



**REMINDERS ABOUT THE SACRAMENTS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION**  
**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP**  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA**  
**FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2020**

Please find below some reminders about the celebration of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation during the COVID-19 pandemic. As restrictions lift in the State of Pennsylvania for people to gather once again in small groups, the elect and candidates for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation should be among those first considered. It is always possible in case of emergency and for a serious pastoral reason to celebrate the Sacraments of Christian Initiation of adults and children during this current stay at home phase.

**SACRAMENTS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

Archbishop Perez gives permission for the full sacramental initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist—of adults (those who have completed fourteen years of age and older) that ordinarily takes place at the Easter Vigil to be celebrated at a time mutually convenient for all even beyond Easter Time.

The full sacramental initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist—of school age children (over seven years of age) can take place at any time mutually convenient for all even beyond Easter Time.

- When the liturgical day permits, the Mass for the Conferral of Baptism is used and the readings come from the Lectionary (Volume 4) for Christian Initiation apart from the Easter Vigil.
- The plan for the celebration of the Sacraments is found in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, Part II, Number 2, Christian Initiation of Adults in Exceptional Circumstances (nn. 340-369).
- The celebration of these Sacraments are recorded in the Baptism Register.

**BAPTISM OF CHILDREN**

The Baptism of Children is to take place one child at a time with due attention given to the number of participants and social distancing. Fresh water is to be used for each Baptism during this

period. The use of the new *Order of Baptism of Children* is mandatory as of Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020.

### **CONFIRMATION OF CATHOLIC ADULTS**

The Archbishop grants the faculty to priests of the Archdiocese to confirm Catholic adults (those who have completed fourteen years of age and older) even beyond Pentecost until further notice. The 2016 edition of the *Order of Confirmation* must be used for the Conferral of the Sacrament. A copy can be provided by the Office for Divine Worship.

- Catholic adults can also be confirmed when the Bishop visits the parish for the Confirmation of school age children.
- The celebration of Confirmation is recorded in the parish Confirmation Register and at the church of Baptism.
- *The conferral of Confirmation for adults (those who have completed fourteen years of age) planned for Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020 at the Cathedral Basilica will not take place this year.*

### **CONFIRMATION OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN**

All scheduled celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation for school age children have been postponed until the Fall of 2020. The Bishop celebrants will reschedule directly with Pastors.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

First Holy Communion can be rescheduled as soon as the suspension of public Masses is lifted and at a time mutually convenient for all. Please allow sufficient time from this date in order for the children to be properly prepared and have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. In the case of a very small number of First Holy Communicants, it is possible, if agreeable to all, when small groups can gather to celebrate one candidate at a time

### **RECEPTION OF BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS INTO THE FULL COMMUNION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church for adults and children over seven years of age can take place at any time mutually convenient to all at any time of the year.

- Priests, by faculty of the universal law, confirm in this circumstance without any further permission from the Archbishop.
- The plan for Reception into Full Communion is found in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, Part II, Number 5.
- Reception into Full Communion is recorded in the Full Communion Register and not in the Baptism Register.

Thank you as always for your generous assistance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [fr.dgill@archphila.org](mailto:fr.dgill@archphila.org). In Christ, Father Dennis Gill