanks, etc. can be read by a parish representative following the Prayer After Communion.

Music:

Music during confirmation should follow the 2008 guidelines established by the United States Bishops as published in *Sing to the Lord*, nos. 137-199.

If you use worship aids and/or are live streaming, remember to report all usage of the music used to your licensing company (OneLicense.net, CCLI, etc.) If live streaming, please ensure you have the proper subscription with your music licensing company.

Music is essential to any liturgical celebration. For Confirmation Masses with the Bishop, please note the following:

- All music must be from an approved source.
- Processional Hymn/Song/Chant: Should be such that it can end immediately when the Bishop reaches his chair. No Litanies may be used.
- The Gloria is required for all Confirmation Liturgies except for Sundays in Lent.
- Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation: Both should be sung/chanted whenever possible. The Psalm cannot be paraphrased.
- Only one person, the hosting Pastor or his delegate, is to read the prepared “Calling of Candidates” sent by the Office for Divine Worship.
- Anointing with Chrism: There should be no music, sung or instrumental, during the anointing, nor should the names of the candidates or their Confirmation names be announced.
- Preparation of the Gifts: Music can be sung or instrumental and must conclude immediately after the Bishop washes his hands.
- Communion Chant/Song: A hymn with a refrain works best for the assembly processing to Communion. Music should begin as the Bishop receives Holy Communion. There is to be no ‘meditation’ or Song of Praise and Thanksgiving after the Communion Rite.
- Recessional Hymn/Song: The Bishop will not process out but will immediately begin photos. Please plan to sing 1-2 verses of a short hymn. A quiet instrumental postlude may be appropriate during pictures.