



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARLINGTON

Office of Divine Worship

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DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

GUIDELINES AND REMINDERS FOR CONFIRMATION OF ADULTS

Participating in Confirmation

- Everyone is encouraged to participate actively. Bilingual programs will be provided.
- Confirmation “candidate cards” (with each candidate’s saint name) will be provided in the first pew assigned to each parish. Please make sure that, before Mass, the sponsor receives the card for his/her candidate, and that during Mass the sponsor brings the card forward for the anointing.
- At the anointing, the masters of ceremonies will help direct candidates and their sponsors to the bishop.
 - The candidate should stand close enough to the bishop to be anointed.
 - When the candidate is standing before the bishop:
 - The sponsor places his/her right hand on the candidate’s left shoulder. The sponsor holds the candidate card in his/her left hand, holding it so that the bishop can see the saint name clearly.
 - The sponsor does **not** say the candidate’s saint name.
 - The bishop anoints the candidate saying “**N**., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.” The candidate responds, “Amen.”
 - The bishop says to the candidate, “Peace be with you.” The candidate responds, “And with your spirit.” This exchange of peace does not include shaking hands.
 - Candidates and sponsors return to their places and are seated after the candidate is anointed.

Arrival & Seating

- Candidates and Sponsors arrive 30 minutes before the start of the liturgy.
- No reserved parking is available. Handicapped parking spaces are available for those with appropriate tags.
- Everyone is asked to go directly to their place in the main church, ushers will assist all participants to find their seats.
- Seating is limited to the four seats that have been reserved for each candidate: one for the candidate, one for the sponsor, and two for guests.
- Bishop Burbidge will be available after the Mass for pictures with the newly Confirmed and their family.
- A light reception will be held in Burke Hall on the lower level of the Cathedral following the Mass.

Dress | “Sunday Best”

- All— no jeans or shorts; no t-shirts or shirts with slogans; no casual shoes (such as flip-flops, tennis shoes/sneakers, etc.)
- Men— dress shirt, dress slacks, and dress shoes with appropriate socks; a suit with tie or a sport jacket with tie is preferred
- Women— skirts or dresses reaching the knees, or dress slacks of appropriate formality and fit; tops covering the shoulders and of appropriate cut; dress shoes
- If financial restrictions or medical needs give rise to questions about dress, please do not hesitate to contact the diocesan Director of Divine Worship (liturgy@arlingtondiocese.org).
- For Confirmation for Adults, confirmation robes are not worn.