

Adult Initiation

Initiation of the Elect

If at all possible, the rites of initiation of the Elect should be celebrated in the context of Sunday Mass. If a large number of people are to be initiated, plan for multiple celebrations to insure the participation of the faithful and necessary social distancing.

If the initiation of the Elect takes place outside of Sunday, the Ritual Mass “Christian Initiation: For the Conferral of Baptism” may be used on days when Ritual Masses are permitted.

Use the rites of initiation as found in the RCIA, #218ff with the exception of those elements directly related to the Easter Vigil. (For example, the Easter candle is not lowered into the baptismal water.)

Use updated texts from the *Order of Children’s Baptism* for the Blessing of Water (formulas A, B, or C may be used)

Use updated texts from the *Roman Missal* for the Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith. (See Easter Vigil, #55)

Baptism may take place at the baptismal font or in the sanctuary. The elect may remain in their places until the completion of the Litany of the Saints, and may be called for baptism one-by-one to minimize the number of people processing at any given time. (See RCIA #219)

Since immersion is not possible, the water to be blessed may be in a pitcher that can be poured over each person’s head. If the Elect are standing in the immersion font, ensure the water drains immediately. All water for baptism must be given to the ground as soon as possible.

For the presentation of the lighted candle and the giving of the white garment, these may be taken from a table by the godparents rather than handed back and forth by the ministers.

The Confirmation formulas should be taken from the newly-translated *Order of Confirmation* (see below).

The celebrant may extend outstretched hands over the newly baptized during the laying on of hands in the Rite of Confirmation. If a priest believes it necessary for health safety, an instrument (e.g. cotton swab) may be used for Confirmation.

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Sprinkling with Baptismal Water by the congregation does NOT take place as it normally would at the Easter Vigil. (See #236)

The blessing and sprinkling of water (aka Sprinkling Rite) may replace the customary Penitential Act, from time to time on Sundays. (See *GIRM* #51). Consider this option for Sunday Masses when Christian Initiation is celebrated, especially in the absence of blessed water at the doors of church.

Candidates for Reception into Full Communion

Use RCIA #473ff.

This can take place at any time the candidates are ready; there is no reason to unduly wait to combine these with the initiation of the Elect. While there is a preference for this to happen within Sunday Mass, it may happen anytime, or even outside of Mass if necessary.

As a reminder, priests who receive non-Catholic Christians into full Communion have the faculty to Confirm them. Use the updated formulas for Confirmation from the newly-translated *Order of Confirmation* (see below). If a priest believes it necessary for health safety, an instrument (e.g. cotton swab) may be used for Confirmation.

The blessing and sprinkling of water (aka Sprinkling Rite) may replace the customary Penitential Act, from time to time on Sundays. (See *GIRM* #51). Consider this option for Sunday Masses when Christian Initiation is celebrated, especially in the absence of blessed water at the doors of church.

Catholics to be Confirmed

Email Fr. Angi to receive faculties to confirm Catholic adults.

While there is a preference for Sunday Mass, this could take place on a different day or even outside of Mass. The Ritual Mass "Christian Initiation: For the Conferral of Confirmation" may be used on days when Ritual Masses are permitted.

Use the newly-translated *Order of Confirmation* (excerpts below).

If a priest believes it necessary for health safety, an instrument (e.g. cotton swab) may be used for Confirmation.

The blessing and sprinkling of water (aka Sprinkling Rite) may replace the customary Penitential Act, from time to time on Sundays. (See *GIRM* #51). Consider this option for Sunday Masses when Christian Initiation is celebrated, especially in the absence of blessed water at the doors of church.

New translations from the *Order of Confirmation*

Introduction

CELEBRANT:

My dear candidates for confirmation,
by your baptism you have been born again in Christ
and you have become members of Christ and his priestly people.

Now you are to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us,
the Spirit sent by the Lord upon his apostles at Pentecost
and given by them and their successors to the baptized.

The promised strength of the Holy Spirit,
which you are to receive,
will make you more like Christ
and help you to be witnesses
of his suffering, death, and resurrection.

It will strengthen you to be active members of the Church,
and to build up the Body of Christ in faith and love.

With hands joined, the celebrant continues:

CELEBRANT:

Dearly beloved,

let us pray to God the almighty Father,
for these, his adopted sons and daughters,
already born again to eternal life in Baptism,
that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon them
to confirm them with his abundant gifts,
and through his anointing
conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God.

All pray briefly in silence.

Laying On of Hands

The celebrant then holds his hands outstretched over the entire group of those to be confirmed and says the following prayer:

CELEBRANT:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who brought these your servants to new birth
by water and the Holy Spirit,
freeing them from sin:
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;
give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,
the spirit of knowledge and piety;
fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.
Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

The anointing then takes place in the usual way, with the response from those confirmed:

And with your spirit.