

CONFIRMATION MASS AT SAINT ANN

What to Expect and How to Best Prepare

Day Before (or earlier):

- Unpackage your robe and try it on. SUGGESTION: Do not unzip it all the way.
- Toss your robe in a dryer on low with a damp washcloth for 5-10 minutes. Promptly remove it and hang it to pull out any remaining wrinkles.
- Contact your sponsor to make sure he/she knows how to pronounce your chosen saint name and comfortable presenting you to the bishop with that name. Such as “Bishop, I present Valentine.”
- Make sure your sponsor knows to be seated in Trinity Hall with you by 6:00 pm on your Confirmation evening.
- Refer to the dress guidelines and make sure that your chosen clothes and shoes are clean and ready.

Candidate Arrival:

- You will need to arrive at St. Ann by 5:30 totally dressed for Confirmation with your robe on and zipped up and your simple mask (no unusual designs please) covering your nose and mouth, if you are choosing to wear one.
- Give any personal items like (silenced) phones and purses to your family to keep for you.
- Report to the KidZone for your photo. Each candidate needs to be photographed for our composite picture for the hallway.
- If you are wearing a mask, please remove it briefly for your photo.
- Immediately after your photograph, check In at Trinity Hall and be seated.
- Your Sponsor will sit with you, so save him/her a seat. Limit the number of candidates to 3 per table.
- Remaining family members (up to 10 people total including Confirmandi and Sponsor) should be seated in the church in their reserved pew

Candidate's Family Pew:

- Each candidate has an assigned Family Pew including the sponsor and the candidate.
- Parents/Guardians should check in with ushers to be shown to their assigned pew.
- Pews are marked with pew markers to help locate each pew.
- **Leave space for the sponsor and candidate to join you in the pew and be seated nearest the pew end** with your marker for easy exit during the Rite of Confirmation.
- If you have more guests attending than can fit in the family pew, please find additional seating in the unmarked pews.
- Masks are encouraged, not required

Meeting with Bishop's Master of Ceremonies in Trinity Hall:

- Sponsors should check in at Trinity Hall and be seated with the candidate by 6:00 pm.
- The Bishop's Master of Ceremonies will meet with the sponsors and candidates in Trinity Hall.
- Please make sure that phones are silenced and put away during this meeting. If possible, please leave your purse and silenced phone with a family member in your assigned pew.
- Here are a couple of important reminders that he will go over:
 - **Sponsors, presenting your candidate by name loudly and clearly is very important.** This cannot be over-emphasized. The Bishop needs you to say the name loud and clear so that he can repeat it when confirming the candidate.
 - Candidates, know the correct responses and say them loudly and clearly!
 - When the Bishop says, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."
 - **Your loud and clear response is "Amen!"**
 - When the Bishop says, "Peace be with you."
 - **Your loud and clear response is "And with your spirit."**
- We have two possibilities for how the movement during the Rite will take place and we will not know until the evening of Confirmation which will be best. We will announce this during the instruction period here. The two possible movements are:
 - Candidates and Sponsors Walk Forward
 - Ushers will let you know when to leave your pew.
 - When you step out of the pew to come forward to be Confirmed, your sponsor will follow behind you.
 - The Bishop Will Walk to Candidates
 - As the Bishop steps to your pew, simply stand with your sponsor.
 - For families with more than one Candidate, the one closest to the aisle should step into the aisle slightly so that the Bishop can anoint both candidates from his place in the aisle.
- When we dismiss from Trinity Hall, please be seated in your Family Pew near the aisle with your candidate name marker.
- All restroom needs should be seen to and all phones turned off by 6:50 or when you are seated, whichever comes first.

During the [Confirmation Rite](#):

- A list of candidates' names will be called. Please stand when your name is called and remain standing until all names have been called and you are asked to be seated.
- After the Homily, the bishop will help you renew your Baptismal Promises. Your response is "I do."
- Be prepared to either approach the Bishop at the altar or stand in your pew as instructed earlier.
- As the Bishop approaches you (or you approach him), your sponsor should stand behind you, placing and leaving his/her RIGHT hand on your RIGHT shoulder.
- **VERY IMPORTANT: Your sponsor will say, loudly and clearly, "Bishop, I present _____". (The word "Saint" is not to be said before the name.)**

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- Bishop Talley is depending upon the clear statement of the name as he will then address you with your chosen Confirmation Name.
- Your Sponsor will **keep his/her RIGHT hand on your RIGHT shoulder** throughout the presentation and anointing; only releasing as you may be seated.
- **You will respond “AMEN” when the Bishop says “BE SEALED...”**
- **You will respond “AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT” when he says “PEACE BE WITH YOU”.**

Confirmand Group Photo Immediately after Mass:

- Everyone remains in the pews as the Bishop processes out.
- Be seated as the music ends to receive further instructions.
- Confirmands only will be called forward for a group photo at the altar.
- The Bishop’s Office asks that only his Sacristan and our official photographer leave their seats to come forward to photograph the group. This saves time and limits confusion.
- Staying quiet while the photos are made will allow everyone to hear the specific instructions.
- Please remain in your pews rather than in the aisles.
- Thank you for your cooperation.

Guidelines for Photos at the Altar with the Bishop:

- Plan ahead who will be in the one family photograph with the Bishop. Whether you want only the Confirmand and Sponsor, or the Confirmand with the family, or the Confirmand with family and Sponsor- decide who will be in your photo and let them know to line up with you when instructed to do so.
- After their group photo, the Confirmands will line up along the choir-side wall and we will announce for those who will be in the photo with them to join them in line.
- We will not have time to shuffle purses and jackets and such once you approach the altar for your photo, so please plan ahead.
- The Bishop’s Office asks that only his Sacristan and our official photographer take these photos. This saves time and limits confusion.
- Please do not have others interrupt to take photos.
- Please do not ask to add members to your group once you are up at the altar.
- If someone in your group has mobility issues and needs to sit near the altar until time to join you for your photo, simply let one of our volunteers know and we will assist.
- Once your family has had the photo taken, please move away from the waiting line and off to the other side.
- You may sit quietly in the church if you want to take photos later at the altar or you are welcome to leave if you are ready.

Please Donate Your Robe:

- If you do not plan to reuse your robe, please donate it to us on your way out of the church.
- This helps offset our costs as we have many expenses associated with our Confirmation needs.
- ***Thank you so much!***