

The Order for the Conferral of Confirmation within Mass as adapted for use in the Archdiocese of Regina

INTRODUCTION

On the following pages, you will find the ritual text for the Rite of Confirmation within Mass.¹ It is provided here so that one can more fully prepare the parish confirmation liturgy. This version contains adapted texts and specific instructions for Confirmation liturgies celebrated in the Archdiocese of Regina.

This text may also be used on those occasions when the archbishop delegates the pastor to confirm in his own parish.²

1. *The Order of Confirmation*, English Translation According to the Typical Edition, © Concacan Inc., 2016, pages 3-11. *The Roman Missal*, Canadian edition, © Concacan Inc., 2011, pages 1126-1130.

2. For the Rite of Confirmation that is integral to the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, see *RCIA* nos. 211-230; for the Rite of Confirmation that is integral to the Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church, see *RCIA* nos. 400-411.

The Order for the Conferral of Confirmation within Mass

Procession

- **Seating of Candidates:** It is preferred that the candidates be seated before the Mass begins. Seating should be close to the front of the church to facilitate the "dialogue character" of the homily between Bishop Don and the candidates. Sponsors should be seated directly behind or with the candidates.
- The liturgical procession takes place in the usual manner. The Entrance Hymn is sung by the entire assembly during the procession.

Opening Rites

Welcome

The pastor or a representative of the parish welcomes the Archbishop. A Greeting by the Archbishop follows.

Penitential Rite

A sprinkling rite is appropriate at a celebration of Confirmation and First Eucharist, especially during the Easter season. Please have an aspergillum (sprinkler) available.

Gloria

(On Sundays and feast days only)

Opening Prayer

On Sundays the Collect of the day; on weekdays, Roman Missal, p. 1333.

Readings

Given the age of the candidates, it is strongly encouraged that the readings are proclaimed by adults or youth. The Readings to be used on weekdays are: **Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:35, 38-39; Matthew 26:26-30. Psalm 104** is the most appropriate. When Confirmation and First Eucharist are celebrated on Sunday during the Easter Season or on a Solemnity, the readings of the day are used with the exception of the First Reading. Please use **Acts 2:1-4** instead. On Sundays outside of the Easter season that are not feasts, any of the attached readings could replace the Sunday readings; but in that instance, please notify Bishop Don at least a week in advance.

First Reading (Acts 2: 1-4)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost,
the believers were gathered together in one room.
All of a sudden they heard a sound like a strong wind
that seemed to fill the whole house.
Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire
coming and resting on each of them.
They were all filled with the Holy Spirit,
and immediately they started to speak in other languages.

The Word of the Lord.

Second Reading (Romans 8: 35,38-39)

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or
distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor
depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 26: 26-30)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing
it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my
body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them,
saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I
will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I
drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."
When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Presentation of the Candidates

The presentation of the Candidates takes place immediately after the proclamation of the Gospel. Those to be confirmed are called by name and individually approach the sanctuary. If the candidates are children, they are accompanied by their sponsor. If there are numerous candidates, they are called by name and are assigned to an appropriate place before the Bishop as the space permits. In the case when the pastor is the minister of the sacrament, a catechist would present the candidates.

The presentation of the candidates may take the following form:

Pastor:

Bishop,

on behalf of our parish community

I present these candidates for the sacrament of confirmation.

As each candidate is called by name, they stand and remain standing.

Archbishop:

God's holy Church wishes to be certain

that these candidates are ready to celebrate this sacrament.

The parents stand. The archbishop speaks to them:

Parents,

**at baptism you accepted the responsibility
of raising your children in the practice of the faith,
and of guiding them to love God and neighbor.**

**Do you now consider that they are ready
to be confirmed in the faith of the Church?**

Parents:

We do.

The parents are seated. Then the teachers and catechists stand.

Archbishop:

Teachers and catechists,
you have proclaimed the Good News
and shared the riches of our Catholic tradition
with these young people.

Do you consider that they have faithfully listened
to God's word proclaimed by the Church?

Teachers and catechists:

We do.

The teachers and catechists are seated, and the sponsors stand.

Archbishop:

Sponsors,
by word and example you have helped these candidates
to walk in God's presence.

Do you consider that they have shared the company
of their Christian brothers and sisters
and joined them faithfully in prayer?

Sponsors:

We do.

The sponsors are seated. Then the archbishop speaks to the members of the parish
community.

Archbishop:

People of **N.** parish,
we have heard the testimony in favor of these candidates,
and welcome them to complete their initiation into the life of Christ by
being sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation and by being
brought to the eucharistic table.

Are you willing to continue to sustain them in faith
by your prayer and example?

All:

We are.

The people may express their assent by an acclamation or some other sign.

Homily or Address

The archbishop then gives a brief homily. He may use these or similar words: see n. 22 of the Rite.

The Apostles, who had received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost in fulfillment of the Lord's promise, had power to complete the work of Baptism by the giving of the Holy Spirit, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles. When Saint Paul had laid his hands on certain people who had been baptized, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

The Bishops, as successors of the Apostles, possess the same power and, either in their own right or through Priests lawfully appointed to fulfill this ministry, they confer the Holy Spirit on those who have already been born again in Baptism.

Even if today the coming of the Holy Spirit is no longer widely made manifest by the gift of tongues, we know by faith that the Spirit, through whom the love of God has been poured into our hearts and through whom we are gathered in unity of faith and in diversity of callings, is received by us and is working invisibly to make the Church holy and one.

Dearly beloved, the gift of the Holy Spirit, which you are about to receive, will be a spiritual seal, by which you will be conformed to Christ and will be made more fully members of his Church. For Christ himself, anointed by the Holy Spirit in baptism he received from John, was sent forth for the work of his ministry, to pour out on the earth the fire of the same Spirit.

Therefore, you who are already baptized will now receive the power of his Spirit and be signed with his Cross on your foreheads. And so, you must always bear witness to his Passion and Resurrection before the world, so that your manner of life, as the Apostle says, may be in every place the pleasing fragrance of Christ. His Mystical Body, which is the Church, the People of God, receives from him diverse graces, which the same Holy Spirit distributes to individuals for the building up of that Body in unity and love.

Be living members of this Church, therefore, and, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, seek to serve all people like Christ, who came not to be served but to serve.

And now, before you receive the Spirit, call to mind the faith which you professed in Baptism or which your parents and godparents professed with the Church.

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

After the homily the candidates stand and the archbishop questions them:

Archbishop:

Do you renounce Satan,
and all his works and empty promises?

Candidates:

I do.

Archbishop:

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates:

I do.

Archbishop:

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried,
rose again from the dead,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

Candidates:

I do.

Archbishop:

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation
is given to you in a special way
just as he was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost?

Candidates:

I do.

Archbishop:

Do you believe in the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Candidates:

I do.

The archbishop accepts their profession of faith by proclaiming the faith of the Church:

Archbishop:

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All:

Amen.

The Laying on of Hands

Invitation

The concelebrating priests stand near the archbishop who then speaks to the people saying:

Archbishop:

Dearly beloved, let us pray to God the almighty Father, for these, his adopted sons and daughters, already born again to eternal life in Baptism, that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon them to confirm them with his abundant gifts, and through his anointing conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

The archbishop and the priests who are present lay hands upon all the candidates (by extending their hands over them). The archbishop alone says:

Archbishop:

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who brought these your servants to new birth
by water and the Holy Spirit,
freeing them from sin:
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;
give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,
the spirit of knowledge and piety;
fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.
Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen**

ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

Please have a good supply of Chrism on hand. The Archbishop would like a small dish of Chrism from which to anoint the candidates. The Archbishop will stand in front of the altar.

- Each candidate is to lead his/her sponsor(s) and family to the front where Bishop Don will be waiting to receive them.
- Candidates place their right hand on the staff alongside the Bishop's hand.
- Sponsors place their right hand on the candidate's right shoulder. Parents (families) may also come forward and place their hands on the candidate as space permits.

The candidates may be lined up in whatever way works best but they should not obstruct the view of the assembly. The candidate will face the bishop, side on to the Assembly rather than with their backs to the people. The pastor will stand with Bishop Don and assist him.

In Confirmation as in Baptism, being called personally by name is an important sign. Each candidate's baptismal name is declared clearly and proudly. He/she is called to be a child of God and confirmed in this call.

During the actual conferral of the Sacrament, there should be complete silence without choral or instrumental music. The following dialogue takes place between each candidate and the Archbishop:

CANDIDATE:

I, N., wish to be confirmed.

ARCHBISHOP:

N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

CANDIDATE:

AMEN!

ARCHBISHOP:

Peace be with you.

CANDIDATE:

And with your spirit.

Note to the catechist: It is important that the candidates understand the importance of their part in this dialogue. They should be encouraged to say their own name plainly and proudly as a child of God. Their "Amen" and "And with your spirit" should be enthusiastic and heartfelt.

To ensure that the Archbishop can name each candidate correctly the Child's name should be printed legibly and worn on a name tag. Stoles are the liturgical vestment of ordained ministers and should not be used for confirmands.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Intentions are found in the Ritual, page 8, or locally prepared. **NOTE:** The confirmands may be involved in the reading of the intercessions.

Archbishop:

My dear brothers and sisters,
let us be one in prayer to God our Father
as we are one in the faith, hope and love his Spirit gives.

Minister:

For these sons and daughters of God,
confirmed by the gift of the Spirit,
that they give witness to Christ
by lives built on faith and love,
let us pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Minister:

For the newly confirmed,
who have received the fullness of God's Spirit,
that standing at the altar of the Lord
they may share the banquet of Christ's sacrifice,
calling God their Father in the midst of the Church,
let us pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Minister:

For their parents and godparents who led them in faith,
that by word and example they may always encourage them
to follow the way of Jesus Christ,
let us pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Minister:

For the holy Church of God,
in union with **N.** our pope, **N.** our bishop, and all the bishops,
that God, who gathers us together by the Holy Spirit,
may help us grow in unity of faith and love
until his Son returns in glory,
let us pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Minister:

For all men and women of every race and nation,
that they may acknowledge the one God as Father,
and in the bond of common fellowship seek his kingdom,
which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,
let us pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Archbishop:

God our Father,
you sent your Holy Spirit upon the apostles,
and through them and their successors
you give the Spirit to your people.
May his work begun at Pentecost
continue to grow in the hearts of all who believe.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Some of the newly confirmed may take part in the procession of the gifts.

After the general intercessions the liturgy of the eucharist is celebrated according to the Order of Mass in the Roman Missal. The *Ritual Mass for the Conferral of Confirmation* may be used (cf. *Roman Missal*, pages 1126-1130); or the *Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit* (cf. *Roman Missal*, pages 1333-1335); also cf. *The Order of Confirmation*, pages 37-42. Red vestments are worn for the celebration of Confirmation and First Eucharist. In this Mass, the *Gloria* is sung (on Sundays and feast days only). The *Creed*, however, is omitted.

COMMUNION RITE: It is preferable that the newly confirmed receive communion from the Archbishop who is chief pastor and a sign of unity for all the faithful in our diocese. This will strengthen the sign of Confirmation, joining the confirmed in a close bond to the Church and culminating in the sharing of the body and blood of Christ.

Communion should be offered under both species, as is the norm at every Eucharistic celebration.

While it is advisable that at every mass the Assembly receives the Eucharist from the elements consecrated at that Mass, it is especially important that this be so and that reserve hosts not be used at this Mass.

SOLEMN BLESSING AT THE END OF MASS

The Archbishop, with hands extended over the newly confirmed, says:

May God the Father almighty bless you,
whom he has made his adopted sons and daughters
reborn from water and the Holy Spirit,
and may he keep you worthy of his fatherly love.

R. Amen.

May his Only Begotten Son,
who promised that the Spirit of truth would abide
in his Church,
bless you and confirm you by his power
in the confession of the true faith.

R. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who kindles the fire of charity in the hearts of disciples,
bless you and lead you blameless and gathered as one
into the joy of the kingdom of God.

R. Amen.

And he blesses all the people adding:

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, + and the Son, + and the Holy + Spirit.

R. Amen.

OR:

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

The Archbishop, with hands extended over the newly confirmed and the people, says:

Confirm, O God,
what you have brought about in us,
and preserve in the hearts of your faithful
the gifts of the Holy Spirit:
may they never be ashamed
to confess Christ crucified before the world
and by devoted charity
may they ever fulfill his commands.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, + and the Son, + and the Holy + Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

R. Amen.

Celebration of Confirmation and First Communion

First Reading (Acts 2: 1-4)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

**On the day of Pentecost,
the believers were gathered together in one room.
All of a sudden they heard a sound like a strong wind
that seemed to fill the whole house.
Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire
coming and resting on each of them.
They were all filled with the Holy Spirit,
and immediately they started to speak in other languages.**

The Word of the Lord.

Celebration of Confirmation/First Communion

Second Reading (Romans 8: 35,38-39)

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Celebration of Confirmation/First Communion

Gospel Reading (Matthew 26: 26-30)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.