

SANITARY PROTOCOL TO CELEBRATE CONFIRMATION

(PROPOSITION)

In addition to following the general guidelines of public safety as well as your local church plan for deconfinement (basic document for all other rites), it is requested to take into consideration the following points concerning especially the celebration of confirmation.

PRELIMINARY STEPS AND PREPARATION OF THE PREMISES (CHURCH AND SACRISTY)

- Disinfection of the church before the ceremony: especially the surfaces most likely to be in direct with church occupants;
- Disinfection and thorough cleaning of the material that will be used during the ceremony: Holy Chrism. A container needs to be at hands' reach at the place where the minister will be standing for the anointment ritual. A few lemon slices will also be needed for this;
- Keeping a distance of 2 meters at all time : at the entrance, at the exit and while occupants are circulating within the church; a distance of 1.5 meters are to be kept while participants are seated, except for members of the same family;
- Wearing of the mask is mandatory at all time - as church occupants arrive, as they exit and as they circulate inside the church - except when they are seated;
- Hand sanitizing is mandatory with a disinfectant, especially at the church entrance and if possible before communion (hydro alcoholic solution containing at least 60% alcohol);
- Planning the logistics of the confirmation service as well as rehearsing its roll out with the candidates and their sponsors is recommended.

THE ENTRANCE PROCESSION

- It is recommended to limit the entrance procession to a strict number of people in order to maintain the 2 meter distance between parishioners.
- Candidates could already be seated with their respective families before the ceremony begins (respecting the bubble concept) OR they can be seated with their sponsor (respecting social distancing), and candidate's immediate family members are seated on a separate bench - according to the church's planned layout during the pandemic.



CONFIRMATION LITURGY

THE CALL OUT

- It is suggested only one person should hold the microphone and call out the name of each candidate.
- When his/her name is called out, the candidate gets up - as well as his/her sponsor - without leaving their place;
- Sponsors are not to place their hand on the candidate's shoulder, but communicate his/her support by simply standing.
- The candidate then responds by saying "Here I am";

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH and THE IMPOSITIONS OF HANDS

- Everyone is to stay where they are and not leave their place during these moments of the liturgy of the sacrament

ANOINTMENT with the HOLY CHRISM

- During the anointment of the Holy Chrism, everyone (minister, candidates, sponsors) must wear their mask, especially because it will be impossible to keep a distance of 2 meters between each other (although momentarily). The minister of the confirmation will proceed to disinfect his hands.
- For the actual confirmation ritual by anointment, two options are suggested:
 - The minister will himself approach each candidate who will stay at his/her bench and therefore receive the anointment;
 - One candidate at a time will approach the minister, with his or her sponsor in order to receive the anointment. They will then return to their bench following a path previously indicated by the catechists at the ceremony's rehearsal. Once the candidate is seated again, the next candidate can then approach the minister, and so on.



Catholic Church of Montreal

- The minister coats his thumb with the infused oil (do not use a cotton ball or swab), lay his hand on the candidate's head and trace the sign of the cross on his/her forehead, saying:

N....,

Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit,

The Gift of God.

The candidate responds: **Amen**

- Following each anointment, the minister rubs his hands with the lemon slice and disinfects his hands.
- Once the individual anointment ritual is complete, communicate a general message to everyone instead of proposing a gesture of peace.

THE EXIT PROCESSION AND AFTER MASS

- Pictures can be taken as long as the aforementioned instructions are observed.