

When do I need to arrive for Confirmation Mass?

Please plan on arriving at **6:00 p.m. tomorrow, May 3rd** for Confirmation Mass. Check in with Margot or Thania. Anyone dressed outside of the dress code will be asked to change. We will take a large group photo at 6:30 pm with the Bishop.

How is Confirmation Mass celebrated?

Confirmation Mass includes plenty of tradition. A bishop celebrates the sacrament. For us this year, Bishop Peter will be our celebrant. Everything will seem like a normal Mass (except for incense) until the reading of the Gospel. It is then that **Margot presents the candidates to Bishop Peter** by calling out each person's name from the lectern:

Bishop Peter, the parish community of Our Lady of the Valley wishes to present to you its young men and women who have prepared and are ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Each candidate has been well instructed and is accompanied by a sponsor. It is my privilege to present them to you at this time; I invite the candidates for Confirmation to **please stand and remain standing** as I call your names.

Each candidate then stands as she/he is called.

Bishop Peter will then invite candidates to sit and he will give his homily.

After the Homily, the *Bishop will invite the candidates to stand* and profess their faith in the presence of the Church assembled.

Bishop: Do you reject Satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises?

Candidates: **I do.**

Bishop: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates: **I do.**

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was Crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Candidates: **I do.**

Bishop: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?

Candidates: **I do.**

Bishop: Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Candidates: **I do.**

Bishop: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Candidates & Assembly: **Amen.**

Candidates will remain standing and Bishop Peter says:

My dear friends: In baptism God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life to His chosen sons and daughters. Let us pray to our Father that he will pour out the Holy Spirit to strengthen His sons and daughters with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ the Son of God.

(short time of silence and reflection)

All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Then, the anointing, the actual sacrament. Candidates will line up with their sponsor, processing to the Bishop one-by-one. During the anointing, **the sponsors place their right hand on the right shoulder of their candidate.** Once you reach the Bishop, you will follow this script:

Candidate: Bishop Peter, my confirmation name is _____. *(fill in with the name of your confirmation saint)*

(For example: Bishop Peter, my confirmation saint is Mary.)

Bishop: (Name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

(Anoints your forehead with chrism oil.)

Candidate: Amen.

Bishop: Peace be with you.

Candidate: And with your Spirit.

(Shake the hand of the Bishop.)

After that, return to your seat and wait for your entire row to return before being seated. The Mass will proceed as usual with the Holy Eucharist, the closing prayer, and the recessional music. Afterward we will celebrate in the gym with cookies and punch. You will receive your confirmation certificate and a gift from the Knights of Columbus as well.

Preparation before tomorrow

The bishop may ask the Confirmation candidates questions during his homily. Sometimes you are asked about the experience of preparing for Confirmation, but Bishop Peter might also ask other things, such as:

- What you have learned (Do you know the Fruits of the Spirit? The Gifts of the Spirit?)
- What you heard in the readings (look up **readings of the day for May 3rd**)
- What do you think it means to be confirmed?

What if I have other questions?

Ask all the questions you can today during rehearsal. If more questions arise, call or email tonight or tomorrow morning.

Margot Loza, mloza@olvcaldwell.org, 208-731-8559