Diocesan Confirmation Celebration

Bishop Provenzano has mandated that all candidates for confirmation receive at least one academic year of preparation for confirmation. The age of confirmation is determined by the parish priest based upon the Christian formation programs in place for children and youth. What is important is not the age, but the formation of the candidate.

- Who should be confirmed, received, or re-affirm?
  - Confirmation is for those who were baptized as infants or children in the Episcopal Church, or who came to this church with their families before making a mature commitment of faith.
  - Confirmation is also appropriate for those of any age who are baptized and who are making a mature commitment for the first time.
  - Reception is for those who have previously made a mature commitment (i.e. adult baptism, confirmation, etc.) in any other Christian Church.
  - Re-affirmation is for those people who have been baptized and have made a mature commitment of faith and are choosing, for whatever reason, to renew and reaffirm publicly those vows.
  - Those persons who have been baptized in the Episcopal Church as their mature commitment of faith (i.e. took the vows themselves) do not need to be confirmed or received. [For example: if you baptize a 10 year old, he or she does not need to be confirmed. However, they may make a reaffirmation as part of their formal Christian formation journey in the parish.]

- The dates for Diocesan Confirmation Liturgies will be announced at least nine (9) months in advance.
- Congregations must register their candidates for confirmation at least 60 days in advance using the form provided on the diocesan website.
- If the Bishop has a visit scheduled to your parish within the next year, you are encouraged to not bring candidates to a diocesan confirmation celebrations.
- Clergy presenting candidates are expected to attend the liturgy and are encouraged to vest in cassock, surplice, and red stole.
- All certificates and other items (i.e. Prayer Books) to be signed by the Bishop should be brought to the Bishop's Office at least three weeks in advance.
- Please be present 45 minutes early in order to find your seats and be ready for the rehearsal that will begin promptly 30 minutes prior to the liturgy.
- Parish Registers are to be brought to be signed on the day of the liturgy and should be clearly labeled.
- Name-tags will not be provided. Presenters will be asked to speak clearly the names of the candidates to the bishop during the liturgy.
Non-BCP Liturgy
- Liturgies in the diocese are to be conducted using the Book of Common Prayer (1979).
- The General Convention approved liturgy supplements *Enriching our Worship* may be used at principal liturgies in this diocese.
- Should you wish to use other liturgical texts (i.e. Iona, Church of England, Church of Ireland, Roman Missal, etc.), you are required to seek the bishop's permission.
- It is strongly discouraged to add to the BCP liturgies; by doing so, the ordo of the prayer book is compromised.

Eucharistic Ministers v. Eucharistic Visitors
- Eucharistic Ministers are no longer licensed by the diocese. It is expected, however, that they will receive intentional training in their congregations.
- Eucharistic Visitors are licensed by the Bishop and are trained through the Mercer School of Theology.
- All confirmed adults (16 and older) are allowed to engage in either ministry, following the guidelines established by the parish clergy.

The Reserved Sacrament
- It is common practice to reserve some of the Sacrament consecrated at a Sunday Eucharist to be brought to the sick and shut-in. This should be done reverently and in appropriate vessels befitting its dignity.
- While piety varies around the Reserved Sacrament, it is inappropriate to simply discard the consecrated bread and wine or return both to their previous containers.
- Again, while piety varies and local custom is determined by the parish priest, it is entirely permissible for Lay Eucharistic Ministers / Visitors to remove return the Sacrament from the place where it is reserved during liturgies and for visitations.

Alternative Rite for Marriage
- In June 2010, the Bishop gave permission for clergy in the diocese to preside at same-sex marriages and blessing of civil marriages.
- An *Alternative Rite for Marriage* was created and approved for use in our diocese at any marriage liturgy. Copies are available on the website.

Preparation of the Altar
- It is part of the Offertory Rite to prepare to Table for the celebration the Eucharist. It is appropriate for the principal chalice and paten to be placed on the Altar at this time.
- The practice of having the veiled “stack” on the Altar before the liturgy begins is strongly discouraged.
- It is appropriate for the additional chalices and ciboria to be prepared after the Fraction.