



Sacrament of Confirmation Scheduling

MEMORANDUM

TO: Priests, Deacons, Religious Educators and Sacramental Coordinators

FROM: Most Reverend Richard E. Pates

DATE: June 24, 2020

The spiritual and pastoral life of all the members of our parishes is of prime importance to all of us. During these days of the Covid19 pandemic we have continued to provide for the spiritual and pastoral life of those we minister to and with. At this time, we need to look more closely into the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation for the students and adults of our parishes.

The pastoral role of the Bishop is to be present to all the people of Diocese and to celebrate with them the Sacraments. It is important that the students and adults who have been prepared for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation have the celebration of this Sacrament with the Bishop whenever possible. During their preparations they would have learned about the role of the Bishop and they have anticipated the Bishop's presence to confirm them which is one of the few opportunities for the Bishop to interact with a parish community. Thus, we will make every effort to accommodate the scheduling of the postponed Confirmations to be celebrated by a Bishop. Because of the cancellation of events and other activities, the bishops are available for this ministry.

Due to the reduced seating capacity of each parish church we will need to schedule multiple Confirmation Masses at most parishes. Along with this letter is the normal 'Request for Presence of a Bishop at Parish Confirmation' form. It has been adjusted to accommodate as many Masses as will be needed per the parish seating capacity. One way you can assist in the scheduling of Bishops is to group your dates together, for example, Friday night and Saturday morning and afternoon or Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday afternoon or consecutive weekday nights. By grouping your dates it will enable the same Bishop to be the Celebrant for your Confirmation Masses.

We are looking at the scheduling of these Masses during mid-July through September. As soon as you have determined your dates please return your form to the Office of Divine Worship. We will attempt to accommodate wherever possible.

We also need to schedule Confirmation for the adults who have come forward for the reception of this Sacrament. We have reserved the Cathedral for Masses on Sunday September 13 and Sunday September 20 at 2 pm. In consideration for the present day

concerns people may have, you may take the option to have the parish adult Confirmation Candidates confirmed at the parish with the student Confirmation Candidates.

The Bishops are prepared to be a spiritual and pastoral presence among your parishioners in the months ahead. Let us all continue to pray that the Confirmation Candidates are filled with the joyful anticipation of receiving the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament that they have been waiting so long to receive.

Assuring you of my prayers and best wishes, I remain —

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Joliet