

confirmation

4. The Confirmation ceremony

Let's learn what happens in the Confirmation ceremony:

First, we too will gather in prayer, like the disciples. We won't be in an upper room, but we will be in a church (or a large gathering space). We will be excited, looking forward to receiving the gifts of the Spirit.

Introductory Rite

At the beginning of the ceremony some important symbols will be brought to the Bishop in a procession of children:

- The Light of Christ (Paschal candle)
- The Word of God (Lectionary)
- Holy Chrism (The oil for anointing)
- Water

How will these symbols be used? (Refer to Worksheet #2)

- We will look at the candle and remember the light of Christ.
- We will hear stories read from God's Word.
- The oil of chrism will be used for anointing each child who is confirmed.
- The Bishop will bless the water and sprinkle it on the people gathered. Why? To remind them of their Baptism.

Liturgy of the Word

We listen to the Word of God.

The sponsor is a representative of the faith community that is supporting you and your child.

Ideally the sponsor is your child's godparent, to continue that special relationship begun at Baptism.

However your child may prefer to choose a different person as sponsor. He/she should be a good role model in faith and love; a person your child respects.

Canon law requires that the sponsor be a fully initiated Catholic (i.e., has been baptised, confirmed, and made their first communion), and is at least 16 years old.

The sponsor will be asked to sit with your child at the Confirmation ceremony.

When your child goes forward to be anointed by the Bishop, the sponsor will walk with your child.

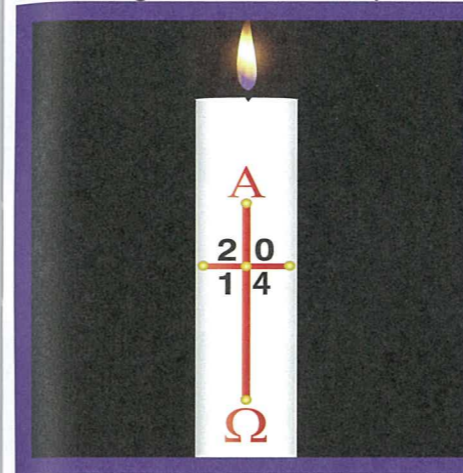
As your child is confirmed, the sponsor stands behind and places their right hand on your child's right shoulder.

Candidate and sponsor then return to their seat.

Sacred symbols

Symbols we will see during the Confirmation ceremony

Read through this page. On Confirmation day, take notice of these symbols as they are brought to the Bishop.



THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The Paschal Candle (Easter Candle) is presented to the Bishop.

Reader: We praise and give thanks to God for the Light of Christ. Jesus is our life.

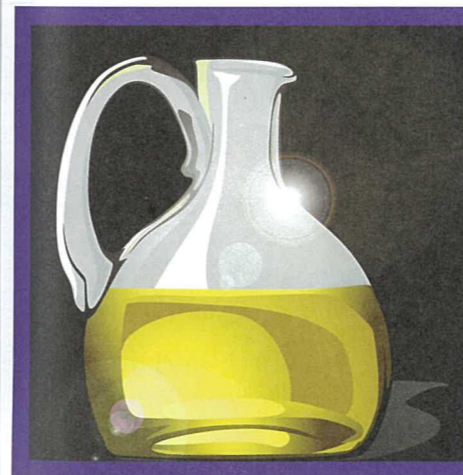
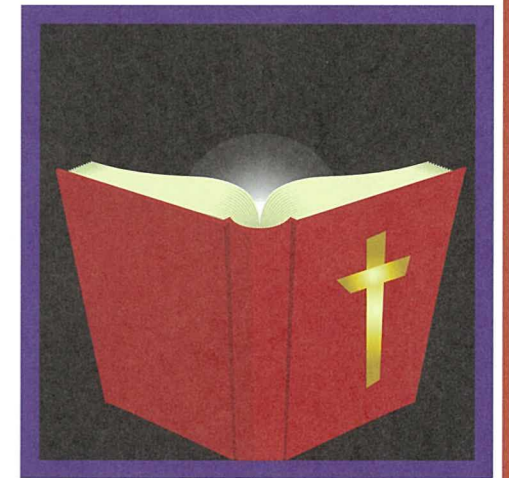
All: We praise you, we bless you, we thank you.

THE WORD OF GOD

The Lectionary is presented to the Bishop.

Reader: We praise and give thanks to God for his Holy Word. Your Word, Lord, is light to our eyes, is joy to our hearts. Help us to listen to your Word.

All: We praise you, we bless you, we thank you.



HOLY CHRISM

The Holy Chrism is presented to the Bishop.

Reader: We praise and give thanks to God for the Holy Chrism. We are to be anointed by the Spirit.

All: We praise you, we bless you, we thank you.

SPRINKLING RITE (all stand)

The vessel containing the water to be blessed is presented to the Bishop.

Bishop: This water reminds us of our Baptism. Let us ask God to bless it.

Father, bless this water as a sign of our life in you. When we use it, free us from our sins and make us worthy to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Bishop sprinkles the congregation with the water.

