

## **Confirmation Directions for Candidates**

### **Sacred Heart, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm**

On Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am, all Candidates and sponsor ***must be present*** in the rectory at Sacred Heart for the rehearsal of the Mass. You do not need to be dressed up for the rehearsal. This should take less than an hour if everyone arrives on time and follows directions well. After the rehearsal, you may leave to get ready for the Confirmation Mass.

At 12:45pm, 45 minutes prior to Mass time, all Candidates and sponsor ***must be present*** in the rectory at Sacred Heart.

Check in with Danny Zach and find the right size of your robe. You will then put your confirmation **name tag high up** on your left side so the bishop can easily see and read it.

Go to table with certificates arranged in alphabetical order.

- ⤴ Check if all information on your certificate is correct. Leave certificate on table.
- ⤴ Place your picture form on the pile on the table.
- ⤴ Take with you the envelope for your donation to one of the bishop's charities. Bring your **monetary donation** with you to put in the envelope to put in the collection basket during Mass.
- ⤴ Mr. Zach will help you find the size of the Confirmation robe that you will wear.

About 15 minutes before Mass time, we will give last minute instructions. Then, we will line up with sponsor on your right. Candidates on the left, sponsors on the right.

12 minutes before Mass, we will process into the church.

Candidates go in pews on left side of church, sponsors to pews on right side.

Before the homily,

- Mr. Zach or one of the priests will introduce the candidates to the bishop.

Typically, students are called up to help the bishop give the homily.

Two boys and two girls will be called up by name to tell things such as

- the Bishop's name, R. Walker Nickless
- the name of the book of the Bible for each of the readings.
- What the readings were about.
- What the readings say for how we are to live.
- Your saint name, what your saint did, why you chose this saint, how you will live what they lived.
- Questions about sacraments, symbols of Confirmation
  - You receive the Holy Spirit as the primary gift of Confirmation
  - You receive the seven gifts (wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder & awe) of the Spirit to strengthen you in living your baptismal commitment
  - Primary symbols:
    - **laying on of hands**, while you kneel, bishop extends his hands over you as a group and prays for the gifts of the Spirit to come to you
    - **anointing with chrism**, the bishop anoints your head with oil. Christ means anointed. You are anointed as a follower of Jesus to witness to Jesus, tell others about Jesus by your words and actions. A witness tells others what they saw and experienced.
    - **words**: “(Confirmation Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit” ... “**AMEN.**”  
“Peace be with you.” ... “**AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.**”

After the homily,

- The bishop will invite you to renew your baptismal promises
- You will kneel for the laying on of hands
- The bishop will put on his miter and hold his crosier.
- The bishop, standing on the first step will invite you forward to confirm you.
- The whole first row stands and meet your sponsor/candidate in the middle aisle. Proceed to Bishop having your toes almost touch the first step to **be close enough** so bishop does not have to extend his reach so far. Keep moving up as the ones before you are confirmed.
- Return to your pew going to the left while your sponsor returns to the right and be seated.

During confirming—sponsors and candidates enter main aisle. Candidate stand directly in front of bishop, getting **as close as possible**. Sponsor stand to left of candidate and put right hand on right shoulder.

Bishop: “(Confirmation Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Candidate: “AMEN.”

Bishop: “Peace be with you.”

Candidate: “AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.”

Return to pews.

After Confirmation:

We will exit outside and take a group photo with the bishop. There will be a reception outside, you may personally greet the bishop, and have individual pictures with the bishop if you would like. Individual Professional photos will likely be taken outside of Sacred Heart. Drop off your robe in the rectory and pick up your Confirmation Certificate there.

REMINDERS:

Dress up for the Mass and dress modestly.

Be reverent in Mass, especially before Mass, during the Confirmation of your classmates, and during the Eucharist. Pray for one another, and be open to the Holy Spirit.

NOTES FOR PARENTS, FAMILY, & FRIENDS:

Regarding taking photos, videos during Mass: We will have a professional photographer taking photos of the group after Mass, including the option to have individual pictures taken with the Bishop outside. If you choose to take your own pictures we ask that you be as discreet as possible and not interrupt the service.

REVIEW OF THE READINGS FOR THE CONFIRMATION MASS:

Be sure to listen to the Readings this weekend since the Bishop will be asking you questions about them!!

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** From Acts of the Apostles.

Paul and Barnabas had many followers and realized that God was using them to preach the Gospel to Gentiles, not just Jews. The Jews became angry and tried to persecute Paul and disciples, while the Gentile disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

**Responsorial Psalm:** “We are his people, the sheep of his flock.”

This psalm reminds us to be joyful, that the Lord is our good God who is faithful to us.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** From Revelation.

John had a vision of many people worshipping the Lamb of God, Jesus. He envisions “heaven,” a place with life and no suffering.

**The Gospel:** From John.

Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

## Special Instructions:

These are important “teaching moments” for us.

The following points are examples of what should be shared both for those participating in the Confirmation Mass and for all Sunday Masses:

- ⤴ All should dress appropriately. Please remind your people that attendance at Mass is a special event and to dress modestly and fitting for the specialness of an encounter with the Lord.
- ⤴ During the Eucharist, as you approach the minister, make a slight bow of the head as an act of reverence, this is before receiving the sacred host and also before the chalice. An audible “Amen” should be heard by each person receiving Holy Communion.
- ⤴ When one receives the host on the hands, the hands should be folded as like a throne. When one receives on the tongue, he or she should open his or her mouth and slightly stick out the tongue after saying Amen.
- ⤴ If receiving on the hand, the communicant should step immediately to the side and consume the host before approaching the chalice.
- ⤴ When receiving from the chalice, the communicant should reverently bow and clearly respond “Amen,” take the chalice from the minister and take a small drink.
- ⤴ Ordinary and Extraordinary Ministers are should be reminded to slow down and distribute the Eucharist in a reverent and non-hurried manner. Eye contact with each communicant is very important. They should clearly say, “The Body of Christ” or “The Blood of Christ” to the communicant. The communicant should respond clearly and audibly, “Amen.” Those in the communion procession who do not receive Holy Communion should not be given a “blessing.” A simple phrase, such as, “Receive the Lord in your heart” is sufficient.

After Confirmation:

We will take pictures outside as a whole group if the weather is nice. (Otherwise it will be inside)

Here below is the dress code from Bishop Walker Nickless for candidates and sponsors.

**I ask that you make a special point of encouraging the young people to be confirmed (and their sponsors) to dress appropriately (boys – dress slacks (no jeans), dress shirt (tie if possible), sport or suit jacket or sweater is optional; dress socks and shoes; girls – dress, skirt (must be knee length or longer) or dress slacks; dress shoes; blouse or sweater must cover chest, back, and shoulders). I understand it can be difficult to meet these requirements with the fashions you have to choose from today.**

Please do your best adhere to the Bishop's request so that you may present yourself and represent Holy Trinity Parish well. Modest clothing can be found in some online stores or other clothing stores in the Fort Dodge area.

What do you have to do to be a Catholic in good standing?

5 Precepts of the Church:

Eucharist, Reconciliation, Mass Sunday & holy days, Days of Fasting & Abstinence, Provide for the needs of the Church

Seven Gifts of the Spirit Wisdom Understanding Right Judgment Courage Knowledge Reverence Wonder and Awe