

# CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Parents of Confirmation Candidates,

In order to ensure a seamless and meaningful experience for you and your child, please carefully review the following instructions and guidelines. Your preparedness is paramount as we come together to celebrate this significant milestone in your child's spiritual journey. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered within the context of a Liturgy of the Word celebration, rather than a Mass.

## CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTIONS

### I. BEFORE THE CEREMONY

Each Confirmation candidate (or confirmand) should arrive with his/her parents/guardians and sponsor **at least (30) thirty minutes before the Confirmation liturgy begins**. Each candidate and his/her sponsor should proceed to the candidate's assigned classroom to prepare for the procession. At this time, the sponsor will be given a card with his/her candidate's Confirmation name which the sponsor will hand to Father Sebastian at the altar before the candidate is anointed.

A candidate's parents/guardians should proceed to the church building and one of our catechists will direct them to their reserved assigned seat.

All Confirmation candidates will be in assigned seats in reserved pews at the front of the church with candidates reading during the liturgy seated closest to the altar. A candidate's sponsor will be

seated directly behind his/her candidate so that there will be alternating rows of Confirmation candidates and sponsors.

Each candidate's two parents or guardians will be in assigned seats in reserved pews behind the Confirmation candidates and their sponsors. The parents'/guardians' seats will be assigned in the same order that the candidates will be receiving the Sacrament so they can accompany the candidate and his/her sponsor to the altar for the candidate's anointing. ***Only two seats will be reserved for a candidate's parents/guardians.***

A candidate's additional family members, including siblings, and guests attending the celebration will be directed by our catechists to the pews behind all of the Confirmation candidates, their Sponsors and their parents/guardians; such pews will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

**PLEASE NOTE: Confirmation candidates are not permitted to have cellphones with them during the ceremony. All guests should power off and put away their phones and other devices during the Liturgy.**

## **II. DURING THE CEREMONY**

### **A. Presentation of the Candidates**

Father Sebastian will call each confirmand by name. When your child's name is called, they should STAND UP AND REMAIN STANDING UNTIL INSTRUCTED BY THE BISHOP TO BE SEATED.

### **B. Lining up for the Sacrament of Confirmation**

In order to ensure all guests in the church have an unobstructed view of the ceremony, the candidates, their sponsors, and their parents/guardians will receive precise guidance from our

Religious Education teachers and staff with respect to approaching the Bishop at the altar.

The candidates in the front row facing Mary's statue will be guided first by a teacher to stand and form a line along the side aisle. Similarly, their sponsors and parents/guardians will be prompted to stand and join their respective candidates in line along the side aisle. Candidates and their sponsors and parents/guardians will be called row by row to maintain orderliness.

All the candidates in the pews facing the statue of Mary will be confirmed followed by the candidates in the pews facing the statue of St. Joseph.

### **C. AT THE ALTAR**

- a. The **Sponsor** should hand the card with his/her candidate's Confirmation name to Father Sebastian and then stand on the left side of the candidate with his/her right hand on the candidate's shoulder.
- b. The **Parents/Guardians** should stand on the right side of the candidate.
- c. When the Bishop anoints the **candidate** with oil, he will say, "Be sealed with the Holy Spirit."
- d. The **candidate** will say, "**Amen.**"
- e. The Bishop will then say, "Peace be with you."
- f. The **candidate** will reply, "**And with your spirit.**"

**YOUR GROUP SHOULD RETURN TO YOUR PEW VIA THE CENTER AISLE.**

Please note the Bishop's office may require individuals approaching him to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth. You should assume a face mask is optional unless we notify you a face mask is required.

### III. PHOTOGRAPHY

In order to preserve the solemnity of the Sacrament, we request that you **silence your phones and other devices and refrain from taking photos or videos during the ceremony**. An official photographer will be present throughout the ceremony, including during the Anointing, so you will be able to secure photos of your child receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

After the celebration, the Bishop will be available for pictures at the altar on a row by row basis following the same procedure for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation but starting with those candidates seated facing St. Joseph's statue. Only parents/guardians and sponsors may join the candidate for pictures.

Please exit via the center aisle after you have had your photo taken.

Please take as many photos as you wish **after** the liturgy.

*If you have any questions or concerns,  
please do not hesitate to contact the Religious Education Office at  
(914) 472-5594 or send an email to [spxreled@spxny.org](mailto:spxreled@spxny.org).*