



ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NEW YORK

## ***WHEN MAY A PRIEST CONFIRM?***

The 1983 code of canon law states (c.882): *“The ordinary minister of confirmation is a bishop; a presbyter provided with this faculty in virtue of universal law, or the special grant of a competent authority also confers this sacrament validly.”*

It is often asked, “Under what conditions may a priest confirm?”

- Unbaptized children (age 7+) and adults enrolled in the catechumenal process who will be fully initiated at the Easter vigil;
- Baptized Protestant teens and adults who seek to become Catholic, are enrolled in the catechumenal process and who make a profession of faith, may receive confirmation and first communion from a priest anytime of the year;
- Baptized, uncatechized Catholic teens and adults who seek preparation for first communion and confirmation and are enrolled in the catechumenal process may, in individual cases and with delegation from the vicar general, be confirmed and receive first communion from a priest within the Eucharistic liturgy during the Easter season (c. 137 §3);
- However, they may not confirm previously baptized Catholics who have received their first holy communion. This is reserved to bishops.

Since questions of validity may arise when the sacrament of confirmation is administered by a priest (c. 882), a notation should be made in the registry of the parish that the faculty to confirm under the above-listed conditions is expressly delegated, *i.e.*, “*delegatus.*”