

General Information for Rehearsal and Confirmation Day 2026

Preparing your Hearts for the Sacrament of Confirmation: An important way to prepare your heart for Confirmation is by going to Confession. You will have the opportunity to go to confession immediately after rehearsal. Sponsors are encouraged and invited to go to confession, too.

Rehearsal: For rehearsal, please meet in the main church and allow for one hour. The Sponsor or a Parent must be with the student.

Confirmation Mass – Arrival and Photos: Please arrive with your sponsor in the gathering space by **9:30 a.m.** Please use the online form to order photos ahead of time, if possible.

(<https://pci.jotform.com/form/261036117283047>). Once you have arrived, begin lining up for photos. (It will be hectic because the 8:30 a.m. Mass will be ending at that time and people will be leaving.) If you would like professional photos of the student alone, student and sponsor, family photo, etc., these will be taken first. The group photo with Bishop David Kagan and Fr. Adam Maus will be the final photo (about 10:05 a.m.). You must be in the group photo even if you aren't purchasing photos. The starting time for the Mass is 10:30 a.m. Seats are reserved for the students and sponsors only. Please tell your family and friends to arrive early if they want a seat close to the front. They may also sit in the pews behind the altar, except for those marked for the Reader, etc.

Following the Group Photo: Please quietly go downstairs to the dining room where the students will put on their Saint name tags. If time allows, Bishop Kagan will come there to speak to the Confirmation candidates.

Those who volunteered as ministers in the Mass: The students who are volunteering as ministers in the Mass (reading the **Readings** and serving as **Gift Bearers**) will practice their ministry during rehearsal.

Attire: This is a momentous occasion in your life as a Catholic. Please dress appropriately. Young men should wear a shirt with a tie and dress pants and dress shoes, if possible. Young women should wear a dress or nice outfit with skirt or pants. Please dress modestly, ensuring that skirts/dresses are not too short (not shorter than your fingers when arms are at your sides, if possible) and that shoulders are covered. No blue jeans, t-shirts, strapless dresses or spaghetti straps, please. Your Sponsor should follow the same dress code.

Preparing for the Processional: At about 10:20 a.m., students and sponsors will prepare for the processional into the church. In the dining room, you will get instructions, and line up to process in.

The Processional: If the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus are participating in the Mass, they typically process in and line the center aisle so that the others walk between them. The students (with sponsors on their right) walk in with their Sponsors after the Altar Servers. You should leave a space

of 3 pews before the next student/sponsor pair begins walking, so that it's a nice procession like a wedding. The student/sponsor pairs walk up to the bottom step (leading up to the altar), genuflect together there if possible (or bow if the sponsor cannot genuflect), and then go either left or right to their assigned pew, entering the pew from the outside aisle, with the sponsor in the pew directly behind the student.

Participation in the Mass: God is giving you a tremendous gift on your Confirmation Day! Please express your joy upon receiving this sacrament by singing together and responding to the parts of the Mass. Your confident participation will demonstrate your readiness to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and to put them to good use as an active member of the Catholic Church.

During the Mass: The student(s) assigned to the First and Second Readings, seated in the front pew, come up together for their Readings. (All of the following will be practiced at rehearsal.) The students walk together to the center, stop at the bottom step leading to the altar area, bow toward Jesus in the tabernacle, then walk toward the ambo (podium). The student assigned to the First Reading goes directly to the ambo, while the student assigned to the Second Reading takes a seat in the front pew directly behind the ambo. After the student reads the First Reading, he/she goes to that front pew, as well, where the two Readers sit together while the choir sings the Responsorial Psalm. Then the student who is assigned to the Second Reading goes forward to read. After the Second Reading is done, the first reader leaves the pew and joins with the second reader. They walk down to the front of the first step again, bow toward Jesus in the tabernacle, and return to their pews.

After the Gospel, Fr. Maus will call each student by name. When you hear your name called, you will stand up and loudly proclaim: "I am ready." Stay standing until all students have said, "I am ready." Fr. Maus will tell you when you may sit down.

After the Bishop's homily, when you renew your Baptismal Promises and profess your faith, it is again only students who stand (not Sponsors), and you reply "I do" so that everyone can hear you. See the other notes about responses to Baptismal promises, your profession of faith and the actual Rite of Confirmation.

When it is time for you to be confirmed, you and your Sponsor come out into the center aisle, and come forward – alternating from right or left – to be confirmed. The Sponsor holds his/her right hand on the right shoulder of the student while the student is confirmed. (See appropriate responses further in this document).

As the Mass continues, the Gift Bearers go to the back of the church as soon as the Offertory song is announced and the collection baskets are brought forward. If participating, the 4th Degree Knights walk up with the gift bearers at the appropriate time. For Communion, the students and Sponsors should come out of the pews in the center aisle as with a typical Mass.

Receiving Holy Communion: Receiving Jesus through Holy Communion is a great honor! When you received First Communion, you learned to 1) approach the altar with your hands reverently folded, 2) bow before receiving the Eucharist and to 3) receive the consecrated host on your tongue or your hand, with your right hand below your left (or opposite if you are left-handed). Of course, we always reply with “Amen” when the bishop, priest or deacon says “The body of Christ” as he presents the Eucharist to us, because “Amen” indicates that we believe Jesus is truly present. Then, upon returning to our pews, we kneel to pray a prayer of thanksgiving and reflect upon this great gift. We remain kneeling until Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is returned to the tabernacle and Fr. Maus sits down.

If a family member or friend in attendance is not Catholic, please tell them ahead of time that they may come forward, if they desire, during Communion for a blessing, indicating that they are not Catholic by crossing their arms across their chests. Those who are not Catholic, or who are not in a state of grace, should not receive Communion.

End of Mass and Recessional: At the end of the Mass, when the Bishop comes forward and genuflects, the students should bow in their pews at the same time. Then you won’t have to genuflect as you process out. You follow the Altar Servers out in the recessional. The Sponsors remain in the pews. Once you are in the church entrance, you immediately go to your left, down the stairs, and line up along the wall in the dining room. Tanya will collect your Saint name tags and people will come to congratulate you. After you have been greeted by those present, you may enjoy the reception of cake and beverages, then join your family for a continued celebration of this special day. Families are welcome to use the church reception as their primary celebration, inviting all of their guests to stay and enjoy cake and beverages at the church.



Confirmation Ceremony Responses

Name is called: Stand and say **“I AM READY”**.

Baptismal Promises: 5 times you say **“I DO”**.

This ends with a prayer to which you say **“AMEN”**.

Anointing with Chrism: Bishop Kagan says, “Name, Be Sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit”. You answer **“AMEN”**.

Bishop Kagan: “Peace be with you”.

You say, **“AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT”**.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPONSORS

Before the Mass: You will find in your pew the envelope with the Confirmation Certificate for your candidate. Please take that envelope with you after the Mass and give it to the candidate’s parents.

The Mass: You will process in with your candidate. Be seated in the pew behind your candidate. Remain there until after the candidates renew their Baptismal Promises and Bishop Kagan invokes the Holy Spirit in prayer over the group. Then the candidates will come forward from the center aisle, one at a time, for the anointing by Bishop Kagan. Sponsors need to go up with their candidates so you can stand behind him/her as the candidate is anointed. Please have your RIGHT HAND on the RIGHT SHOULDER of your candidate as Bishop Kagan anoints him/her. You may return to your pew by way of the outside aisle, as rehearsed. Everything else is like a normal Mass. Please follow the same dress code as your candidate (noted above). Thank you and may God bless you.