



Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse

Summer Confirmation FAQ's

Can we have the candidates and sponsors sit with their parents to increase the number of people we can have in the church?

Yes, due to the unusual circumstances if your parish would like to have each candidate sit with their sponsor and parents in the same pew this may help you increase the number you can have in the church.

Households should sit together. If the sponsor is of a different household and needs to sit separately you will want to make accommodations for this.

Will the Bishop be taking photos after Mass?

Yes, if your candidates would like to have a photo with the Bishop after Mass they will be happy to stay for a short time to take photos with the newly confirmed. As long as there is a space that can allow for social distancing between groups waiting for a photo. For the very brief time that the newly confirmed and sponsor, or parent(s), are posing with the Bishop they may remove their masks.

Can we have a reception after Mass?

Yes, providing the gathering space is large enough to maintain social distance. Perhaps holding the reception outside may be possible if your space allows.

Should our Candidate's sponsor travel to be at Mass?

Each sponsor should use their own discretion in traveling to be present at the Confirmation Mass. If they are traveling from a state that has been indicated by the Governor that people should not travel to NY from, then we would ask that for everyone's safety they do not attend. If they live in NY but still have to travel to get here it would be at their own discretion and knowledge of the guidelines and protocols that are in place.

If the Candidate's sponsor can not be physically present a proxy can stand in for them following the canonical guidelines: (1) properly designated by the one to be confirmed, (2) sixteen years old unless an exception is made for a just cause, (3) Catholics who have been confirmed, received the Eucharist, and are leading lives of faith, and (4) not bound by a canonical penalty (cc. 892 and 874)..

Should we livestream our Confirmation Mass?

Yes, if your parish has the ability to livestream or record the Mass and post it on the website it would be wise to do so. Not only will families who can not be present be able to watch but it will be a good opportunity to encourage other parishioners to watch and support your candidates.