



DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM IN ALABAMA * OFFICE OF SACRED LITURGY

P.O. Box 12047 * Birmingham, AL 35202 * (205) 838-8322 * sacredliturgy@bhmdiocese.org

The Most Reverend Steven J. Raica, J.C.D., Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama

Very Reverend Justin L. Ward, S.T.L., Episcopal Master of Ceremonies | Vicar for Sacred Liturgy

2022-2023 DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

10/8/2022	Diocesan Confirmation, at The Cathedral of St. Paul	10:00 am
2/11/2023	Diocesan Confirmation, at The Cathedral of St. Paul	10:00 am
5/27/2023	Diocesan Confirmation, at The Cathedral of St. Paul	5:00 pm
11/10/2022	Saint Joseph, Huntsville	6:00 pm
2/4/2023	Saint Cecelia, Jasper	10:00 am
3/21/2023	St. Thomas, Montevallo	6:00 pm
3/23/2023	Our Lady of the Valley, Birmingham	6:00 pm
3/25/2023	Corpus Christi, Oneonta	10:00 am
3/28/2023	St. John the Baptist, Madison	6:00 pm
4/1/2023	Our Lady, Queen of the Universe, Huntsville	10:00 am
4/1 /2023	Corpus Christi, Oneonta (Bishop Baker)	10:00 am
4/20/2023	St. Francis Xavier, Birmingham (English)	6:00 pm
4/22/2023	St. Francis, Tuscaloosa	10:00 am
4/25/2023	St. Francis Xavier, Birmingham (Spanish)	6:00 pm
4/27/2023	St. Peter the Apostle, Hoover	6:00 pm
5/2/2023	Good Shepherd, Huntsville	6:00 pm
5/3/2023	Our Lady of Sorrows	6:00 pm
5/4/2023	Holy Spirit, Huntsville (English) 6pm	6:00 pm
5/6/2023	Good Shepherd, Russellville 10am	10:00 am
5/9/2023	St. Michaels, Florence	6:00 pm
5/11/2023	St. Mark, Birmingham	6:00 pm
5/13/2023	Holy Spirit, Tuscaloosa	10:00 am
5/16/2023	Prince of Peace (English)	6:00 pm
5/17/2023	Prince of Peace (Spanish)	6:00 pm
5/18/2023	St. Aloysius, Bessemer	6:00 pm
5/20/2023	Sacred Heart, Anniston	10:00 am
5/23/2023	Our Lady of the Valley, Fort Payne	6:00 pm
5/25/2023	Chapel of the Holy Cross/St. William	6:00 pm
5/30/2023	Holy Spirit, Huntsville (Spanish)	6:00 pm
5/31/2023	Chapel of the Holy Cross/St. William	6:00 pm
6/1/2023	Most Merciful Jesus, Madison	6:00 pm
6/3/2023	Sacred Heart, Cullman	10:00 am
6/6/2023	Annunciation, Decatur	6:00 pm
6/7/2023	St Jude, Scottsboro	6:00 pm
6/8/2023	St. James, Gadsden	6:00 pm
6/20/2023	Resurrection, Clanton	6:00 pm
6/22/2023	St. Paul, Athens	6:00 pm

Note: If your parish has not been assigned a Confirmation date this year, please either attach with another parish in the region or register for one of the Diocesan Confirmations by contacting the Office of Sacred Liturgy.

**PARISH CONFIRMATION: LITURGICAL PROCEDURE GUIDELINES FOR
THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY MASS: THE SACRAMENT OF
CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS**

(revised June 2022)

INSTRUCTIONS and ADDITIONAL NOTES

Please complete the **BISHOP MASS PLANNING FORM** enclosed in this packet and **return it two weeks in advance** of the Confirmation_Mass to the Office of Sacred Liturgy by mail or e-mail to sacredliturgy@bhmdiocese.org. **A pdf fillable form is found on our website, <https://www.bhmdiocese.org/forms>.**

There are several sections to the form that require additional comments:

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

- * The Office of Sacred Liturgy will assign a Master of Ceremonies to accompany the Bishop for the Mass.
- * The Bishop will bring his own vestments.
- * The Bishop and Master of Ceremonies will arrive approximately one hour prior to the Mass.
- * The Bishop will meet with the Candidates **thirty minutes** prior to the Mass.
- * It is not a requirement that individual letters be written to Bishop Raica requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- * Five Altar Servers are requested if possible and should plan to arrive 45 minutes prior to Mass.

SECTION 2: CELEBRATION OF HOLY MASS

- * Music: For all liturgical music, please include the title and composer.
The Gloria is always sung except on Sundays during Advent and Lent.
Acclamation before the Gospel is sung - *Alleluia* is not sung during Lent.
- * *The Homily* occurs after the Presentation of Candidates and is always delivered by the Bishop.
- * *Prayer of Faithful/Universal Prayer* occurs after the Anointing with Chrism and is always to be recited. The prayers will be from “For the Conferral of Confirmation” which the Office of Sacred Liturgy will provide.

I. Prelude/Introductory Rites

The Collect is from *For the Conferral of Confirmation*, page 1130

II. Liturgy of the Word: The Diocesan Confirmation Readings have been selected by the Bishop.

First Reading: (cf. Lectionary 765 [1])

Acts 1:3-8 (*You will receive the power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses*).

Responsorial Psalm: (cf. Lectionary 766 [3])

Psalm 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 9-10a, 11-12

R/: Proclaim God’s marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Gospel Acclamation: (cf. Lectionary 767 [6])

Gospel: (cf. Lectionary 768 [10]) John 14:23-26 (*The Holy Spirit will teach you everything*)

(Continued on next page.)

III. Rite of Confirmation occurs after the Gospel Readings, before the Prayer of the Faithful

Presentation of Candidates

- * After the Gospel, the pastor presents the candidates for Confirmation, first inviting them all to stand as a group. Then, using the following formula: “Your Excellency (/Bishop Raica) (*name of parish*) presents to you these candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. After prayer and study, they asked to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and the anointing with Sacred Chrism.”
- * The scripted presentation should be brief and not attempt to recount the requirements for or the theology of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- * **Candidates are not normally presented individually by name.** Unless the group is extremely small (less than 10 or so) they are normally to be presented as a group. The candidates simply stand at their places when invited and they remain standing until they are seated for the homily.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

The Creed is omitted even if required by the rubrics for the day.

The renewal of baptismal promises is for the candidates only. Only the candidates stand for the renewal, which takes the place of the Creed.

Laying on of Hands

The Bishop invites all present to pray for the candidates. The candidates stay in place in their pews. After silently praying for a short time, the bishop alone, standing in the sanctuary, lays hands upon all the candidates by extending his hands over them. The bishop alone says the prayer. Concelebrants are invited to extend their hands at the appointed time.

The Anointing with Chrism

- * During the anointing the pastor or one of the deacons stands to the bishop’s left who will always be situated on the **lowest level** so that the confirmands do not need to ascend steps to approach him. A deacon stands at his right with a vessel of Chrism.
- * Sponsors should present a card with the confirmands name over their left shoulder, or, alternatively, the name tag can be attached/pinned to the confirmand’s left shoulder. Either way, the name tag must be easily seen by the bishop. The right hand of the sponsor should be on the shoulder of the confirmand. English is always presumed unless otherwise indicated with an “S” on the card if one desires to have the Sacrament conferred in Spanish.
- * The candidates approach the bishop individually with their sponsor.
- * After the formula “N., BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT” the confirmand replies, “*Amen.*”
- * After each anointing the bishop will say “Peace be with you.” The response is “*And with your Spirit.*”
- * Music during anointing is ideally only instrumental and should conclude when the bishop has washed his hands and returned to the chair.
- * Please provide 2 lemons cut in HALF with a pitcher of clear, non-soapy water, a bowl, and a towel.

(Continued on next page.)

IV. Liturgy of the Eucharist

Prayer over the Offering and Prayer after Communion: both are from the Roman Missal, page 1130/1131.

Eucharistic Prayer: Eucharistic Prayer 2 is always used with the appropriate insert.

SECTION 3: ADDITIONAL NOTES

- * “In celebrations at which the Bishop presides, and especially in the celebration of the Eucharist led by the Bishop himself with the presbyterate, the deacons, and the people taking part, the mystery of the Church is revealed (GIRM, number 22).” For this reason, this solemn celebration of Mass calls for special care in the preparation of the liturgical celebration: the church itself, the music, and liturgical ministers, and all that is required for the rites, including the sacred vessels.
- * In the overall plan for liturgical music, the parts that belong to the celebrant and people together should be sung, for example the *Kyrie*, the *Gloria*, the *Holy*, the *Lord’s Prayer* and the *Lamb of God*. The choices for the Entrance, the Offertory and the Communion should correspond to the norms found in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, numbers, 48, 74, and 87.
- * The Bishop will **not** normally use incense except on Sundays and Solemnities. When incense is used, a sixth server is needed.
- * The Universal Prayer to be used is attached to this packet. *Note: It is properly the role of the deacon to announce the petitions if one be present.*
- * Remarks by the pastor should happen after the Prayer after Communion and be very brief. They are in no way expected or required.
- * Photography: **A group photograph** may be taken after the Mass.
Before Mass, an announcement should be made reminding those present to refrain from flash photography and not to leave their pews to take a photograph. Professional photographers or videographers hired by the parish are to remain discreet and unobtrusive in the Mass if individual photos are taken. Photos taken at the moment of Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation are a good “private” photo with the bishop. It is not to be presumed that the bishop will be available for an extended period after the Mass for individual photos.
- * Gifts which the bishop will bless should be placed on a gift table at the reception or in another suitable place. The bishop will gladly bless these prior or immediately after the Mass.

(Continued on next page.)

* Meal Planning

When the Sacrament of Confirmation is being celebrated, there is never an absolute expectation of a meal. However, one may be provided at the discretion of the parish. Normally the Bishop will be accompanied by a Master of Ceremonies. Please confirm with the Office of Sacred Liturgy if you plan to provide a meal for the Bishop.

- For 6:00PM Weeknight Confirmations, the dinner should be served at **4:30 pm before the Mass.**
- For 10:00AM Saturday Morning Confirmations, the lunch should be served **following the Mass.**

In your preparations, please make the following considerations:

To be avoided:

- Blue Cheese
- Mushrooms
- All White sauces
- Fried Chicken

Some personal preferences include:

- Fresh Fruit
- Salads
- Balsamic Vinegar

Note: Please incorporate baked options, as opposed to fried.

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER for CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS

The Universal Prayer follows in this or a similar form determined by the competent authority.

Bishop:

**My dear brothers and sisters,
let us humbly pray to God the almighty Father and be
of one mind in our prayer,
just as faith, hope and charity,
which proceed from his Holy Spirit, are one.**

Deacon or minister:

**For these his servants, whom the gift of the Holy Spirit has confirmed:
that, planted in faith and grounded in love,
they may bear witness to Christ the Lord by their way of life,
let us pray to the Lord.**

R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

**For their parents and sponsors:
that by word and example
they may continue to encourage
those whom they have sponsored in the faith to
follow in the footsteps of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.**

R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

**For the holy Church of God
together with N. our Pope, N. our Bishop, and all
the Bishops:
that, gathered by the Holy Spirit,
the Church may grow and increase in unity of faith and love
until the coming of the Lord, let us
pray to the Lord.**

R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

**For the whole world:
that all people, who have one Maker and Father,
may acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters,
without discrimination of race or nation,
and with sincere hearts seek the Kingdom of God, which is
peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,
let us pray to the Lord.**

R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Bishop:

**O God, who gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles and willed
that through them and their successors the same Spirit be
handed on to the rest of the faithful,
listen favorably to our prayer,
and grant that your divine grace,
which was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed,
may now spread through the hearts of those who believe in you.
Through Christ our Lord.**

R. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

30. After the Universal Prayer the Liturgy of the Eucharist is celebrated according to the Order of Mass, with these changes:

- a) the Creed is omitted since the Profession of Faith has already taken place;
- b) some of the confirmed may join those who bring forward the offerings;
- c) when the Roman Canon is used, the proper form of the *Hanc igitur* (Therefore, Lord, we pray) is said, no. 58. When Eucharistic Prayer II or Eucharistic Prayer III is used, the proper forms for these Prayers are said, no. 58.

31. Adults who are confirmed, and, if appropriate, their sponsors, parents, spouses, and catechists may receive Communion under both kinds.

CONFIRMIACIÓN DENTRO DE LA MISA

ORACIÓN DE LOS FIELES:

Sigue la oración universal o de los fieles, para la cual se puede usar la siguiente fórmula u otra adecuada:

El obispo:

**Queridos hermanos,
oremos a Dios Padre todopoderoso,
unidos en la misma fe, en la misma esperanza, en la
misma caridad,
que proceden del Espíritu Santo.**

El diácono o ministro:

**Por estos hijos de Dios, que han sido confirmados por el Espíritu Santo,
para que, arraigados en la fe y fundamentados en la caridad,
den verdadero testimonio de Cristo,
roguemos al Señor.**

R. Te rogamos, óyenos.

El diácono o ministro:

**Por sus padres y padrinos, responsables de su fe, para que, con su palabra y
ejemplo, los ayuden a seguir fielmente a Cristo,
roguemos al Señor.**

R. Te rogamos, óyenos.

El diácono o ministro:

**Por la santa Iglesia de Dios, congregada por el Espíritu Santo en la unidad
de la fe y de la caridad, para que, en comunión con nuestro Santo Padre el Papa N.,
con nuestro obispo N.,
y con todos los obispos del mundo, crezca y se difunda entre todos los pueblos,
roguemos al Señor.**

R. Te rogamos, óyenos.

El diácono o ministro:

Por los hombres del mundo entero, que tienen un solo Creador y Padre, para que se reconozcan como hermanos y, sin discriminación de raza o de nación, busquen, con sincero corazón, el reino de Dios, que es paz y gozo en el Espíritu Santo, roguemos al Señor.

R. Te rogamos, óyenos.

El obispo:

Dios y Padre nuestro, que diste el Espíritu Santo a los Apóstoles y estableciste que, por medio de ellos y sus sucesores, ese mismo Espíritu se transmitiera a todos los fieles, escucha benévolo nuestra oración para que aquello que obró tu favor en los comienzos mismos de la predicación evangélica, ahora también lo difunda por medio de los corazones de los creyentes. Por Jesucristo, nuestro Señor.

R. Amen.

LITURGIA EUCARÍSTICA

Acabada la oración de los fieles, sigue la Liturgia de la Eucaristía, en la que todo se realiza como de ordinario, excepto lo siguiente:

- a. Se omite el Credo, pues ya se hizo la Profesión de fe.
- b. Algunos de los confirmados pueden llevar al altar el pan, el vino y el agua para la Eucaristía.
- c. En las Plegarias eucarísticas tenganse en cuenta las variantes propias, n. 58.

Los confirmados adultos y, según las circunstancias, los padrinos, padres, cónyuges y catequista, y, si parece oportuno, los demás participantes, pueden recibir la Comunión bajo las dos especies.



PARISH CONFIRMATION: LITURGICAL PLANNING FORM FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY MASS: THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS

(revised August 2022 for 2022-2023 season)

Return this form two weeks in advance of the Confirmation Mass to the Office of Sacred Liturgy by mail or e-mail to sacredliturgy@bhmdiocese.org. **Once the Liturgical Planning Form has been reviewed, it will be sent back with a final confirmation to the parish office. Please indicate to whom the confirmation should be emailed:**

Name & Email: _____

TODAY'S DATE (date of submission): _____

General Information

Parish/Place:					
Date & Time:			Liturgical Color:		
Number of Concelebrants:		Number of Deacons:		Number of Confirmands:	
Name of Concelebrant(s):					
Name of Deacon(s):					
Names of Altar Servers:					

CELEBRATION OF HOLY MASS

I. Prelude and Introductory Rites

Prelude:	<i>Enter Title/Composer</i>	
Entrance Chant:	<i>Enter Title/Composer</i>	
Optional Rite, Sundays only: Blessing, Sprinkling of Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hymn during Rite:
Or Penitential Act	<input type="checkbox"/> I confess (Bishop) <input type="checkbox"/> Have mercy on us, O Lord <input type="checkbox"/> Invocations (Deacon)	Indicate if these will be sung/recited: Kyrie: <input type="checkbox"/> Sung or <input type="checkbox"/> Recited Invocations: <input type="checkbox"/> Sung or <input type="checkbox"/> Recited
The Gloria	Indicate if it will be sung/recited: <input type="checkbox"/> Sung or <input type="checkbox"/> Recited	
Collect:	<i>From "For the Conferral of Confirmation", Page 1130</i>	

II. Liturgy of the Word

First Reading:	(cf. Lectionary 765 [1]) Acts 1:3-8 <i>(You will receive the power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses.)</i>
Responsorial Psalm:	(cf. Lectionary 766 [3]) Psalm 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 9-10a, 11-12 <i>R/ : Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	(cf. Lectionary 767 [6])

Gospel:	(cf. Lectionary 768 [10]) John 14:23-26 (<i>The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.</i>)
Homily:	<input type="checkbox"/> Bishop <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Homilist Name:
Prayer of Faithful:	<i>From “For the Conferral of Confirmation”, prayers will be provided by Office of Sacred Liturgy</i>

III. Rite of Confirmation: PLEASE VIEW DETAILS on the INSTRUCTION SHEET!

IV. Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Chant/Music:	
Prayer over Offering:	<i>From “Ritual Mass Missal”, page 1130</i>
Sanctus, Mystery of Faith, Amen and Agnus Dei are sung:	<i>Indicate Setting:</i>
The Lord’s Prayer: Indicate if it will be	<input type="checkbox"/> Sung or <input type="checkbox"/> Recited
Communion Chants:	<i>Enter Antiphon/Title</i>
	<i>Enter Additional Music</i>
	<i>Enter Additional Music</i>
	<i>Enter Additional Music</i>
Prayer after Communion:	<i>From “Ritual Mass Missal, page 1131</i>

V. The Concluding Rites

Recessional Hymn/Instrumental Music:	<i>Enter Title/Composer</i>
Postlude:	<i>Enter Title/Composer</i>

Other Additional Information

Remarks by the Pastor:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Where will the Bishop greet the congregation after Mass?	<i>Indicate Location</i>
Will any part of the celebration be in another language other than English?	<i>Indicate Language(s)</i>
Indicate if there is a meal, and/or a reception, and time of the event:	MEAL: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No TIME: _____ RECEPTION: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No TIME: _____
Indicate special parking instructions:	
Do you have any other comments?	

PASTOR’S SIGNATURE: _____



DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM IN ALABAMA * OFFICE OF SACRED LITURGY

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Very Reverend Justin L. Ward, S.T.L., Episcopal Master of Ceremonies | Vicar for Sacred Liturgy

(revised May 2022)

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION: CONFIRMAND REGISTER

Please fill in completely for each Confirmand. Email/mail to the Office of Sacred Liturgy at the address listed above at **least two weeks prior** to the Confirmation. **This pdf fillable form is found on our website, <https://www.bhmdiocese.org/forms>.**
Thank you!

Today's Date:

Confirmation Date:

Full Name of Confirmand:

Confirmation Name:

(Patron Saint)

Date of Birth:

(Month, Day, Year)

Age (at the time of Confirmation)

Date of Baptism:

(Month, Day, Year)

Place of Baptism:

Church Name

Church Street Address

Church address continued:

City, State, Zip Code

Confirmand's Home Address:

Home Street Address

Home address continued:

City, State, Zip Code

Father's Full Name:

Mother's Name:

Maiden name

Sponsor's Name:

Confirmand's Current Parish

Church Name

Church Street Address

Church address continued:

City, State, Zip Code

Pastor's Name:

DRE:

Name:

Email: