



**COMPLETION OF
SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION**
Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

LITURGY PREPARATION FORM:

In preparing to celebrate the completion of the Sacraments of Initiation with your parish community, the Bishop would find the following information helpful. Please fill in and return this form **at least thirty (30) days** before the event. Thank you.

Parish: _____

Physical Address: _____

Date of Celebration: _____ Time: _____

Candidates for Confirmation: # ___ ages _____; for First Eucharist: # ___ ages _____

Meal: ___ No ___ Yes (time _____)

Reception: ___ No ___ Yes (time _____)

Photo with Bishop: ___ No ___ Yes After Celebration ___ Before Celebration ___

Please indicate where the Bishop is to park his vehicle. Please reserve a space for him near the church.

Checklist:

- ___ Candidates told to come at least 30 minutes early. (Bishop meeting)
- ___ Chrism set-up ___ Sprinkling Rite set-up ___
- ___ Incense at Gospel ___ Yes ___ No & Preparation of Gifts ___ Yes ___ No
- ___ Candidate identification set-up
- ___ Warm water, lemon wedges, and towels set-up
- ___ Candidates name tags with Confirmation names *(all candidates are to have name tags with the name under which they will be confirmed, preferably a saint, other than their baptismal name)*
- ___ Readers have been identified and rehearsed
- ___ Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion identified and prepared
- ___ Master of Ceremonies
- ___ Pastor consultation
- ___ Number of Priests to Concelebrate
- ___ Vestments *(please indicate color of vestments)*
- ___ Musician consultation

There should be: **1** Cross Bearer **2** Acolytes
 1 Miter Bearer **1** Crosier Bearer
 3 Servers (minimum) _____ Thurifer

READINGS:

1st Reading: _____

2nd Reading: _____

Gospel: _____

Sprinkling Rite: _____

This will be required throughout the Easter Season



Liturgical Guidelines

The candidates need not take a new name; the saint name given at Baptism is sufficient. (However, if the baptismal name is not a saint's name, choosing a saint's name is desirable). The custom of taking the name of a saint who models the Christian life is laudable.

The sponsor/godparent may be the same as in Baptism. Sponsors are to be Catholic, in good standing and actively practicing their faith.

Participation of Children in the Celebration

- The candidates' participation in this celebration principally involves their celebrating the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. These two actions and the symbols and rituals involved should be preeminent.
- The candidates should not act out a reading or perform a song. Such activities can add to the candidates' nervousness, but more importantly overshadow the celebration of these two Sacraments of Initiation.
- A representative group of the newly confirmed may present the gifts solely of bread and wine in the procession, each need not carry an item.

Setting up for the Liturgy

Photographs: Please inform people of our diocesan policy: Photos must never distract from the prayerfulness of the sacraments; no flash is to be used for the celebration.

Candidates: Anticipate the manner in which the Bishop will know the name of each candidate during the rite:

Option: each candidate wears a large name tag displaying the name by which he/she is to be confirmed.

Option: the sponsor hands the bishop a card with the confirmation name of the candidate.

Vestments: On Sundays, use the color of the day. On weekdays, use color of the Feast. If the mass for Confirmation is used, vestments may be white or red. Please indicate the color of vestments to be used when there is an option. The Bishop will bring his own vestments. Parish should supply oils. Please indicate the number of priests who will be concelebrating.

Servers: In addition to the regular complement of servers, there is need for **two additional** servers to attend to the bishop's miter and crosier.



Environment: It is desirable that the colors used for the environment harmonize with the vestments.

-Make sure everything is in place for the Sprinkling Rite. This rite reminds us of our Baptism, the first of the sacraments of initiation. It replaces the penitential rite except during Lent when sprinkling is not used. It is expected that the Sprinkling Rite will be used throughout the Easter Season.

-Have a bowl of warm, soapy water for the bishop to clean his hands after the rite and a few slices of lemon. Set out a good towel as well. There is no need to put out cotton balls to wipe the oil from the forehead.

-Communion bread. Regardless of whether the parish uses wafers or substantial bread, make sure there is a sufficient quantity for the whole assembly. Use one or the other, there should not be a mixture. If substantial bread is used it must be made only of 100% wheat flour and water. (Please note: commercial flour such as Gold Meadow is a mixture which contains wheat and barley. The flour must be 100% wheat flour.) The tabernacle should never be approached during any celebration of Eucharist unless by accident the priest/minister runs out during the distribution of communion. This principle is especially important for the celebration of First Eucharist.

Step-By-Step through the Liturgy

The bishop will meet with the candidates prayerfully and privately prior to the Liturgy. The candidates are to assemble for this purpose **30 minutes** before the ritual begins. Candidates should be able to tell the bishop what a sacrament is and more specifically explain what is being celebrated in the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. The bishop will briefly review the ritual with the candidates.

Even though the Introduction to the *Lectionary for Masses with Children* (#22) suggests that the readings and General Intercessions may be proclaimed by older children, teenagers or adults, unless one reads well and audibly, it is preferable to have a regular trained lector.

The Rite of Confirmation

1. After the proclamation of the Gospel all are seated. Before the homily, a catechist presents the candidates to the bishop (**not to the assembly**).

Sample:

Bishop _____,
The candidates of the parish community of _____ have been properly prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our faith community of _____ asks that you confer upon them the seal of the Holy Spirit, and welcome them to the table of the Eucharist.



COMPLETION OF SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

2. The name of each candidate is announced. Each stands when his/her name is called out.
3. The bishop will ask them to turn and face the assembly, who applaud their welcome. The bishop asks them to be seated.
4. Homily
5. Renewal of Baptismal Promises (Replaces the Nicene Creed).
6. Invitation to Prayer (The Bishop invites all priests present to join him).
7. Laying on of hands and prayer for the Holy Spirit.
8. Anointing with Chrism. The candidates come forward in procession with their sponsors for the chrismation and physical laying on of hands.
9. General Intercessions. The ritual provides a standard series of petitions as an example. However, it is preferable that you craft your own. **Recommended Options:** Include a petition for good weather that will lead to a bountiful harvest. Include a petition for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Include a petition according to the pressing and present needs of the world.

Communion Rite

After the Sign of Peace, the bishop invites the candidates to approach the table of the Eucharist for the first time and reminds them “of the preeminence of the Eucharist, which is the climax of their initiation and the center of the whole Christian life” (RCIA #329).

First Holy Communion:

Communion is to be distributed under both kinds, using hosts consecrated at that same Mass, not taken from the tabernacle, as a more complete sign of the meaning of the Eucharistic Celebration.

The focus given to First Communion should equal that of Confirmation. It is the completion of Initiation. The presider may wish to give a brief introduction, mentioning that the children are invited to the table for the first time and that they will now be fully initiated members of the church community. Parents may present their child for this sacrament. The logistics must be worked out ahead of time so that the communion procession is not disrupted or prolonged unduly. You may ask the extended family and the assembly to wait until all the candidates have received their First Communion, thus, only the parents would receive with the children.

The Communion Song begins immediately following the invitation to communion. Normally only one Communion Song accompanies the communion procession and may be interspersed with instrumental verses or sung *a capella* while musicians receive communion.



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Please indicate any particular patterns/practices which the Bishop should know prior to the liturgy. _____

Please provide the names of the catechist (s) who prepared the children for sacraments:

Name	Safe & Sacred Trained (Y/N)

Person completing this form: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____

Pastor or Pastoral Administrator: _____ (signature)

___ I have read and understand the accompanying instruction.

Mail or fax to:
Diocese of Great Falls-Billings
PO Box 1399
Great Falls, MT 59403
fax 1-406-454-3480
1-800-332-9998 or 727-6683

Revised & Promulgated
By Bishop Michael W. Warfel
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