

The Rite of Confirmation



“Now, when the apostles, who were in Jerusalem, had heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John. Who, when they were come, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Ghost. For he was not as yet come upon any of them: but they were only baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands upon them: and they received the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 8:14-17

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St. Anthony of Padua Church
North Caldwell, New Jersey

Confirmation Is a Sacrament

A sacrament is an outward or sensible sign instituted by Jesus Christ to signify Grace and confer it on our soul. These three requirements for a sacrament are found in the rite of Confirmation:

1. The bishop, the ordinary minister of Confirmation, stretching out his hands over those that are to be confirmed, prays for them all in general, that the Holy Ghost may come down upon them with His sevenfold graces.
2. Coming to each one in particular he lays his hand upon him;
3. and at the same time anoints his forehead with holy Chrism in the form of the cross, saying these words: *I sign thee with the sign of the cross, I confirm thee with the chrism of salvation, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

The imposition of hands represents the communication of the Holy Ghost to the soul, and the anointing the forehead with Holy Chrism represents the nature and plenitude of grace received by the internal unction of the Holy Ghost.

The Chrism is a sacred ointment composed of *oil of olives*, and *balm of Gilead*, solemnly blessed by the bishop on Holy Thursday. The oil represents the fullness of grace received; both because, as oil, when dropped upon anything spreads itself upon it, and insinuates itself into all its parts, so the grace of this sacrament penetrates into the soul, and diffuses itself through all her powers; and also, because oil being a smooth mild substance, represents that spirit of mildness and patience under the cross, which is one principal effect of confirmation. At the same time, as the balm has the particular property of preserving bodies, after death, from putrefaction, it fitly represents the fortifying grace received in confirmation, by which our souls are preserved from the corruption of sin, after our sins have been destroyed by the sacrament of baptism.

Confirm means to strengthen or fortify. The Holy Ghost strengthens all of the parts of our soul with His grace and gifts.

Ceremonies of Confirmation

Anointing of the Forehead

The forehead of the person confirmed is anointed with sacred Chrism; for by this sacrament the Holy Ghost infuses Himself into the souls of the faithful, and increases in them strength and fortitude to enable them in the spiritual contest to fight manfully and resist their most wicked foes.

Why the forehead? Two reasons: Firstly, because he is signed with the sign of the cross as a soldier with the sign of his leader, which should be evident and manifest. The forehead, which is rarely covered, is the most conspicuous part of the human body. Wherefore the confirmed is anointed with chrism on the forehead that he may show publicly that he is a Christian. Secondly, because man is hindered from freely confessing Christ's name by two things, fear and shame. Both of these things betray themselves principally on the forehead: hence those who are ashamed blush, and those who are afraid pale. And therefore is man signed with chrism that neither fear nor shame may hinder him from confessing the name of Christ.

The Sign of the Cross

This mark distinguishes the Christian from all others.

The Slap on the Cheek

The person when anointed receives a slap on the cheek from the hand of the bishop to make him recollect that as a valiant combatant, he should be prepared to endure with unconquered spirit all adversities for the name of Christ.

The Pax

Lastly, the peace is given him, that he may understand that he has attained the fullness of divine grace and that peace which surpasses all understanding.

A Sponsor is Required

This sacrament is given to man for strength in the spiritual combat. Just as one who is newly born needs someone to teach him things pertaining to ordinary conduct; so they who are chosen for the fight need instructors by whom they are informed of things concerning the conduct of the battle, and hence in earthly wars generals and captains are appointed to the command of the others. For this reason he also who receives this sacrament, has someone to stand for him, who has to instruct him concerning the fight.

Likewise, since this sacrament bestows on one the perfection of spiritual age, therefore he who approaches this sacrament is upheld by another as being spiritually a weakling and a child.

The Rite of CONFIRMATION

Hymn *Veni Creátor*

All kneel for the first stanza

Veni Creátor Spíritus,
Mentes tuórum vísita,
Imple supérna grátia,
Quæ tu creásti péctora.

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come
From Thy bright heavenly throne,
Come, take possession of our souls,
And make them all Thy own.

Qui díceris Paráclitus,
Altíssimi donum Dei,
Fons vivus, ignis, cáritas,
Et spiritalís únctio.

Thou who art called the Paraclete,
Best gift of God above,
The living spring, the living fire,
Sweet unction and true love.

Tu septifórmis múnere,
Dígitus patérnæ dèxteræ,
Tu rite promíssum Patris,
Sermóne dítaus gáttura.

Thou who art sevenfold in Thy grace,
Finger of God's right hand;
His promise, teaching little ones
To speak and understand.

Accende lumen sénsibus:
Infúnde amórem córdibus:
Infirma nostri corporis
Virtúte firmans pépeti.

O guide our minds with Thy blest light,
With love our hearts inflame;
And with Thy strength which ne'er decays,
Confirm our mortal frame.

Hostem repéllas lóngius,
Pacémque dones prótinus:
Ductóre sic to prævio,
Vitémus omne nóxium.

Far from us drive our deadly foe;
True peace unto us bring;
And through all perils lead us safe
Beneath Thy sacred wing.

Per te sciámus da Patrem,
Noscámus atque Fílium;
Teque utriúsque Spíritum
Credámus omni témpore.

Through Thee may we the Father know,
Through Thee the eternal Son,
And Thee the Spirit of Them both,
Thrice-blessed Three in One.

Deo Patri sit glória,
Et Fílio, qui a mórtuis
Surréxit, ac Paráclito,
In sæculórum sæcula.

All glory to the Father be,
With his co-equal Son
The same to Thee, great Paraclete,
While endless ages run. Amen.

The Bishop, vested in white stole and cope, and mitre of cloth of gold, will be seated on the faldstool while he addresses the candidates for Confirmation. The Bishop washes his hands, then the mitre is removed and the Bishop stands, with joined hands, facing the candidates who kneel with their hands joined while he says or sings:

✠ *Spiritus Sanctus supervéniat in vos et virtus Altíssimi custódiat vos a peccátis.*

✠ *Amen.*

✠ *Adjutórium nostrum in nómine Dómini.*

✠ *Qui fecit cælum et terram.*

✠ *Dómine, exáudi oratiónem meam.*

✠ *Et clamor meus ad te véniat.*

✠ *Dóminus vobíscum.*

✠ *Et cum spírítu tuo.*

✠ *May the Holy Ghost come down upon you, and may the power of the Most High God keep you free from every sin.*

✠ *Amen.*

✠ *Our help is in the name of the Lord.*

✠ *Who made heaven and earth.*

✠ *Lord, hear my prayer.*

✠ *And let my cry come to Thee.*

✠ *The Lord be with you.*

✠ *And with thy spirit.*

Then, stretching out his hands towards those to be confirmed, he says or sings:

Orémus.

Omnipotens sempitérne Deus, qui regeneráre dignátus es hos fámulos tuos ex aqua et Spírítu Sancto, quique dedísti eis remissiónem ómnium peccatórum; emítte in eos septifórmem Spírítum tuum Sanctum Paráclitum de cælis.

✠ *Amen.*

✠ *Spírítum sapiéntiæ et intelléctus.*

✠ *Amen.*

✠ *Spírítum consílii et fortitúdinis.*

✠ *Amen.*

✠ *Spírítum sciéntiæ et pietátis.*

✠ *Amen.*

Adímple eos Spírítu timóris tui, consígna eos signo Cru-✠-cis Christi in vitam propitiátus ætérnæ. Per eúmdem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum Fílium tuum: Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte ejúsdem Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

✠ *Amen.*

Let us pray.

Almighty, everlasting God, who hast given new life through water and the Holy Ghost to these Thy servants, and granted them forgiveness of all their sins, send down upon them from heaven Thy Holy Spirit the Paraclete with his sevenfold gifts.

✠ *Amen.*

✠ *The Spirit of wisdom and of understanding.*

✠ *Amen.*

✠ *The Spirit of counsel and of fortitude.*

✠ *Amen.*

✠ *The Spirit of knowledge and of piety.*

✠ *Amen.*

Fill them with the Spirit of reverent fear of Thyself and in Thy goodness mark them out for eternal life with the sign of the Cross ✠ of Christ. Through the same Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord; who liveth with Thee in the unity of the same Holy Ghost, God for ever.

✠ *Amen.*

The Bishop sits down and the mitre is put on. A linen veil is spread over his lap and fastened, and the sacred chrism is brought to him.

The candidates now come forward, hands ungloved, each having a card on which his or her name is written, to be handed to the assistant on the Bishop's right. Each kneels in turn before the Bishop and the sponsor lays his or her right hand, ungloved, on the candidate's right shoulder. The Bishop, having dipped the thumb of his right hand in the chrism, makes the sign of the cross with it, once on the forehead of each one, his hand laid on the head, saying:

N. Signo te signo Cru-✠-cis, et confirmo te chrismate salutis. In nómine Patris, ✠ et Filii, ✠ et Spíritus ✠ Sancti.

℟ Amen.

N. I sign thee with the sign of the Cross ✠ and I confirm thee with the Chrism of salvation. In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy ✠ Ghost.

℟ Amen.

While these last words are said he makes the sign of the cross three times over the candidate and then strikes him lightly on the left cheek, saying:

Pax tecum.

Peace be with you.

The candidate moves away and the chrism is removed by a priest with a piece of cotton wool.

When all have been confirmed the Bishop washes his hands while the following antiphon is said or sung:

Confirma hoc, Deus, quod operátus es in nobis, a templo sancto tuo, quod est in Jerúsalem.

℣ Glória Patri, et Filio, et Spíritui Sancto.

℟ Sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

Confirma hoc, Deus, quod operátus es in nobis, a templo sancto tuo, quod est in Jerúsalem.

Confirm, O God, what Thou hast wrought in us, from Thy holy temple in Jerusalem.

℣ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

℟ As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Confirm, O God, what Thou hast wrought in us, from Thy holy temple in Jerusalem.

After this the mitre is removed and the Bishop rises, turns towards the altar, and, with joined hands, says or sings:

℣ Osténde nobis, Dómine, misericórdiam tuam.

℟ Et salutáre tuum da nobis.

℣ Dómine, exáudi oratiónem meam.

℟ Et clamor meus ad te véniat.

℣ Dóminus vobíscum.

℟ Et cum spíritu tuo.

Orémus.

℣ Show us, O Lord, Thy mercy.

℟ And grant us Thy salvation.

℣ Lord, hear my prayer.

℟ And let my cry come to Thee.

℣ The Lord be with you.

℟ And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Deus, qui Apóstolis tuis Sanctum dedísti Spíritum, et per eos eorúmque successóres, céteris fidélibus tradéndum esse voluísti; réspice propítius ad humilitátis nostræ famulátum, et præsta; ut eórum corda quorum frontes sacro chrísmate delinívimus, et signo sanctæ Crucis signávimus, idem Spíritus Sanctus in eis supervéniens, templum glóriæ suæ dignánter inhabitándo perfíciat. Qui cum Patre, et eódem Spíritu Sancto vivis et regnas, Deus, in sæcula sæculórum.

℟ Amen.

Then, still facing the altar, he says:

Ecce sic benedicétur omnis homo qui timet Dóminum.

Turning towards the persons confirmed, he makes the sign of the cross over them, once, saying:

Bene- ✠ -dícat vos Dóminus ex Sion, ut videátis bona Jerúsalem ómnibus diébus vitæ vestræ, et habeátis vitam ætérnam.

℟ Amen.

*The Bishop then sits, resumes the mitre and exhorts the sponsors that they instruct the confirmandi in the good morals, that they flee from evil and do good, and that they teach them the **Creed**, the **Pater**, and the **Ave**. The Holy Mass follows or the service may close with Benediction.*

O God who didst give the Holy Ghost to Thy Apostles and didst will that through them and through those who should come after them, He should be given to the rest of the faithful; look favorably upon this humble fulfillment of our office, and grant that the same Holy Ghost, coming into the hearts of those whose foreheads we have marked with Sacred Chrism and signed with the sign of the holy Cross, may dwell therein, and make of them a living temple of His glory. Who with the Father and the same Holy Ghost lives and reigns, God, for ever.

℟ Amen.

Thus shall every man be blessed who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless ✠ you from Sion, so that all the days of your earthly life you may keep before your eyes the treasures of the heavenly Jerusalem and may have eternal life.

℟ Amen.

2007 Confirmandi

Name	Confirmation Name	Sponsor
Jennifer Brown	Teresa	Josephine McDonald
Anthony Michael Cerqua	Joseph	Michael Mannion
Gabriella Maria Cerqua	Philomena	Gilda Cavallo
Daniel Washburn Deihle	Thomas	Dylan McDonald
Daniel Stuart Freedman	Benedict	Alfred J. Birchler
Catherine Clare Godlewsky	Veronica	Josephine McDonald
Phyllis Diane Kiernan	Theresa	Marie Marcopolus
Victoria Elizabeth Kiernan	Christina	Rachel Wunder
Jonathan Mark Laqui	Tarcisius	Arturo Valdes
Joseph Matthew Marcopolus	Sebastian	Francis Conklin
Elizabeth Anne Marie McDonald	Bernadette	JoAnne Godlewsky
Jeanette Marie McDonald	Margaret of Scotland	Joyce Burgamo
Patrick Walter Mooney	Benedict	Donald Ludwig
Paul Edward Sorge	Joseph	Robert DiCecco
Stefania Marie Swider	Kateri	Linda Ugi
Mary Ellen Wunder	Rose	Mary Bellarosa
Nicholas Joseph Wunder	Michael	Dylan McDonald



St. Anthony of Padua Church

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Mass Schedule

Sunday: 7:15 AM, 9:15 AM, & 11:15 AM

Holy Days: 10:00 AM & 7:30 PM

Saturday Mass: 6:00 PM / First Friday: 6:00 PM

Confession

Confessions are heard prior to every Mass.

Other Sacraments, Sick Calls, & Pastoral Visits

Please contact Fr. Robinson at the Ridgefield retreat house (203-431-0201) for information regarding Baptism, Marriage, Confirmation, Extreme Unction, Sick Calls, and possible priestly vocations.

Contact Us:

Parish phone: (973) 228-1230

Web: <http://www.latin-mass.net>

Map of St. Anthony of Padua Church (intersection of Gould Ave. and Mountain Ave.)

