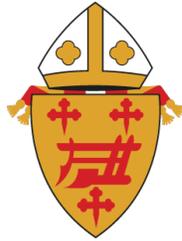


## Christian Initiation: Adults & Children

Guidance and  
Suggestions

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Updated 3/12/21



— ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI —  
**DIVINE WORSHIP  
& SACRAMENTS**

**The Initiation of the Elect should take place at the Easter Vigil, unless there are serious pastoral needs that dictate otherwise.** (cf. *RCIA* 26)

Fresh water is to be prepared in a pitcher or container for the baptisms; it is not to be drawn out of a font used by others. The water in the pitcher is blessed at the appropriate time and then is poured directly over the head and into a bowl for the baptisms. After the baptisms, the water is disposed of via the *sacrarium* or given to the ground.

If a priest believes it necessary for health safety, an instrument (e.g. cotton swab) may be used for the post-baptismal anointing with Chrism.

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

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**Non-Catholic Christians may be received into full communion at any Mass, or outside of Mass following the approved rites.** The priest who receives a non-Catholic Christian into full Communion automatically has the faculty to confirm. As always, pastors should seek faculties to confirm Catholic adults by writing to the Chancellor ([sangi@catholicaoc.org](mailto:sangi@catholicaoc.org)).

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

Don't forget that candidates for Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church may be received during Mass at any point during the year. This rite would ideally take place within Mass. (cf. *RCIA*, #475) **There is no reason to delay Reception into Full Communion if the candidate is ready.**

**The First Communion of children may be celebrated at any time; consider smaller groups of candidates at multiple celebrations. All the guidance for *Worshipping Together Safely* must be followed.**

Even though Eastertide is the preferred time, the First Communion of children can take place at any time of the year. Instead of all children receiving at one celebration, this could take place at a number of Sunday Masses spread out over several weeks, to minimize crowd sizes. **There is no reason to delay this celebration for prepared children.**

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## **Children's Baptism**

*Keep in mind the following:*

- During the Rite of Reception, the priest/deacon does not have to actually touch the child's forehead but could make the sign of the cross "over" the child.
- The anointing with the oil of catechumens may be omitted. The "laying on of hands" that replaces the pre-baptismal anointing may also be omitted; the presider simply extends hands over the child while saying the prayer.
- Fresh water is to be prepared in a pitcher or container for the baptism; it is not to be drawn out of a font used by others. The water in the pitcher is blessed at the appropriate time and then is poured directly over the child's head and into a bowl for the baptism. After the baptism, the water is disposed of via the *sacrarium* or given to the ground.
- The parents or godparents may take the baptismal garment and candle from a table, rather than being handed it by the celebrant or another minister.
- If a priest or deacon believes it necessary for health safety, an instrument (e.g. cotton swab) may be used for the post-baptismal anointing with Chrism.
- The *Ephphatha* rite (including the touching of the ears and mouth) may be omitted.

## **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.