



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OAKLAND 2019 SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION GENERAL INFORMATION

The following clarifications and guidelines are for your reference as you plan for and prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you have any questions, please contact confirmation@oakdiocese.org.

GENERAL GUIDELINES REGARDING SPONSORS

Here are the requisites for Confirmation sponsors:

- In order to serve as a Sponsor, one must:
 - be designated by the one to be confirmed and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
 - have completed the sixteenth year of age;
 - be a Catholic who has already been confirmed and has received the Most Holy Eucharist, and who leads a life of faith in communion with the Church.
- There is to be only one male Sponsor or one female Sponsor or one of each;
 - However, during the Rite, only ONE of the Sponsors comes forward to present the candidate for Confirmation.
- Parents may not serve as the Sponsor; however, they may serve as proxies for the Sponsor at the Celebration if the actual Sponsor is unable to attend.
- Non-Catholics may not serve as Sponsors.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THE CANDIDATES

To insure they receive final instructions and other details, please designate a time of arrival at a designated gathering place at least 45 minutes before the Mass starts.

PLEASE ANNOUNCE TO THE CANDIDATES BEFORE MASS:

- TURN OFF all electronic devices – phones, Bluetooth devices, media players, etc.
- SILENCE the sound functions of cameras.
- NO chewing gum, eating or drinking.
- When inside the church, please maintain a spirit of reverence and prayerful silence.

A general announcement to the Congregation with these same points might be useful.

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Taking photos and videos must not distract from the liturgical action – no photos in the aisles, flashes, nor moving around the church, or standing on the pews.
- Please use your best judgment and respectfulness when taking pictures during the Mass.
- The best practice is to have one photographer assigned to photograph the Mass, using the preceding guidelines.
- The Bishop or Priest celebrating the Sacrament will be available after the Mass for one group picture with the Confirmandi. The best practice is to have the Confirmandi follow the liturgical procession out at the end of Mass, to a designated place to take the group picture (either in front of the church or nearby).
- Individual pictures with the Bishop or Priest are at his discretion and subject to his schedule and availability.



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2018 SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

MEMORIZING THE RESPONSES

These responses occur at the time of anointing, during the Rite of Confirmation.

Please make sure the Candidates have memorized and have rehearsed the response. A good way to do that is to talk about them not only at the end of the Catechetical preparation but several times during the process.

- During the **Renewal of Baptismal Promises**, the Bishop or Priest will ask you a series of questions regarding your faith. You respond: **"I do"**. At the end of these questions, after the Bishop/Priest says "...in Christ Jesus our Lord", you respond: **"Amen"**.
- The answers in **Spanish** are a little bit different. If the celebration will be in Spanish, please make sure the Candidates understand them clearly and are able to respond in Spanish.
- During the anointing, while tracing a cross on your forehead with the Sacred Chrism, the Bishop/Priest, will say "(Your confirmation or baptismal name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit". You respond: **"Amen"**. The Bishop/Priest will then say "Peace be with you", and you respond: **"And with your spirit."** **The above notes about the answers in Spanish also apply for the anointing.**
- The candidates should also know all the responses for the different parts of the Mass.

During the Anointing of the Candidates, NO LOUD HYMNS are allowed. A prayerful silence or soft music can be used.

DRESS CODE

Dress should always be appropriate when we are in church. We are in the presence of God and in his house. A dress code should apply to all candidates, sponsors, and liturgical ministers (lectors, servers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion). They should wear proper attire similar to clothing for other important life events.

You are NOT expected to go out and purchase/rent clothes for your Confirmation. Please use your best judgment and wear the most appropriate clothes that you already own. Please dress for Church, and not for a night club. The option of wearing "robes" is at the parish's discretion; however, using liturgical albs is not appropriate, and the distinction between a robe used for Confirmation and a "graduation gown" needs to be made clear and explicit.

Please note: The wearing of stoles is reserved for bishops, priests, and deacons. The practice of Confirmandi wearing "confirmation stoles" is inappropriate.

MALES: Dress shirt hems should be tucked in, not hanging out. T-shirts, hoodies, and shirts with large logos, advertisements or inappropriate slogans should be avoided.

Please do not wear saggy pants: pants should come to your waist and over your hips. Denim (jeans) should be avoided. Formal ethnic or cultural vesture is also appropriate.

Please refrain from wearing flip flops, sandals or tennis shoes.

FEMALES: The knees and shoulders should be covered. Tops must completely cover the stomach. T-shirts, hoodies, and shirts with large logos, advertisements or inappropriate slogans should be avoided. Denim (jeans) should be avoided. Formal ethnic or cultural vesture is also appropriate. Please wear dress shoes that allow you to walk around safely and comfortably.

Please refrain from wearing flip flops, sandals or tennis shoes.