
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC

ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



**ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF
CONFIRMATION
IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA
ARCHBISHOP GREGORY HARTMAYER, OFM CONV.**

I. EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES AND MEETING THE CLASS

There will be questioning of the candidates during the homily; however, Archbishop Hartmayer usually asks individual questions regarding their Saints as they walk up to be confirmed.

II. PREPARATIONS

Archbishop Hartmayer hopes the celebration of Confirmation will be a parish community celebration. Accordingly, all parishioners should be invited if room permits. He also expects the priests to concelebrate with him.

Thirty days prior to the date of Confirmation, please send the schema form and order of worship to Mardessa Smith at MWSmith@archatl.com or by fax to 404- 920-7301.

(Information desired includes the Scripture readings to be used, the parts of the Mass to be sung, and anything planned which will assist the archbishop in preparing for his visit to your parish.)

Archbishop Hartmayer will bring his own alb and vestments and will vest in the rectory or whatever place you have designated for him. The color of vestments is red unless the rubrics state otherwise.

In church, please make the usual preparations for Mass. If there will be a large number of concelebrants and/or Communion under both species, please have adequate chalices and extra hosts. If a significant number of priests and deacons are available, please assign them as Ministers of the Holy Communion.

Please have a pitcher of warm water, a large bowl, liquid soap, and a towel for the archbishop to wash his hands after the anointing. **(The archbishop does not use lemons and/or bread).**

Archbishop Hartmayer will bring the oil of Chrism and Confirmation Ritual with him.

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The Mass for the Conferral of Confirmation, as found in the Roman Missal, may be used on any day (even Sundays) except the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter Solemnities. On those days, the Mass will be that of the day. If it is a feast of one of the Apostles, Archbishop Hartmayer prefers to offer the Mass of the Feast.

In selecting the Confirmation Readings, these readings should be taken from the

readings of the day as suggested by the USCCB website.

The commentator, lectors, and song leader should be well prepared, and the Scriptures proclaimed so everyone can hear what is being read.

USE OF STOLES AT CONFIRMATION

Concerning the use of stoles at Confirmation, we bring to your attention a response to this question from the December 1984 issue of the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy Newsletter:

- Q. Is there any legislation regarding the use of stoles at the celebration of Confirmation?
- A. The traditional vesture of the newly baptized in the white robe. There is no indication in liturgical tradition that the stole - which properly is the vesture of ordained ministers - was used for neophytes.

To emphasize the relationship between confirmation and baptism, a white garment might be used at confirmation - just as the baptismal robe was used to clothe the newly baptized. **The use of stole, however, should be avoided for the reasons already indicated.**

NAME TAGS

The practice of the members of the class wearing name tags is retained. The name tags should be fastened high on the right shoulder of the Confirmandi. This will be either the baptismal name or the confirmation name, depending upon which name the Confirmandi chooses. Even though the candidate wears a name tag, he/she should mention his/her name to the archbishop. The candidates must choose the name of a Catholic Saint.

III. SERVERS INSTRUCTIONS

Five servers will be needed - cross-bearer, two acolytes, miter bearer, and crosier bearer. If you have incense, you may need another server.

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IV. ORDER OF PROCESSION

The servers and members of the class, including the adults, if you wish, meet the Bishop and the clergy outside the rectory or wherever they are vesting.

THE ORDER OF PROCESSION IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Thurifer and Boat bearer (if you choose to have incense)
2. Cross bearer and acolytes
3. Deacon carrying the Book of Gospels (if you have a deacon in your parish or have invited one to participate)
4. Honor Guard (if you wish to have them)
5. Confirmation Class
6. Additional servers should you opt to have more than the three at the front.
7. Visiting clergy and concelebrants
8. Pastor and Parochial Vicars
9. Honor Guard (if you wish to have them)
10. Archbishop Hartmayer
11. Master of Ceremonies
12. Miter and Crosier bearers

The procession moves directly into the Church, and the members of the class go to their pews. Please have the class in the front pews on both sides of the main aisle and come forward to the Archbishop at the time of Confirmation. The Archbishop does not go to each pew.

V. THE MASS AND CEREMONY

The pastor/parochial vicar(s) are seated near the archbishop's chair. If there is a deacon, he assists the archbishop at the chair. If there is room, the concelebrants and visiting clergy are seated in the sanctuary, otherwise in the pews. However, care should be taken that the clergy do not block the view of the class or the congregation.

The deacon (or pastor or parochial vicar, if no deacon is present) proclaims the Gospel. After the Gospel, the pastor or a representative of the Parish Pastoral Council, or catechist presents the candidates to the archbishop.

The following text or similar wording may be included:

“Archbishop Hartmayer, the candidates of the parish community of _have been properly prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The

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pastor (and parochial vicar(s), parents and teachers, and the members of our parish community ask you, Archbishop Hartmayer, to confer the gift of the Holy Spirit upon them. Archbishop, it is my privilege to present these candidates to you at this time.”

Individual names should be read if there are fewer than 50.

The candidates all rise and then sit for the archbishop’s homily.

After Archbishop Hartmayer concludes the homily, he will lead the class in the renewal of baptismal promises. The class answers "I do" five times (loud and clear), and the entire congregation responds with "Amen" at the conclusion. The assembly may sing a short song or acclamation of faith.

After the invitation to prayer, the archbishop, pastor, parochial vicar(s), the concelebrants will join in imposing hands upon the candidates (by extending their hands over them). Archbishop Hartmayer says the prayer over the candidates.

If the candidates are to come to the minister, the following directives are to be observed.

The pastor goes with the Archbishop to the edge of the sanctuary, or to the pews – if that option is selected.

As the Confirmandi come before the archbishop, boys and girls are to come up simultaneously, two at a time, and stand in front of the Archbishop. If the class is very small, the candidates may come up single file.

The sponsor comes up with the candidate and places his/her right hand on the right shoulder of the Confirmandi. Please advise the sponsor in advance. If the pastor wishes, the parents, godparents, and immediate family of the Confirmandi may also come up with the sponsor.

In order that everyone in the pews may witness the ceremony, the members of the class should remain seated in the pews until it is time to come up. Only a very few candidates should be in the aisle at one time so they will not block the view of the congregation. As soon as the newly confirmed and his/her sponsor return to the pew, they should be seated.

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If there is an honor guard, they should be seated on the side aisles or in the back of the Church.

The candidate stands before the Archbishop and says:

“I am _____.”

The Archbishop says:

“_____, BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

The newly confirmed

response: “Amen.”

The Archbishop says:

“Peace be with you.”

The newly confirmed

answers:

“And with your Spirit.”

The oil on the forehead of the newly confirmed is left on as a visible sign of the matter and form of the sacrament.

Archbishop Hartmayer would prefer no singing or music played during the anointing so that everyone can hear what he is saying to those being confirmed.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

The Creed is omitted whenever the Sacrament of Confirmation is administered because of the renewal of Baptismal promises, including weekend Masses.

The general intercessions follow. The archbishop will give an opening comment (Invitation to Pray) before the intentions are read, and he will offer the concluding prayer. **A maximum of six petitions would be appropriate.**

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LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins as members of the class bring up the gifts of bread and wine and any other symbolic gifts to the Archbishop who will be seated in the chair.

If four (4) or more chalices are to be used for distribution of the Precious Blood, they should be prepared before Mass and brought to the Altar from the credence table as the gifts are brought forward.

For the distribution of Holy Communion, the Archbishop will distribute it to the members of the class. He will go to the edge of the sanctuary in the center aisle, and the newly Confirmed are to come up two by two. If communion is distributed under both species, the Ministers of the Blood of Christ should be ready to go to their stations when the Archbishop begins to distribute the Body of Christ.

While the Archbishop is distributing to the members of the class, other priests or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may begin to distribute on the side aisles or in other designated parts of the church.

If Communion is distributed under both species, please make all necessary preparations in advance. Special ministers are used only if there are not enough priests and deacons present. Please inform Father Gerardo of the details of distribution before Mass.

RECESSIONAL

The cross-bearer and acolytes, Honor Guard, if present, lead the clergy and Archbishop Hartmayer out of the Church.

The members of the Confirmation class, including adults, follow the Archbishop.

Please inform concelebrants and clergy before Mass; they are to follow the Honor Guard and/or cross-bearer and acolytes and walk ahead of the class. Archbishop Hartmayer will greet the class and the members of the congregation at the reception if one is scheduled.

VI. PHOTOGRAPHS

The archbishop would be happy to have individual pictures taken with the newly confirmed and their sponsors and families at the reception if there is one; if no reception, right after Mass in the sanctuary or wherever you have planned.

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VII. CLASSMATES WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONFIRMED

Some parishes have young people who have already been confirmed when they were received into the church at the time of their baptism or prior to coming to the parish but want to participate with their classmates at the time of their Confirmation. We suggest that something is written into the liturgy that acknowledges their presence. They should certainly renew their baptismal promises with the group at the liturgy. Perhaps they could come forward for a blessing after the group has been confirmed or rise as a group to be acknowledged. Exactly how they are recognized is a local parish decision. Simply inform Archbishop Hartmayer at the time of the ceremony.

- VIII. **Pastors:** Please be sure that the sponsors are baptized practicing Catholics who are in a valid marriage. They must also be Confirmed in order to be sponsors. Please request a recent baptismal certificate or a letter of good standing from their pastor.
- IX. Please be sure to enter the names of the newly confirmed and their sponsors in the Sacramental Books and notify the church of baptism as soon as possible.
- X. Father Gerardo Ceballos, Archbishop Hartmayer's Priest Secretary and Master of Ceremonies will be with him.