

DIOCESE OF TYLER

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RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CONFIRMATION CEREMONY

Diocese of Tyler

The sacred liturgy must always be celebrated with care and reverence. The liturgical norms set forth in the liturgical documents and diocesan policy is to be carefully observed. When the Bishop, as successor of the Apostle, gathers with the community to celebrate the sacred liturgy it is particularly important that there be appropriate planning so that nothing distracts from the liturgy and the celebration of the Sacraments. These guidelines are to help the parishes, missions, and institutions of the Diocese of Tyler in reverently celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation.

It is also important to keep in mind that parents are the primary teachers of their children and the liturgy should be celebrated in a manner that makes clear it is the parents that are presenting their children to the Church for the Sacraments. Any practices of seating Confirmands as a group separate from their parents (and sponsors) is to be avoided.

Particular questions can be addressed to the Master of Ceremonies or the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

I. Preparation

(Please send items a-d to Bishop Strickland two weeks prior to the Confirmation)

- a. The date and time of the Mass.
- b. An outline of the liturgy.
- c. Approximate number of those to be Confirmed.
- d. Readings for the Mass. When the Confirmation takes place on a Sunday or Solemnity, the proper readings for that day are always used. On weekdays that are not solemnities, special readings may be selected as noted in the ritual. NB: Readings must be from an approved Lectionary.
- e. Please contact Mr. Vincent Meinzer the Master of Ceremonies. He may be reached by calling 903-280-1967 or email mc.vincentmeinzer@windstream.net.
- f. Plan for the seating of the Confirmands should be reviewed with the Master of Ceremonies. Confirmands should be seated with their parents, Godparents and family.
- g. When the Bishop celebrates Mass 2 deacons should be present. If this is not possible let the Bishop know beforehand.
- h. Dress: Please provide in writing the directives for proper dress to the Confirmands and their parents at least one month before the Confirmation.
 1. All Confirmands should be in modest, respectful, Sunday attire.

2. Confirmands may wear white as a reminder of their Baptism, but this is not required. Those who are going to receive the Eucharist for the first time may wear traditional First Communion attire, but again, this is not a requirement.
3. Care must be taken that no child or family is made to feel “left out.”
4. Confirmands should each wear a name tag 2”x4” with the Confirmation name in large letters and the given name in smaller, but readable letters (*please refer to the example*) so the Bishop can easily read it. Please use an easy to read font.

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| <p>St. Martha Jane Smith</p> |
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5. Dress should be in keeping with the service. Baggy jeans and T-shirts are not appropriate. The suggested dress guidelines for the Celebration of Confirmation:
Young ladies: Dress should be appropriate for such occasion. Color of your dress does not matter. The important thing is not to reveal so much as to embarrass yourself or the Bishop. No bare shoulders such as spaghetti straps or strapless. Sleeveless is OK. If your dress is too revealing please cover yourself with a shawl or a sweater. Dresses should come to your knees. If it has a slit up the side or back the slit should not come higher than your knees. Spike heels are hard to maneuver in on steps going up to the Bishop’s chair.
Young men: Collared shirt with tie or jacket is expected. Color does not matter.
6. All directions for dress apply to Sponsors as well.

II. The Day of the Celebration

- a. A parking space should be reserved for the Bishop.
- b. The Bishop will bring a small container of the Chrism oil, but the local parish oil will be used to fill the Bishop’s container.
- c. The environment should be arranged appropriately for the Mass celebrated by a bishop and for the Rite of Confirmation.
 1. It is appropriate for there to be seven candles at the altar when the ordinary bishop of the diocese is the celebrant of the Mass; however, the Bishop understands this may not be possible.
 2. The Sacred Chrism may be placed on a small table near the altar.
- d. The sacred liturgical books to be used are: Lectionary, Roman Missal and the Book of the Gospels. A Bible cannot be used at Mass in place of a Lectionary or the Book of the Gospels.
- e. Two cut lemons should be prepared for the cleaning of the Bishop’s hands after the anointing with oils. The lemons should be cut into slices.
- f. Two corporals will be needed. One is centered on altar the second one is set to the right side. The Bishop will place the main Chalice and Paten/Ciborium on the center corporal. The Deacon will place the sacred vessels on the other corporal.
- g. A purificator is needed for each chalice.
- h. Incense not to be used.

III. Entrance Procession

- a. Confirmands and Sponsors should be in place. The procession of the Bishop and ministers to the altar should be slow and dignified. The procession should include the cross, the Book of the Gospels carried by a Deacon. The entrance hymn is sung when the ministers enter the Church.

IV. Sprinkling Rite

- a. To amplify the unity between Baptism and Confirmation, the Rite of Sprinkling is to be used for the Penitential Rite, with a Baptismal hymn or choral piece to support the symbolic action of sprinkling or “washing”.
- b. Please plan on the Bishop blessing the water in the sanctuary. The water should be in a Holy Water container and Sprinkler (Aspersorium and Aspergillum) that can be seen. (This could be done at the Baptismal Fountain if it is located in the sanctuary). The blessing is in the Introductory Rites. It is important that there is singing during the sprinkling rite, if possible. The Deacon holds the Aspersorium for the Bishop during the blessing.

V. The Liturgy of the Word

God’s word is proclaimed in the readings. Only approved or installed lectors are to be readers. Confirmands are allowed to do the readings only if they regularly serve as lectors in the parish. When a Deacon is present only he proclaims the Gospel in English, Spanish or both. Deacons are not assigned the first readings which are proper to a lay Lector or reader.

VI. Presentation of the Candidates

The presentation of the candidates is to be made by the Pastor or the Priest-in-Charge. The candidates should be called by individual name unless the group is very large. The Bishop then gives the Homily and welcomes the candidates into the fullness of Christian life.

VII. Homily

- a. If possible, the Bishop prefers to use a wireless microphone.
- b. The preaching is based upon Scripture, Tradition, and Sacraments and is addressed to the Confirmands, their families, and the community.

VIII. Renewal of Baptismal Promises

The Confirmands stand with their Sponsors to renew their Baptismal Promises after the Homily. Candidates alone answer the questions put to them by the Bishop.

IX. Imposition of Hands

- a. All priests join with the Bishop extending their hands over the Confirmands.
- b. If there are less than 14-15 Confirmands or even up to 20, depending on the sanctuary, the Bishop prefers to impose hands individually on the Candidates.

X. Anointing with Chrism

- a. After the extension of hands, the Chrism will be brought to the Bishop for the anointing.
- b. The Confirmands, with their Sponsors, approach the Bishop as directed by the Master of Ceremonies. The Bishop will stand for the anointing.

XI. Prayers of the Faithful

The Prayers of the Faithful are done as directed in the ritual. Generally the Deacon will lead the intercessions after the Bishop introduces the prayer. Both Bishop and Deacon should have a text to read from. Confirmands are permitted to offer the petitions and prayers.

XII. First Communion

- a. Those Confirmands who are to receive Holy Communion for the first time are to come forward with their families in the Communion procession. The Bishop should have a list of their names at the altar.
- b. Their families may be allowed to come forward before the rest of the assembly.

XIII. Reception

- a. If there is to be a reception following the ceremony, a verbal announcement should be made just before the final blessing.

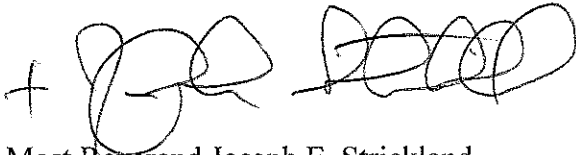
XIV. Photographs/Video

- a. The participation of all present in the prayer and rituals is the priority.
- b. Photographs or video during the ceremony **should be done discretely** and without flash and kept to a minimum.
- c. The Bishop is willing to be available for photos immediately after the Mass. A chair should be placed where the pictures will be taken to allow the Bishop to be seated for the photos.
- d. If there are a modest number of Confirmands they and their parents may do a group picture with the Bishop. Alternatively they should be encouraged to do family pictures.
- e. Pictures should be taken in a suitable place that allows for the easy movement of people who desire to take a picture. It is permissible that this be done in front of the sanctuary. The location should be reviewed with the Master of Ceremonies, before the Mass.

XV. Bilingual Mass

- a. If possible one or two hymns in Spanish.
- b. At least one of the three readings should be in Spanish and at least one in English. The text for this reading should be printed in the language it is not read in for the community to follow. (i.e. English printed for the reading done in Spanish and Spanish printed for the reading done in English.)
- c. The Gospel should be proclaimed in English or Spanish or both, one introduction and one conclusion.
- d. Some parts of the Mass could be in Spanish or Latin (i.e. Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei) or some of the appropriate responses. The (Kyrie may also be done in Greek.
- e. It is not permissible to switch languages during the Eucharistic Prayer itself.

Approved for distribution in the Diocese of Tyler on this 9th day of August, 2013

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a cross symbol followed by a stylized, cursive name that appears to be 'Joseph E. Strickland'.

Most Reverend Joseph E. Strickland
Bishop of Tyler