

**The Sacrament of Confirmation**  
**“Things You Need to Know”**  
**(revised July 2008)**

**Dress Code:**

It has been brought to our attention that attire for both candidates and sponsors has not always been appropriate. After reviewing the dress code policy of several high schools we ask that the following dress code be followed for all Confirmation liturgies:

Females may wear dresses, skirts or dress slacks with blouses or sweaters. Strapless or sleeveless dresses / blouses are not permitted.

Dresses may not be more than 2” above the knee.

Males may wear suits, dress slacks with shirts and ties or sweaters.

No tennis shoe or sneaker of any type may be worn. Sandals must have a back strap. No flip flops.

**Servers:**

It is an honor to serve at a Confirmation liturgy. Therefore we ask:

that they have previous training as a server

that servers have a strong interest in serving at the Mass

that they be attentive to the master of ceremonies

that they not wear flip-flops; dress shoes of some type are preferred

**Processions:**

Candidates and sponsors are not included in the opening and closing processions at Confirmation liturgies taking place at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. This works best and guards against the perception that this is a “graduation” procession.

**We ask that all candidates and sponsors begin the mass at their places and not include them in the opening and closing processions.**

**Anointing:**

Candidates and sponsors may be nervous as they come forward for the anointing, and the instructions they received at an earlier time may be easily forgotten. To help candidates and sponsors remember these instructions the Office of Worship will provide instruction cards with the following information:

Sponsors and Candidates:

Please remove gum before mass begins.

During the anointing please stand close to the Archbishop.

Candidates:

When approaching the Archbishop for the anointing

PLEASE look at the Archbishop and not your sponsor.

Sponsors:

Place your right hand on the right shoulder of the candidate.

Say the confirmation name clearly.

The cards will be available for liturgies at the Cathedral.

**Vesture:**

Cathedral Liturgies: Concelebrants need to bring their own alb to the liturgy. Matching vestments in the various liturgical colors have been purchased by the Cathedral. These will be used at Cathedral liturgies.

**General Intercessions:**

The proclamation of the General Intercessions may also be a time of nervousness.

**Please indicate on the top of the sheet containing the intercessions that the archbishop will give an introduction before the first petition is read.** The reader should watch the archbishop, and when he has concluded his introduction he will nod to the reader to begin.

**Selection of Confirmation Name.**

The Archbishop is concerned with some of the names chosen for Confirmation. A new name of a recognized saint of the Church should be chosen or a candidate may retain his/her baptismal name as the confirmation name *when their baptismal name is that of a recognized saint* of the Church. Regardless of what a candidate decides, **the confirmation name MUST be that of a recognized saint.**

Clarifications and reminders for **music leaders:**

Remember that your first duty is to lead the musical worship of the whole assembly, not to perform for them.

Prepare the musical selections carefully so that they are appropriate for each particular part of the Mass. (See guidelines.)

Be sure to prepare music that will “fit” the length of the opening procession depending on whether or not those to be confirmed are already in place. In any case, the music should conclude shortly after the archbishop has reached his place.

Music during the Preparation of the Gifts should be timed to conclude during or before the archbishop washes his hands.

If a number of choir members or other singers are involved in leading the song during the communion processional, some of them should receive communion while the others carry the song, so that no more than one or two are left to receive at the end of communion.

Please do not add an additional song after the conclusion of the communion procession.