

SACRAMENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



First Penance
First Eucharist
Confirmation



Diocese of Salina
2014

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Note: Fillable *Confirmation Liturgy Planner* and *Parish Request for Sacrament of Confirmation* can be found on the diocesan website: salinadiocese.org (religious education docs)



103 N. Ninth
P.O. Box 980
Salina, Kansas 67402-0980

August, 2014

Dear Friends,

The celebration of the sacraments is at the very heart of the Church's mission. ***Sacraments for Young People*** presents a vision and a challenge to our parishes and schools in their role of ministry to families and to persons of faith. The working together of catechetical leaders, catechists, parents, pastors, and staffs makes the vision a reality and offers direction for meeting the challenge.

This document, *Sacraments for Young People*, implements the National Directory of Catechesis and The General Directory for Catechesis. It offers a practical model for parish sacramental catechesis. I am grateful to the Office of Religious Education for their development of this resource.

I encourage all those involved in sacramental catechesis to use this resource as a foundation and guide in the preparation and the celebration of Sacraments.

May God bless all those who teach in the name of Christ and His Church.

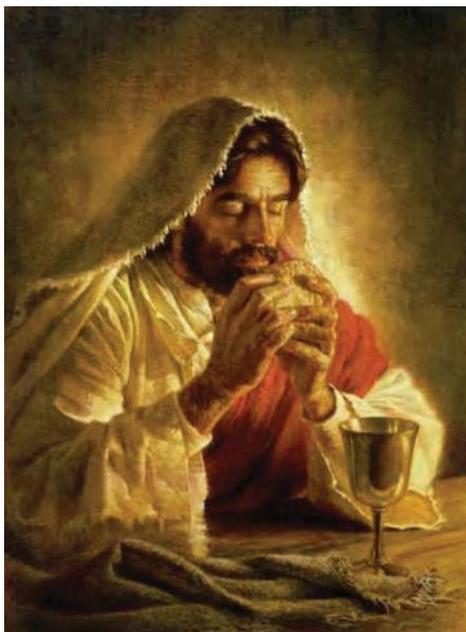
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Edward J. Weisenburger
Bishop of Salina

DIOCESE OF SALINA

GUIDELINES FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF

FIRST PENANCE
FIRST EUCHARIST
CONFIRMATION



I. PREFACE

The parish is challenged today to be a visible part of the life of its members. Parishes are called to be evangelizing, to be vibrant and fruitful. The parish plays an important role in each member's life.

For most Catholics, the parish is their primary experience of the Church. It is where they gather for weekly worship, celebrate their most joyous occasions, and mourn their deepest losses. There they are called to repentance and renewal, finding and celebrating God's forgiveness and reconciliation. Embracing the dying and rising of Jesus in their lives, they are challenged to holiness and strengthened for self-giving love and Christian service.

(Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us #114)

One of the primary works of evangelizing parishes is catechesis. The evangelizing parish is the setting for faith formation. The purpose of *Sacraments for Young People* is to present a vision for the whole parish for preparation and celebration of the sacraments. Sacraments are special times in the life of the parish. These are times of ritual experience in which we encounter God and are drawn to community. The celebration of a sacrament presents both a challenge and a gift to the parish as it prepares and celebrates each occasion. The role of the faith community is essential. The preparation of the candidate, the family and the parish to enter into celebration is paramount.

The parish assists its members to encounter God and develop a continuing relationship with Jesus. Sacraments involve the whole community at prayer. Sacraments are celebrated in the name of Jesus. They are the work of the Spirit and they are a gift and call to everyone who receives them. We are invited into a deeper relationship with Jesus through the celebration of ritual. Through the celebration we engage people in the mystery of Jesus and upon reflection we understand what it means to be followers of Jesus. Ongoing conversion is the work of an evangelizing parish when preparing for the celebration of sacraments.

Sacraments for Young People is meant to help parishes of the Diocese of Salina revitalize sacrament catechesis and the celebration of sacraments. The parish community acts as the focus for catechesis and celebration. Each parish is an evangelizing community that provides catechetical formation for those preparing for celebration of the sacraments. All preparation for celebration of sacraments should provide assistance for parents/guardians in assuming their responsibility to prepare their children to celebrate the sacraments. The active involvement of all in the life of the parish when preparing for sacraments can lead to a richer church community. The catechesis for sacraments should look and feel like church and should be based on the liturgy and the rite celebrated at each sacrament.

DIOCESE OF SALINA

GUIDELINES FOR

THE RECEPTION OF

THE SACRAMENT OF

FIRST PENANCE



The Sacrament of Penance

Introduction

As sinners we not only recognize our human limitations and failures, but also believe in God's limitless love for us. God loves and forgives us, and the sacrament of reconciliation makes this gift of forgiveness a reality in the life of the sinner. We are restored to a proper relationship with God through the cleansing of our sins, and we are once again made whole and holy.

“On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, Jesus showed himself to his apostles. He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’”
(CCC 1485)

The Sacrament of Penance is one of two sacraments of healing. It is the sacrament that brings spiritual healing for Catholics who have distanced themselves from God by sin. This involves four parts:

1. The penitent's contrition for sin
2. Confession to a priest
3. Absolution by the priest
4. Satisfaction for the wrong committed. Completion of an act of penance and reparation
(CCC 1450)

Through penance, the faithful receive pardon through God's mercy for the sins they have committed. At the same time they are reconciled with the Church community. The confession or disclosure of sins frees us and facilitates our reconciliation with others. *“The celebration of this sacrament is thus always an act in which the church proclaims its faith, gives thanks to God for the freedom with which Christ has made us free, and offers its life as a spiritual sacrifice in praise of God's glory, as it hastens to meet the Lord Jesus.”*
(Rites p. 531)

Norms

In regard to sacramental preparation for First Penance, a candidate must have attained the use of reason and be of catechetical age (normally seven years of age) and must meet the following requirements.

1. The child must be baptized - baptismal certificate is a requirement.
2. Any child baptized in a Christian tradition other than the Catholic tradition must be formally received into the Church by a profession of faith and an act of reception.
(RCIA 490-492)
3. The child must be properly instructed for the reception of the sacrament.
4. The child must celebrate his/her first Penance prior to the reception of First Eucharist.

Basic catechesis for the Sacrament of Penance must be provided for every child in the second grade. It is understood here that children preparing for this Sacrament in the second grade have already begun their religious education in the first grade. The principle is to allow the children's first notions of God to be those of love and relationship before notions of forgiveness and rebuilding of relationships are introduced.

Diocesan Guidelines

1. Parent/guardian participation sessions are an integral part of preparation for each sacrament. Children's preparation begins in the home. The family has the most important role in communicating the Christian and human values that form the foundation for a child's understanding of forgiveness and reconciliation.
2. Appropriate catechesis for parents should be provided as part of the preparation process for the reception of the sacrament. Sufficient catechesis should be provided for the parents that will cover the content of the sacrament. This catechesis should include: an understanding of the unconditional love by God our creator, the nature of grace, sin and forgiveness, the call to conversion, and the Rite of Penance and Reconciliation.
3. The pastor, along with the parents and catechist(s) of the child are to determine the readiness of the child to participate in this sacrament.
4. The celebration of the Sacrament of Penance for the first time takes place ideally during the season of Lent or Advent.
5. Penitents must always have the right of an anonymous Confession with the use of a private screen. (CIC 964)
6. The candidate for the Sacrament of Penance is expected to participate in yearly ongoing faith formation to assure a continuous, systematic, and age appropriate catechesis. When this is not the case the candidate should complete at least one (school) year of formal catechesis either in a parish faith formation program or parish school prior to the time of the reception of the sacrament.
7. The Catholic school, faith formation program, and home-schooled child must participate in his/her parish sacramental preparation programs. *"Home schooling alone cannot replace catechesis or sacramental preparation in the parish church."*
8. The formational component for the Sacrament of Penance (i.e. parent sessions, retreats, etc.) is distinct and separate from parish religious education, Catholic school, or home schooled curriculum.
9. Children are expected to continue their faith formation process by participation in parish religious education programs or Catholic school after the reception of the Sacrament of Penance.

10. Regular reception of the Sacrament of Penance and participation at Sunday Mass is necessary to grow ever more deeply in the mysteries of God's love and mercy within a communal environment.
11. In the Diocese of Salina catechetical preparation for the Sacrament of Penance requires that all catechetical materials and textbooks must be approved by the USCCB. These materials are found to be in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. For a current listing go to www.usccb.org/catechism.

References

CCC - Catechism of the Catholic Church
CDF - Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
CIC - Code of Canon Law
CSL - Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy
GDC - General Directory for Catechesis
IRB - Instruction to the Rite of Baptism, Rites, Vol. 1
NDC - National Directory for Catechesis
RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

DIOCESE OF SALINA

GUIDELINES FOR

THE RECEPTION OF

THE SACRAMENT OF

FIRST EUCHARIST



The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist

Introduction

The Eucharist, one of the sacraments of initiation, is the core of the Church's sacramental life. Through this sacrament, *"we unite ourselves to Christ, who makes us sharers in his Body and Blood to form a single body."* (CCC 1331) Every facet of the Church's life has its birth in the Eucharist. Children who are brought to eat and drink at the Eucharistic table continue the process of initiation that began at their Baptism.

Norms

In regard to sacramental preparation for the reception of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist for the first time, a candidate must have attained the use of reason and be of catechetical age (normally seven years of age) and must meet the following requirements:

- a. The child must be baptized - baptismal certificate is a requirement.
- b. The child must be properly instructed for the reception of the sacrament.
- c. The child must celebrate the Sacrament of Penance prior to reception of the Holy Eucharist for the first time.

Diocesan Guidelines

1. Children beginning sacramental preparation are encouraged to attend and participate at the Sunday Mass with their families.
2. Parent/guardian participation sessions are an integral part of preparation for each sacrament. *"Children's preparation . . . begins in the home. The family has the most important role in communication the Christian and human values that format the foundation for a child's understanding of the Eucharist."* (NDC 126)
3. Appropriate catechesis for parents should be provided as part of the preparation process for the reception of the sacrament. Sufficient catechesis should be provided to parents that will cover the content of the sacrament. This catechesis should include an adult understanding of the Theology of the Eucharist and its connection to everyday Christian living, a review of the order and the meaning of the Mass, and the Eucharist as it relates to church teachings on social justice. Ideally, preparation for the parent and the child takes place in the parish of the registered family.
4. The pastor, along with the parents and catechist(s) of the child, are to determine the readiness of the child to receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time.
5. The celebration of the sacrament takes place in the family's parish, ideally during the Easter Season.

6. The candidate preparing for the reception of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist for the first time is expected to participate in ongoing faith formation to insure a continuous, systematic, age appropriate catechesis. When this is not the case, the candidate should complete at least one (school) year of formal catechesis either in the parish faith formation program or parish school prior to the reception of the sacrament.
7. The Catholic School, faith formation program and home-schooled child must participate in his/her parish sacramental preparation programs. *“Home schooling alone cannot replace catechesis or sacramental preparation in the parish church.”*
8. The formational component for the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (i.e. parent sessions, retreats, etc.) is distinct and separate from parish religious education, Catholic school, or home school curriculum.
9. Children are expected to continue their faith formation process by participation in parish religious education programs or Catholic school after the reception of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Attendance at Sunday Mass is also required so the child and family may continue to grow deeper into the mysteries of faith in a personal and communal environment.
10. In the Diocese of Salina catechetical preparation for the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist for the first time requires that all catechetical materials and textbooks must be approved by the US-CCB. These materials are found to be in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. For a current listing go to www.usccb.org/catechism.

Record of First Eucharist

The names of those receiving the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist for the first time should be recorded in the First Communion Register at the parish where the sacrament was celebrated.

Pastoral Note

In the Diocese of Salina a common courtesy practiced by pastors is to notify each other if a parishioner's intent is to receive the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist for the first time in a parish other than his/her home parish.

Parents who have been away from the practice of the faith, or who are not fully initiated into the life of the church, should be encouraged by their pastors to see their child's reception of First Holy Eucharist as an opportunity to be welcomed back to the worshipping community and/or complete his/her initiation process. These situations should be dealt with a high level of pastoral sensitivity, sincerity and honesty.

DIOCESE OF SALINA
GUIDELINES FOR
THE RECEPTION OF
THE SACRAMENT OF
CONFIRMATION



The Sacrament of Confirmation

Introduction

The holy Sacrament of Confirmation is a powerful moment of grace, conversion and renewal of faith in the life of the Church. Pastors and shepherds of souls should make every effort to welcome the candidates for Confirmation with joy and acceptance. Every effort should be made on their part to deal pastorally with those who come to request the Sacrament of Confirmation. These guidelines are proposed to assist clergy and other pastoral leaders in the Diocese of Salina to fulfill their role as pastoral and catechetical leaders in a more conscientious and Christ like manner. These guidelines for the Sacrament of Confirmation are proposed for validly baptized children of catechetical age outside the scope of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. (RCIA)

“Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit, incorporates us more firmly into Christ, strengthens our bond with the Church, associates us more closely with her mission, and helps us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.” (CCC 1316)

Norms

The Minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation

“In the Latin Rite, the ordinary minister of Confirmation is the bishop. Although the bishop may, for grave reasons, concede to priests the faculty of administering Confirmation, it is appropriate from the very meaning of the sacrament that he should confer it himself, mindful that the celebration of Confirmation has been separated from Baptism for this reason.” (CCC 1313)

Those to be Confirmed

1. In the Diocese of Salina the sacrament of Confirmation is normally celebrated in grade eight or high school.
2. A candidate for Confirmation must:
 - a. Be validly baptized in the Catholic faith and not previously confirmed. (proof of baptism must be obtained) A person validly baptized in another Christian tradition must make a profession of faith prior to the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - b. Be capable of renewing his/her baptismal promises.
 - c. Be properly instructed or catechized.
3. There is to be only one parish program for Confirmation. In parishes where there are Catholic schools, the Catholic school and the Religious Education Program collaborate in both the planning and implementing of the program.

4. Immediate “*preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit - his actions, his gifts, his biddings - in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community.*” (CCC 1309)

5. The candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation is expected to participate in yearly ongoing faith formation since his/her reception of First Eucharist to assure a continuous systematic, age appropriate catechesis. When this is not the case the candidate should complete at least two (school) years of formal catechesis, either in a parish faith formation program or parish school, immediately prior to the time of the reception of the sacrament.

6. Parish catechesis for the reception of Confirmation is to include a retreat experience appropriate to the age level of the candidate. The retreat content should include an understanding of the relationship of Confirmation to the Sacrament of Baptism, the role and the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the life of the candidate, the importance of participation in the life of the Church, Christian discipleship, the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance, and the celebration of the Eucharist.

7. The candidates for Confirmation should have an understanding and knowledge of the “*essential rite of Confirmation: anointing the forehead of the baptized with sacred chrism, together with the laying on of the minister’s hand and the words: ‘Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.’*” (CCC 1320)

8. In the Diocese of Salina catechetical preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation requires that all catechetical materials and textbooks be approved by the USCCB. These materials are found to be in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. For a current listing go to www.usccb.org/catechism.

9. “*To receive Confirmation one must be in the state of grace. One should receive the Sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit.*” (CCC 1310)

10. Service and ministry must be included as part of the preparation for the sacrament. It must not be implied, however, that Christian service and witness begin or end with Confirmation

Sponsors

1. At the beginning of the immediate formation process, each candidate for Confirmation chooses a sponsor. (Intro to the Rite of Confirmation #5) The sponsor is encouraged to be:

- * an active participant in the preparation and formation of the candidate
- * a mentor
- * a fellow believer who remains involved with the candidate both before and after the celebration of Confirmation.

In light of the sponsor’s role and duties, a sponsor must be:

- * at least 16 years old unless there is a just reason determined by the pastor
- * be fully initiated themselves having received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist

- * be one who actively participates in the sacramental life of the Church
- * not under canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared
- * be either male or female. (CIC 874)

“The sponsor’s function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfils the duties inherent in this sacrament.” (CIC 892)

2. Potential sponsors from another parish must provide a certificate of verification from their current parish or pastor to the parish or pastor of the candidate to be confirmed. This certificate verifies that the sponsor is a fully initiated Catholic and in good standing with the Church.
3. Since parents have their own particular role in the faith formation of their children, and because of the unique aspects of the sponsor’s role, parents do not serve as sponsors for their own children. It is recommended that the candidate’s baptismal godparent serve as his/her sponsor, thus emphasizing more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation.
4. Appropriate catechesis for both sponsors and parents should be provided before or during the candidates catechetical formation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The content of this catechesis should include the Theology of the Sacraments of Initiation, the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian disciple, and the significant role of the parent and sponsor in the life of the candidate.
5. Appropriate and ongoing catechesis (mystagogy) must be provided to the newly confirmed at the parish level as well as an invitation to parish ministries appropriate to the abilities of the newly Confirmed. This insures an opportunity for continued faith formation and Christian discipleship.

Planning Confirmation Ceremony

1. Each candidate for Confirmation should address a letter to the Bishop requesting Confirmation, giving reasons why he/she is seeking Confirmation, and describing the highlights of the preparation process.
2. The Bishop may wish to meet with the students briefly one half hour before the scheduled start of the liturgy. Please advise the Bishop’s office where this will take place.
3. Please let the Bishop know if there is a reception and/or dinner associated with the ceremony, and, if so, where this will be held.
4. Unless the Confirmation is held on a Sunday during a Proper Season (Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter) or on a Solemnity, the Ritual Mass for Confirmation will be used with red vestments. On a Sunday in Ordinary Time either the Sunday readings or those for the Sacrament of Confirmation may be selected.
5. Please send a copy of **the planning sheet for the liturgy** to the Bishop’s office at least one week prior to the Confirmation.

6. A group photograph may be taken with the Bishop in church immediately before or following Mass. Individual photographs with the bishop may be taken as time allows at the site of the reception.

Record of Confirmation

1. *“The names of the confirmed with mention of the minister, the parents and the sponsors, the place and date of the conferral of Confirmation are to be noted in a record book in the parish archive; the pastor must advise the pastor of the place of Baptism about the conferral of Confirmation so that notation be made in the Baptismal Register.”* (CIC 895) When a Confirmation takes place at the Cathedral, the parish records should indicate it took place at the Cathedral and recorded at the home parish (parish of baptism).

Adult Confirmation

2. *“The faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time; their parents and shepherds of souls, especially pastors, are to see to it that the faithful are properly instructed to receive it and approach the sacrament at the appropriate time.”* (CIC 890)

3. Adult Catholics who were previously baptized, must be confirmed by the bishop either at the Cathedral or parish unless the faculty to confirm is granted by the bishop or as prescribed in the RCIA.



CONFIRMATION LITURGY PLAN – DIOCESE OF SALINA

Updated March 2013
By Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger

Parish _____ City _____ Parishes Joining (if any) _____
Date _____ Time _____ Number of Candidates _____ Contact Person _____ Daytime Phone # _____

The Bishop would like to meet with the candidates prior to Mass. Please schedule this meeting with candidates approximately 45 minutes before Mass begins for 20 minutes. _____ (Time and Place)

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Welcome statement at Beginning of Mass? [] Yes [] No [] By Whom? _____
Will incense be used during the Mass? [] Yes [] No [] Yes [] No Sprinkling Rite?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: _____ Psalm: _____
Second Reading: _____
Gospel: _____ Proclaimed by: _____ (Normally the pastor)

(Reminder: the Bishop meets for 30 minutes with the confirmandi and one adult sponsor before Mass. That thirty-minute meeting should be scheduled so that it ends 15 minutes before the Mass begins. Parents, sponsors, and other adults are not permitted in the meeting with the confirmandi and one adult sponsor)

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Presentation of the Candidates: By whom? _____
Renewal of Baptismal Promises _____
Laying on of Hands _____ Anointing _____
General Intercessions _____

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Musical Mass Setting: _____ Communion Meditation [] Yes [] No

CONCLUDING RITES

(Names and reasons for thanks should be included with your return form so they may be included in the presider's copy. Keep extremely brief)

Comments: _____

Please note: It is not appropriate to use recorded music in the liturgy. Please choose music that the assembly knows and will sing. If a worship aid is prepared, appropriate information must be noted. Permission to reprint words and/or music must be obtained and paid for by the parish.

Photos will follow liturgy? [] Yes [] No Location: _____

Reception will follow liturgy? [] Yes [] No Location: _____

Please return this form to the Office of the Bishop, PO Box 980, Salina, KS 67402-0980 no later than 7 working days prior to scheduled Confirmation date along with the Candidates' letters to the Bishop.



DIOCESE OF SALINA **2014-2015**
PARISH REQUEST FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

 Name of Parish or Parishes Location of Confirmation

 Signature of Pastor or Parish Life Coordinator Phone Number Email Address

Year that the Sacrament of Confirmation was last administered: _____

The above Parish requests the Sacrament of Confirmation for 2014-2015 YES NO

If YES, please list the approximate number of student to be Confirmed: _____

Preferred time of the year for the Sacrament of Confirmation: Fall 2014 Winter/Spring 2015

Preferred day and time of the week:

WEEKDAY Tuesday **Wednesday** Thursday TIME: _____

WEEKEND Saturday Sunday TIME: _____

If you have a specific date and time in mind, please indicate below. Please note that this does not guarantee the date and time you may have chosen. You may also list a second and/or third preference date and time. Please be sure your requested date and time do not conflict with other school, parish and/or community events. If the dates and times you have indicated are already filled up with other commitments on Bishop's schedule, you will be called and offered other possible dates that are open.

1st Choice – Date _____ Time _____

2nd Choice – Date _____ Time _____

3rd Choice – Date _____ Time _____

Comments:

All parishes are asked to kindly return this form to the Office of the Bishop by Wed, July 9, 2014. After that time a 1st draft schedule for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be prepared and will be sent to the parishes via Aug. SDNB. Thank you for your cooperation. If any questions, please contact the Bishop's Office chancery2@salinadiocese.org

