

Then the celebrant makes the Sign of the Cross over all, as a cross is traced by the sponsor on his or her candidate for each prayer. The celebrant says:

† Receive the Sign of the Cross on your forehead as a reminder of your Baptism into Christ's saving death and resurrection.

† Receive the Sign of the Cross over your heart, that Christ may dwell there by faith.

† Receive the Sign of the Cross on your hands, that Christ may be known in the work that you do.

Celebrant:

Candidates and sponsors, please face forward. Sponsors, please place your right hand on your candidate's right shoulder.

The celebrant then blesses the candidates, saying:

Candidates, I sign you with the sign of eternal life in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Candidates:

Amen.

Concluding Prayer

The celebrant concludes the signing of the senses with the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, by the cross and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given life to your people. In Baptism, these, your servants, accepted the Sign of the Cross: Make them living proof of its saving power, and help them to persevere in the footsteps of Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. **Amen.**

End of Rite

The celebrant continues the rest of Mass with the Profession of Faith.

Special thanks for the use of this adapted rite to
Erica Wright, Mike Filamor, and St. Alban Roe parish,
Archdiocese of St. Louis.



RITE of WELCOMING

of Confirmation Candidates



**"I am the way, and the truth, and the life;
no one comes to the Father, but by me."**

—John 14:6

Liturgy of the Word

Rite of Welcoming *(after homily)*

Dialogue

Celebrant:

Candidates and sponsors, please stand. Sponsors, place your right hand on your candidate's right shoulder. Candidates, please answer the following questions:

Celebrant:

What is your name?

Candidates answer all at once:

N.

Celebrant:

What do you ask of God's Church?

Candidates:

To be accepted as a candidate for Confirmation.

Candidates' Declaration of Intent

The celebrant addresses the candidates:

Blessed be God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, in his great mercy has given you a new birth, a living hope that draws its life from Christ's resurrection from the dead. In Baptism, this hope of glory became your own. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God frees you from slavery to sin. In reception of the Holy Eucharist, you grow in strength. Christ has opened for you the way that leads to eternal life. Now, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, you desire to continue that journey of faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation, which will complete the Christian initiation begun at your Baptism.

Candidates, Jesus told us that he is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Are you prepared to reflect more deeply on "the Way" God has adopted you—through your Baptism—and has given you a new life in Christ?

Candidates:

I am.

Celebrant:

Are you prepared to listen with us to "the Truth" of the apostles' instruction?

Candidates:

I am.

Celebrant:

And are you prepared to join with us in "the Life" of prayer and service as you prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Candidates:

I am.

Affirmation and Welcoming by the Sponsors, Parents, and Assembly

Celebrant:

Parents and sponsors, please stand. You now present these candidates to us. Do you promise to continue to help them fulfill their Candidate Commitments and to help them prepare for Confirmation so that they can complete their Christian initiation?

Parents and sponsors:

We do.

Celebrant:

You may be seated.

The celebrant addresses the assembly:

To the parish community gathered with us tonight, please answer, "We are," to the following question. Are you ready to help these candidates complete their Christian initiation through your prayers and support?

The assembly:

We are.

Signing of the Candidates with the Cross

Celebrant:

Candidates and sponsors, please stand and face each other. Dear candidates, you have expressed your desire to share fully in the life of the Catholic Church. I now mark you with the Sign of Christ's Cross and call upon your sponsors to do the same.