



## DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES

P.O. Box 875  
St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada  
L2R 6Z4

THE CHANCERY

905-684-0154  
Fax: 905-684-2185

### **Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation during COVID-19**

Due to the restrictions necessitated by COVID-19, many sacramental celebrations that were to take place earlier in 2020, including the Sacrament of Confirmation, had to be deferred.

Arrangements are now being made to reschedule the Sacrament of Confirmation for parishes in the Diocese of St. Catharines. Certain modifications are necessary to ensure the health and safety of all involved.

It is recommended that the celebration of Confirmation be celebrated outside of a regularly scheduled Sunday Mass.

The Sacrament of Confirmation may be celebrated without Mass, if the pastor considers this an appropriate option for the confirmation candidates, their parents/guardians and the parish and school communities.

Candidates are to choose a sponsor; however, at the ceremony, sponsors are not to be in attendance for the celebration. The pastor will act as proxy for all confirmation sponsors, in all cases.

Attendance must be limited to the confirmation candidates and their parents/guardians. Other family members who reside in the same household may be present, if there is capacity in the church. The pastor must be consulted.

One or two representatives from the Catholic school community (teacher and/or principal) may be present.

No programs are to be printed.

Confirmation candidates will not wear gowns.

Those who attend must wear face masks, and are to remain in their designated pew until they are directed to approach the Bishop for the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, or for the reception of Holy Communion.

For the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the candidates are to line up across the sanctuary spaced six feet apart.

The Bishop will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation using a cotton ball for the Sacred Chrism.

No one is to leave their pew to take photos.

CATHOLIC CENTRE: 3400 Merrittville Highway, Thorold, Ontario  
[www.saintcd.com](http://www.saintcd.com) email: [chancery@saintcd.com](mailto:chancery@saintcd.com)

Parishes may wish to have one individual assigned to take photos during the celebration which can be made available to the confirmandi afterwards.

Due to physical distancing requirements, the Bishop and pastor will not be available for photos. A cantor and choir may be present, but there is to be no congregational singing.

A simple reception in the parish hall or outdoors may be allowed, if this is practical.

Certificates may be handed out at the end of the celebration, or may be mailed following the celebration.

---

**Please note** many of these considerations are also relevant to First Communion where applicable.