

*Guidelines for Preparation for the  
Sacrament of Confirmation*

Element Five

*Liturgical Celebrations*

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BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF SAINT CLOUD, MINNESOTA

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## Liturgical Celebrations *Element Five*

*Significant relationship* – candidate and parish community

The goals of the Liturgical Celebrations are:

- to provide an opportunity for the parish community to identify and support the candidates who are entering the preparation process.
- to provide an opportunity for the parish assembly to examine their own commitment to living out Christian discipleship faithful to their baptismal promises (CCC, 1213).
- to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- to publicly recognize and affirm the newly confirmed within the parish community.

The Celebrations may include:

- Rite of Calling to Confirmation
- Rite of Sending to Confirmation
- The Sacrament of Confirmation
- Rite of Recognition of the Newly Confirmed

## RITE OF CALLING

*The Rite of Calling follows the homily.*

### PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

**Presider:** *Members of the Church of (Parish Name), today I am pleased to present this year's candidates for Confirmation.*

*As the candidate's name is called he/she stands and remains standing at his/her place within the assembly.*

**Presider:** *These young men and women have shared in our prayer and have been observing the way in which we live out our call to follow Christ. They have witnessed our commitment to offer service to one another. Their faith has grown deeper and today they come to ask our continued support and companionship in the faith journey, which invites all of us to reflect upon the goodness of Christ and calls us all to share his mission.*

### AFFIRMATION BY THE ASSEMBLY

**Presider:** *Now I ask you, members of this faith community:*  
*Are you willing to support these candidates by your prayers, example, and personal witness of faith as they internalize the Gospel of Jesus Christ and share his mission?*

**All:** *We are!*

**Presider:** *My dear candidates, you have already begun your journey of faith in baptism. Are you willing to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study, reflection and service?*

**Candidates:** *We are!*

**Presider:** *As disciples of Jesus, the parish of (insert parish name here) welcomes you with our faith, pledges to support you with our prayer, and promises to share*

*with you our love. We look forward to the day when you celebrate  
the Sacrament of Confirmation and share with us more fully the  
responsibility to be witnesses to Christ.*

A sung blessing by the community may be inserted here as appropriate. The Creed and Intercessions follow.

## **RITE OF SENDING CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION TO THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH (or another Catholic Church)**

*This rite is not done if confirmation will be celebrated in your parish. The Rite of Sending follows the homily. The individual charged with the formation of the candidates for Confirmation presents the candidates to the presider and the parish community.*

### PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

**Presenter:** *Church of (Parish Name), today I am pleased to present this year's candidates who will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Mary  
(or insert other parish name) on (specify the day). They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayer and example.*

Now they ask that they be recognized for the progress they have made in their spiritual formation and that they receive the assurance of our blessings and prayers as they go forth to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Presider:** *Those who are to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, please come forward.*

One by one, the candidates are called by name. Each candidate comes forward to stand before the assembly. After all candidates have been presented and are standing before the community, the presider takes a place standing within the assembly, faces the candidates, and continues:

### AFFIRMATION BY THE ASSEMBLY

**Presider:** *My dear friends, these candidates, already one with us by their baptism into Christ, have asked to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Those who know them have judged them to be sincere in their desire. During the period of their catechetical formation, they have listened to the Word of Christ and endeavored to follow his commands more perfectly; they have shared the company of their Christian brothers and sisters in this community and joined with us in prayer.*

*And so I announce to all of you here that our community supports their desire to be confirmed. Therefore, I ask their parents and sponsors to state their support once again so that all of you may hear. Parents and sponsors, please stand.*

*Do you consider these candidates ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation?*

**Parents/**

**Sponsors:**     *We do!*

**Presider:**

*My dear candidates, your parents and sponsors have spoken in your favor. The Church, in the name of Christ, accepts their testimony and sends you to the Bishop, who will confer upon you the Sacrament of Confirmation through the Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Sacred Chrism.*

*Let us all join together to profess our faith,*

**All:**             *“We believe...”*

Following the Creed, the intercessions are offered as usual. One or more of the following intercessions may be included:

- For these candidates for Confirmation, that by their word and example, they may support and encourage others to follow Jesus Christ: We pray to the Lord.
- For those to be confirmed next Sunday (or name day); may the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation strengthen them in their Christian faith, and renew in them their baptismal commitment: We pray to the Lord.
- For the parents and sponsors of our candidates for Confirmation, that God will bless them abundantly for the faith they have shared with them: We pray to the Lord.

Following the intercessions, the presider, with hands outstretched over the candidates, says the following prayer:

**Presider:**

*Gracious God,  
hear our prayers,  
for it is your will to establish everything in Christ  
and to draw us into his all-embracing love.  
Fill the hearts of these candidates with the light of your Holy Spirit  
that they may walk together  
united in faith  
and grow in the strength of your love.  
We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
your Son, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.*

**All:**                    *Amen.*

The candidates are invited back to their seats at this time.

## **CONFIRMATION LITURGICAL PLANNER**

Print these pages and submit the completed Confirmation Liturgical Planner to the Bishop's Administrative Assistant two weeks before the celebration. This planner is also found online at <http://www.stclouddiocese.org/offices/worship/worship-liturgy.html>

**Address:**

Bishop's Administrative Assistant  
Diocese of St. Cloud  
Box 1248  
Saint Cloud, MN 56302-1248

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Celebration \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location for Celebration (church & city) \_\_\_\_\_

Participating Parishes \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Candidates to be Confirmed \_\_\_\_\_

Presider \_\_\_\_\_

Deacon of the Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_

Acolytes/Servers: (cross/book) \_\_\_\_\_

(candle/crosier) \_\_\_\_\_

(candle/mitre) \_\_\_\_\_

**Gathering Rite**

Ministers of Hospitality \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Prelude (music) \_\_\_\_\_

Order of Liturgical Procession \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Gathering Song/Hymn (music) \_\_\_\_\_

**Penitential Rite**

Glory to God (sung or omitted) \_\_\_\_\_

**Liturgy of the Word**

First Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Proclaimed by (lector) \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm \_\_\_\_\_

Proclaimed by (cantor) \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Proclaimed by (lector) \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel Acclamation (music) \_\_\_\_\_

Proclaimed by (cantor) \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel \_\_\_\_\_

Proclaimed by (deacon/priest) \_\_\_\_\_

**Rite of Confirmation**

*Presentation of the Candidates*

Presentation Made by \_\_\_\_\_

*Homily*

*Renewal of Baptismal Promises*

Sprinkling Rite (music) \_\_\_\_\_

Imposition of Hands \_\_\_\_\_

*The Anointing with Chrism (Bishop is seated – Candidates will need to kneel)*

Instrumental Music \_\_\_\_\_

*General Intercessions*

Read/Sung by \_\_\_\_\_

**Liturgy of the Eucharist**

*Presentation of the Gifts*

Gifts Presented by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Eucharistic Acclamations (music)*

Holy Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Amen \_\_\_\_\_

Lord's Prayer (chanted or recited) \_\_\_\_\_

*Greeting of Peace*

Lamb of God Litany (music) \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Song (music) \_\_\_\_\_

*Ministers of Communion*

Body of Christ (Bishop/presider) \_\_\_\_\_

Blood of Christ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Concluding Rite**

Sending Forth Hymn/Song \_\_\_\_\_

Postlude \_\_\_\_\_

Order of Recessional \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reception Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Parts of the liturgy that are to be sung by the bishop should be clearly indicated. Along with the liturgical planner, it is recommended that you communicate to the bishop any information regarding the parish or the Confirmation group that might be helpful to him in preparing his homily.

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

### *Presentation of the Gifts*

Gifts Presented by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### *Eucharistic Acclamations (music)*

Holy Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Amen \_\_\_\_\_

Lord's Prayer (chanted or recited) \_\_\_\_\_

### *Greeting of Peace*

Lamb of God Litany (music) \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Song (music) \_\_\_\_\_

### *Ministers of Communion*

Body of Christ (Bishop/presider) \_\_\_\_\_

Blood of Christ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Concluding Rite

Sending Forth Hymn/Song \_\_\_\_\_

Postlude \_\_\_\_\_

Order of Recessional \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reception Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Parts of the liturgy that are to be sung by the bishop should be clearly indicated.

Along with the liturgical planner, it is recommended that you communicate to the bishop any information regarding the parish or the Confirmation group that might be helpful to him in preparing his homily.

- Entrance procession
- Renewal of Baptismal Promises
- Movement to and position before the bishop for the anointing (exactly where they will stand)
- Sponsors have been notified that they are to place their right hand on the candidate's right shoulder.
- Response to the anointing is "Amen"
- Response to the greeting of peace is "and with your Spirit"
- Presentation of the Gifts procession
- Exit procession
- Liturgical Ministers: have been selected for the following roles:
  - Acolytes/servers
  - Lectors
  - Deacon of the Liturgy (if one is used)
    - Presenter of the candidates
    - Eucharistic ministers
    - Musicians
    - Greeters and ushers
    - Others involved in procession

(incense bearer, banner bearers,  
etc.)

## **RITE OF RECOGNITION BY THE COMMUNITY FOLLOWING THE CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION**

*The Rite of Recognition follows the homily. The presider invites the newly confirmed to stand in their places. They are not called individually, but presented as a group.*

### **Presentation of the Candidates**

**Presider:** *Would the newly confirmed please stand and remain standing.*

All newly confirmed stand and remain standing in their places.

**Presider:** *Members of the Church of (insert parish name here), on (name date) these young men and women, along with other young men and women in our diocese, received the Sacrament of Confirmation by the Bishop (or other minister) at the Cathedral of Saint Mary (or other Church).*

*It is with great joy that we offer our congratulations!*

All show their affirmation by applause.

**Presider:** *Please join me in a prayer of blessing over our newly confirmed brothers and sisters.*

*Loving God,  
you send your Holy Spirit to us to provide strength  
as we walk in faith.  
Bless + these newly confirmed,  
help them to develop and use their gifts for the good of others.  
Guide their footsteps of faith, so that,  
they will always know your love and support.  
Grant them courage to walk as disciples of Christ  
reflecting the light of your goodness in the world.  
We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.*

**All:** *Amen.*

A sung blessing/acclamation by the community may be inserted here as appropriate. The Creed and Intercessions follow.

**Presider:** *Let us all stand and profess our faith.*

**For more information, contact:**

Catholic Education Ministries  
305 Seventh Avenue North, Suite 201  
St. Cloud, MN 56303  
(320) 251-0111

[www.stclouddiocese.org/cem](http://www.stclouddiocese.org/cem)