

CONFIRMATION/FIRST COMMUNION MASS PREPARATION GUIDELINES

This letter contains the liturgical preferences and considerations for the celebration of Confirmation/First Communion Mass(es) with the Archbishop, Bishop, or his Delegate. This letter is presented to you to help promote a reverent and joyful celebration. Please note that some of this information is subject to the discretion of the celebrant of the Mass, so it is always best to check with the celebrant himself, the Liturgy Office, or the Archbishop's Office if you have questions or clarifications.

****PLEASE TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO REVIEW THIS INFORMATION****

PHOTOS: It is preferred to have a specific photographer (professional if possible) who is designated to take pictures during or after the Mass who can then later share them with the families.

- **GROUP PHOTO:** A group photo at the end of Mass is permitted so long as it is well-organized and promptly taken by a specific photographer. Confirmandi and sponsors should have *nothing* in their hands during the photo (certificates, candles, etc.).
- If photos are to be taken during First Communions, please ensure that there are **2 (two)** photographers (one for the reception of the Body of Christ, another for the Blood of Christ).

PROCESSING IN AND OUT:

- **PROCESSING IN:** The liturgical procession for Mass includes the cross, candles, deacon(s) and priest(s). If the Candidates are to process in (the decision is up to the Pastor/DRE), their place is *before* the liturgical procession and should be started *5-10 minutes before* the scheduled Mass time begins.
- **PROCESSING OUT:** Please do *NOT* have the students/sponsor process out after Mass, especially if there will be a group photo taken in the church after Mass. It takes an undue amount of time when students/sponsors come to the center aisle and individually bow before processing out.

NAMETAGS: During the Rite of Confirmation, the sponsors should *not* say anything when they approach the celebrant (e.g., they should *not* say, "Your Excellency, it is my pleasure to present to you Saint John..."). Nametags with the printed name of the saint are therefore most helpful.

PATRON SAINTS: Jesus Christ cannot be a patron saint (ex. "Santo Niño de Atocha") and try to refrain from "obscure" titles of the Virgin Mary as a patron (ex. no "Our Lady of St. Juan de Los Lagos"). A candidate can choose the same name as his/her baptismal name if he/she so chooses.

"TRAFFIC": Please ensure that someone is designated to help with the flow of "traffic" during the Sacraments. See to it that there is a steady and quick flow of students (and sponsors) receiving the Sacraments and there is not much lag time between students.

CONCELEBRANTS: They should *not* extend their hands during the laying-on of hands. This is reserved to the celebrant (and for those in association with him who confirm due to a large number of candidates).

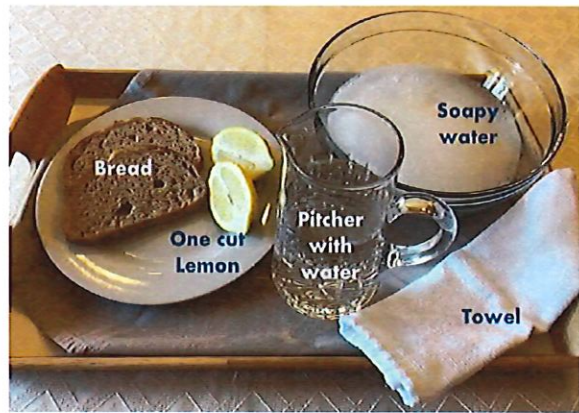
POSTURE: For the Sacraments, candidates will stand before the celebrant. Candidates will stand and receive Holy Communion either on the hand or on the tongue (the decision is of the communicant, not the Pastor/Deacon/DRE). *Kneelers are not permitted for receiving First Holy Communion* as this takes an undue amount of time, especially when there are many candidates.

DRESS CODE: Candidates are to be in proper Sunday attire. Special graduation-style robes *may* be used. Stoles should *never* be worn.

MUSIC: soft-volume instrumental music during the anointing is permissible if the congregation can still hear the dialogue between Celebrant and the Candidates.

LEMON/BREAD/WATER (*not a lot is needed!*)

- 1 (one) lemon cut in half
- 1 (one) basin/bowl with soapy water
- 1 (one) pitcher with water
- 1 (one) towel for drying hands
- 2 (two) slices of fresh sandwich bread (keep covered so it does not get stale)



QUESTIONS TO ASK THE BISHOP/CELEBRANT AHEAD OF TIME:

- **Meeting with students before Mass and at what time:** Please contact the priest celebrant.
- **Seating:** Archbishop Aquila and Bishop Rodriguez prefer to have the students sit on one side of the church and the sponsors to sit on the other. Please check with the other delegates/celebrants for their preferences. Thank you for your flexibility.
- **Photo preferences:** Ask if he is willing to take individual photos after Mass.

THE CHOICE OF MASS BEING CELEBRATED PER ARCHBISHOP/BISHOP'S DESIRE:

Mass being Celebrated	Readings	Ritual Mass Permitted?	Vestment Color
Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday in Ordinary Time	Yes	Green or Red for Ritual Mass
Weekday of Ordinary Time	Weekday of Ordinary Time or Ritual Mass	Yes	Green or Red for Ritual Mass
Sunday of Lent or Advent	Sunday of Lent or Advent	No	Purple
Weekday of Lent or Advent	Weekday of Lent or Advent or Ritual Mass	Yes	Purple or Red for Ritual Mass
Sunday in Christmas Time	Sunday in Christmas Time	No	White
Weekday in Christmas Time	Weekday in Christmas Time or Ritual Mass	Yes	White or Red for Ritual Mass
Sunday in Easter Time	Sunday in Easter Time	No	White
Weekday in Easter Time	Weekday in Easter Time	No	White
Solemnities/Feasts	Solemnities/Feasts	No	Color as stated in Ordo
Obligatory Memorial	Obligatory Memorial or Ritual Mass	Yes	Color as stated in Ordo or Red for Ritual Mass.

Thank you for your help to ensure that the above considerations are met. We appreciate all your assistance! Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions/clarifications.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Scherer
Priest-Secretary to the Archbishop

Mr. Hung Pham
Director of Liturgy