

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pastors, Parish Administrators, Directors of Religious Education,
Confirmation Coordinators

FROM: Fr. Paul J. Keller, O.P., Director of the Office of Divine Worship

DATE: 28 July 2025

RE: 2026 CONFIRMATION SCHEDULING AND GUIDELINES

We are now reserving dates for Confirmation Masses with Bishop Fernandes for 2026. This memo contains information about the Confirmation scheduling process, including the new Diocesan policy regarding the age for Confirmation.

Bishop Fernandes prefers that parishes plan outside the Easter Season (April and May 2026) for the celebration of Confirmations.

As we did this year, Bishop Fernandes encourages parishes to use the option to meet him at the Cathedral for the celebration of Confirmations. This gives your young people and their sponsors and families the opportunity to pray in our mother church, St. Joseph Cathedral. It is also a greater sign of the power of the Sacrament of Confirmation when we join the Bishop in his Cathedral, to be sent forth to carry out the mission of the Holy Spirit.

AGE FOR CONFIRMATION

Deanery #6 (Center-South Columbus) is designated as the first deanery to begin confirming individuals at the ages of nine or ten. For 2026, other deaneries may continue with their previous process of preparation for Confirmation.

Questions about age and Confirmation preparation should be directed to the [Office of Evangelization and Catechesis](#).

NUMBER OF CONFIRMANDI

If your parish has **25 or more persons** needing to be confirmed (*confirmandi*), you may submit a request with 3 possible dates for Confirmation either at the Cathedral or at your parish. These persons must have already been baptized in the Catholic Church and have been properly catechized for Confirmation. Typically, this group includes youths but may also include adults who were baptized Catholic in need of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

If you have 25 or more but your church does not have adequate seating for the *confirmandi* and their families, you should plan either to use the Cathedral for Confirmation for your parish or use a larger church in your deanery. Please note this on your Request Form (see below) and we will contact you to make arrangements.

Due to limited seating capacity in the Cathedral, plan to have no more than approximately **60** *confirmandi* per Mass.

If your parish has **less than 25** *confirmandi*, you are invited to choose from these options:

1. join with other parishes at the Cathedral for the Bishop or his delegate to administer Confirmation. You may choose from these dates:
 - a. Sundays, April 19, May 17, or May 24, at 3:00 p.m.
 - b. Saturday mornings, April 25, May 9, or May 30, at 10:30 a.m.
 - c. Tuesday, April 28, at 7 p.m.
2. join with other parishes within your Deanery to choose a central parish for the Bishop or his delegate to administer Confirmation (your Vicar Forane will help to arrange this option), OR:
3. invite other parishes to join with your parish for the Bishop or his delegate to administer Confirmation (again, with the help of the Vicar Forane), OR:
4. wait for the following year at which time you will have the minimum of 25 *confirmandi* by joined two classes of students.

If Bishop Fernandes is not visiting your parish, you are still welcome to invite the Bishop to visit your parish or parish school for other events and liturgies.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION REQUEST FORM

Please note that **each parish must** complete a Sacrament of Confirmation Request Form online, even if the number of *confirmandi* is zero or negligible. This assists the Chancery in tracking Confirmation needs for the entire diocese now and for the near-future.

Also, please submit 3 dates that are available on your parish calendar according to your order of preference. We will try to accommodate your requests but cannot guarantee them. Note Bishop Fernandes is **not available** during the Easter Octave.

The Request Form is available [HERE](#). Please complete the Request Form as directed online. In order to facilitate the scheduling process, please complete the form online no later than August 22, 2025. As a matter of fairness, date and venue considerations will be made on a first-come, first-served basis in conjunction with the Bishop's calendar. Please direct any questions about the process to Julie Greer at jgreer@columbuscatholic.org or 614-224-2251.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you, and may the Holy Spirit continue to renew us with His divine power.