

Online-Assisted Adult Confirmation Preparation: An Option when the usual Parish Preparation is Unavailable

Introduction

In an effort to make Adult Confirmation preparation more accessible, the Archdiocese is making an **online-assisted** Adult Confirmation preparation option available for parishes to assist Catholic adults in completing their sacraments of initiation with the reception of confirmation.

Procedure and Protocol

This online option is not intended to replace parish confirmation preparation, but supplement and support it. This option includes the essential element of parish accompaniment of the adult seeking confirmation as well as the necessary catechesis and preparation for participating in the sacramental rite. During periods of limited in-person contact, online and/or over-the-phone accompaniment may be used.

The Archdiocesan requirements for the online material chosen for adult confirmation preparation are as follows:

- A suitable adult catechesis bearing an *imprimatur* (an ecclesial declaration that the material is free from error)
- A learning format allowing for parish accompaniment of the adult confirmand
- A reasonable cost

Below is the protocol to be followed to employ this option:

1. The process begins in the customary way, with the individual contacting their local parish, seeking information and assistance for the reception of Confirmation. If the individual is a baptized Catholic and has not yet received First Eucharist, the individual is to be a part of the RCIA process as a Candidate for Full Communion – they are not a Confirmandi. The pastor or his delegate for Adult Confirmation arranges for a first interview meeting with the individual, wherein the parish staff member a) inquires regarding the individual's faith and marital status background, b) assesses their sacramental and formation needs, and c) covers the necessary details each person needs prior to admitting them into Confirmation preparation. The *Archdiocesan Adult Confirmation Registration Form* can be used as a guide for this important first encounter and interview meeting and can be found here:

<https://www.archsa.org/images/uploads/Adult-Confirmation-Registration-Form.pdf>

2. If during this first meeting with the individual it is discerned that online-assisted adult confirmation preparation is the most appropriate, the parish staff member carefully reviews the necessary steps to complete this option with the adult confirmand. These steps are found in the document entitled *Confirmation Formation through Formed.org* that can be found here: <https://www.archsa.org/images/uploads/Confirmation-Formation-through-Formed.pdf>

Both the parish staff member as well as the adult confirmand are to have copies of this document.

Important Note: For this option to be used successfully, the Adult Confirmand should be an experienced online learner with a reliable high-speed internet connection or Wi Fi and the ability to download and print materials.

The online-assisted portion of this Adult Confirmation preparation will take approximately 4 - 5 hours to complete. A one-month subscription to Formed.org will provide more than ample time to complete the videos and study guide material.

The parish staff member should become thoroughly familiar with the content and method used in the online-assisted Confirmation formation through Formed.org to best accompany and assist the Adult Confirmand.

3. When the Adult Confirmand completes three sessions through Formed.org, arrangements are to be made for the parish staff member to meet with the individual to review the material completed and answer any questions.

4. Once the individual completes the online preparation, a third and final meeting is to be arranged with the parish staff member. During this last meeting, the staff member does a final review of the formation materials and answers any questions or concerns regarding it. In addition, the parish staff member imparts specific instruction on the Rite of Confirmation and its basic components, including the prayers specific to the rite and their place in the Mass, the imposition of hands, the anointing with Sacred Chrism, and the words of the sacramental formula, etc. This instruction is not covered in the formed.org materials. A sample has been provided that could be used for this purpose and is entitled *The Rite of Confirmation*. It can be found here:

<https://www.archsa.org/images/uploads/The-Rite-of-Confirmation.pdf>

5. At this point the Archdiocesan Adult Confirmation Registration Form can now be completed. The parish staff member then scans and emails the completed Adult Confirmation Registration to liturgyforms@archsa.org or mails it to the Office for Liturgy at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center according to the scheduled deadlines for the Adult Confirmation celebrations

that year. The current schedule for Adult Confirmation celebrations can be found here: <https://www.archsa.org/adult-confirmation>

6. The parish staff member also provides the adult confirmand the immediate instructions given by the Archdiocesan Office for Liturgy. Additional important information for parish staff can be found in *Fact Sheet for Adult Confirmation* which can be accessed here: https://www.archsa.org/images/uploads/Fact_Sheet-2020-Adult-Confirmation.pdf

7. Arrangements are to be made for the adult confirmand to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation proximate to the celebration of the Adult Confirmation Mass. This is an important and necessary requirement for the valid reception of Confirmation. The sponsor is to be encouraged to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation as well to serve as the best possible witness to the confirmand. Please remind the adult confirmand that they and their sponsor are to present themselves at the designated parish for the Confirmation Mass one hour before the scheduled start for check-in, seating, and other essential details.

8. The pastor, his delegate, or another member of the parish known to the adult confirmand should ideally attend the Adult Confirmation Mass to accompany the confirmand and his/her sponsor in the name of the parish community to which the confirmand belongs. A Confirmation certificate is provided by the Archdiocese to the newly confirmed Catholic immediately following the Mass, and the confirmation is recorded in the sacramental registry at the parish where the Confirmation liturgy takes place.