

Diocese of Columbus
Group Confirmation at St. Joseph Cathedral
Frequently Asked Questions and General Information

Q: If multiple parishes are celebrating Confirmation together, how do they coordinate plans?

A: A Confirmation Coordinator of the Office of Divine Worship will contact each parish to assist with the planning of the Mass and coordinate efforts with the various parishes.

Q: Is an MC needed at the Cathedral for a Confirmation Mass?

A: The Bishop will have an MC present: there is no need for a parish to provide one.

Q: What about Altar Servers, Lectors, Gift Bearers, and Ushers?

A: Once the parish or parishes participating in the Confirmation Mass are determined, they should work together with the Confirmation Coordinator of the Office of Divine Worship to provide Catholic Lectors and Gift Bearers. The Cathedral will provide trained servers. Parish staff should act as ushers.

Q: Do we need to come to the Cathedral for a rehearsal of any sort?

A: There is no time to rehearse in the Cathedral before the Mass, so parishes should rehearse with the *confirmandi* at their home parishes to ensure that they are well-prepared. Rehearsals should include walking down the center aisle and returning to their seats in an orderly manner. Detailed information will be provided to parish staff members to assist with the flow of the liturgy. Parishes and *confirmandi* are welcome to visit the Cathedral before the scheduled Confirmation Mass date for a tour, visit or rehearsal if they wish. Staff should make arrangements for this directly with the Cathedral.

Q: Which set of readings should we plan to use?

A: Sunday celebrations will use the Sunday readings. All other celebrations will use the readings of the day and the prayers from the Ritual Mass of Confirmation.

Q: How should our parish clergy members participate with the Bishop?

A: It is expected that the Pastor and/or Parochial Vicar of each participating parish will concelebrate with the Bishop. If additional priests are attending, be sure to speak with the Confirmation Coordinator at the Office of Divine Worship. Deacons are welcome to assist and may be asked to participate depending on who will be attending. Two deacons are needed to assist the Bishop during the Mass. The Bishop's master of ceremonies will provide instructions prior to the Mass. Priests and Deacons should bring their diocesan vestments. For clergy from outside the diocese, please submit a Letter of Suitability to the Chancery prior to the celebration.

Q: How will we be seated?

A: *Confirmandi* and their sponsors will sit together as a parish in the Cathedral in such a way that they will exit the pews and come up the center aisle. Reserved signs will be placed in the pews for your parish(es). Please ask family members and guests to sit in the pews not reserved for *confirmandi*. It will be first come seating.

Q: Who handles the music for the Confirmation Mass?

A: Dr. Richard Fitzgerald at the Cathedral will supply the music and cantor for the liturgy. An organist will be provided by the Cathedral.

Q: Who prepares the worship aid?

A: The worship aid will be provided by the Cathedral.

Q: What are the times for arriving and departing for a Confirmation Mass?

A: Sunday afternoon confirmations may enter the Cathedral to set up any time after parishioners from the Cathedral 12:30 p.m. Mass have departed the Cathedral, i.e., not before 2:00 p.m. Please be mindful not to enter the Cathedral until Mass is completely over. Saturday morning Confirmations may arrive in the Cathedral any time after 9:00 a.m. Parishes will need to depart in a timely manner given the schedule in the Cathedral.

Q: How much will this cost us?

A: Parishes should split the stipend among those participating. An offering of \$300 will help to cover the Cathedral expenses.

Q: What about a stipend for Bishop Fernandes?

A: Parishes may make an offering to Bishop Fernandes for his fund at the Catholic Foundation: *Bishop of Columbus Charitable Fund*. This offering can be mailed directly to the Catholic Foundation or the Bishop's Office.

Q: May we have a reception after the Confirmation Mass?

A: The Cathedral undercroft is available for parishes for a reception or meal. Parishes should work together regarding the usage so that everyone can participate if desired and communicate that need to the Cathedral staff.

Q: Are there other things about the Cathedral that we should know?

A: The Cathedral Church is handicap accessible. There is an elevator inside the doors on the west side of the Cathedral. Handicap parking is available on Broad Street. If there are other accommodation needs or special considerations, please note that on your planning sheet. Restrooms are located in the undercroft. The Cathedral will provide a sacristan/staff member who can see to any needs that may arise and will coordinate with the MC in the sacristy.

Q: Is there parking at the Cathedral?

A: There is a parking lot directly behind the Cathedral accessible by traveling eastbound on Gay Street and a secondary lot on the northwest corner of 5th and Long Streets available for Cathedral guests (2 blocks north of the Cathedral). There is also street parking available in the vicinity of the Cathedral.

Q: Is there special attire for Confirmation at the Cathedral?

A: Dress should always be appropriate when we are in church, but especially at the Cathedral. A dress code should apply to all candidates, sponsors, guests, and liturgical ministers. You should wear proper attire similar to clothing for other important life events. Use your best judgment and dress for the Holy Mass, and not for a nightclub. At a minimum, young men should wear long sleeved shirts and ties and young ladies should have their knees and shoulders covered. Robes or stoles should not be used.

Q: Can we take photos?

A: To maintain the solemnity of the celebration, photography is not permitted during the celebration. Bishop Fernandes will be available after the celebration for photos in the Cathedral as time allows, giving priority to group photos.

Q: Where is the record of Confirmation kept?

A: The confirmation should be recorded at the home parish of those confirmed with the note that the confirmation took place at St. Joseph Cathedral. The home parish should also notify the church of baptism. See section 4.2.4, Option 2 in the Sacramental Records Handbook for more information.