



Diocese of Joliet

Confirmation Guidelines

<<<< COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTAL >>>>

Preparation

1. The floor of the church should have tape marks indicating where participants should process and stand during confirmation, observing the required social distancing from the priest and from one another. One mark should be placed in front of the priest indicating where the confirmand stands, and another six feet away, indicating where the sponsor stands.
2. The pews should be marked for seating for all participants and guests. Marks should be placed at least six feet apart indicating where individuals may sit. Further, there needs to be a six-foot distance in all directions between marked seats.
3. Masks or face coverings should be worn for the entire service by all. Per IDPH and CDC guidelines, those with breathing difficulties can be exempted from this requirement, but those individuals must observe the strictest of social distancing from anyone not living in their domicile. Children under the age of two are exempt from wearing face coverings or masks.
4. A table should be set up near the sanctuary to hold supplies needed. It is recommended that the table be covered with a glass top to allow for easy cleaning and disinfecting after the liturgy.
5. The chrism should be prepared in a separate vessel. Enough cotton balls only – one for each person confirmed – should be prepared. Do not use oil stocks directly. Follow this directive until advised otherwise.
6. Hand sanitizer for the priest and others should be placed on the table as well.
7. All those to be confirmed should be asked to check themselves for symptoms the day of the confirmation and alert the pastor if they have become symptomatic.
8. The parish must have a sufficient number of greeters and ushers on duty to help direct and manage the flow of participants and guests entering and throughout the services.
9. A greeter(s) is to meet all at the door or in the vestibule and check that they have face coverings or masks and offer hand sanitizer to each person. The greeter(s) should also advise all that if they are ill they should not enter the church.

Rite of Confirmation Notable Deviations from NORMAL Diocese of Joliet Guidelines

- In addition to the guidelines contained below, parishes should expect to follow the procedures set forth in their plan submitted to and approved by the Diocese of Joliet for re-opening, namely:
 - Church capacity, floorplan/seating arrangements and traffic flow;
 - Establishing a reservation system or other means of obtaining names and contact information of attendees for the purposes of contact tracing;
 - Attendees to wear masks at all times and be conscious of social distancing;
 - Welcoming attendees and dismissal procedures at the end of Mass;
 - Procedures for Communion procession; and
 - Procedures for lectors, ministers and music.
- Rehearsal should be avoided. An explanation of the procedure for the ceremony can be given before Mass begins. Have ushers trained with the parish procedures so that they can assist those in attendance, especially the Confirmandi.
- Entrance Procession and Recessional – will include ONLY the Bishop and clergy
 - If a deacon is not available, please have an adult prepared to assist at the Altar. No youth servers. The adult assistant will not be part of the procession.
- Rite of Confirmation
 - Only ONE Confirmand is to come before the Bishop at a time. Not TWO.
 - Unless the Sponsor is part of the same household as the Confirmand, then the Sponsor must stand six feet behind or to the side – no hand on the shoulder, as is normal.
 - Masks will remain on during the reception of Confirmation.
 - The Bishop will wear a face shield during the Rite. Please have one available for him.
 - The Bishop will use cotton swabs to confirm the Confirmandi. Consider having a small table next to the Bishop with a small bowl with Sacred Chrism in it, a bowl of cotton swabs, an empty bowl for used cotton swabs, and hand sanitizer. Every used cotton ball/swab is to be retained for proper disposal after the celebration (burned and ashes buried; or buried without being burned).
 - Name Tags: Confirmation name only printed in large type, placed on chest on right side.
 - For the exchange of peace after the anointing, there should be no physical contact between the bishop and the newly confirmed. A simple nod, head bow or some other simple sign is sufficient.
 - After the anointing, the newly confirmed and sponsor return to their designated pew.
- If pictures are being taken during the reception of the Sacrament by a professional photographer only, they must be discrete and a long distance and stationary apart from the anointing. Pictures can be distributed after Mass or mailed. There will not be picture taking after the Mass with the Bishop.
- Confirmation Certificates should not be distributed during the Mass, consider mailing them to the Confirmandi.

Cleaning and Sanitization

1. All pews, instruments and liturgical items used during the rite must be sanitized after the service. All of the above must be completely clean and dry before reuse.
2. Church door handles and plates must be cleaned after each confirmation once all have left the church.
3. If unlocked and used, church restrooms should be cleaned immediately after all have left the building.
4. Those cleaning the space should wear masks and gloves.
5. Cotton balls/swabs with chrism should be disposed of properly. Gloves should be worn during the disposal.
6. If any masks were distributed to family and guests, they may not be collected and reused by the parish.
7. One of the parish volunteers or staff should take an inventory of supplies after the service and replenish accordingly.