

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS – ENGLISH	1
English Pulpit Announcement for use in Wave 1 Parishes/Pastorates:	1
English Pulpit Announcement for use in Wave 2 Parishes/Pastorates:	2
English Pulpit Announcement for use in Wave 3 Parishes/Pastorates:	3
PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS – SPANISH	4
Spanish Pulpit Announcement for use in Wave 1 Parishes/Pastorates:.....	4
Spanish Pulpit Announcement for use in Wave 2 Parishes/Pastorates:.....	5
Spanish Pulpit Announcement for use in Wave 3 Parishes/Pastorates:.....	6
Talking Points for Pastors & Parish Leaders	7

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS – ENGLISH

English Pulpit Announcement for use in Wave 1 Parishes/Pastorates:

An Announcement Regarding Confirmation: Over the course of the next several years, all parishes in the Archdiocese of Baltimore will undergo a process of transition, shifting the typical time of Confirmation down to the age of 9 years (roughly 4th grade). This change will occur in several phases, beginning in fall 2025.

Our parish/pastorate is among those scheduled to begin the transition process in the upcoming 2025-2026 catechetical year, although it could take several years to complete the change. We are working with the Archdiocese and with the other parishes on the leading edge of the change to develop an implementation plan that best fits the needs of our community.

Archbishop Lori has made this decision in order to better engage families in our ministries with children and youth, as our young parishioners grow in faith.

[Insert enclosed talking points as desired]

For more information about the upcoming change in Confirmation age, please see the “Frequently Asked Questions” enclosed in the bulletin.

English Pulpit Announcement for use in Wave 2 Parishes/Pastorates:

An Announcement Regarding Confirmation: Over the course of the next several years, all parishes in the Archdiocese of Baltimore will undergo a process of transition, shifting the typical time of Confirmation down to the age of 9 years (roughly 4th grade). This change will occur in several phases, beginning in fall 2025.

Our parish/pastorate is not scheduled to *begin* the phase-in process until fall 2026, and it could take several years to complete the change. We will be in communication about when and how this change will unfold in our community.

Archbishop Lori has made this decision in order to better engage families in our ministries with children and youth, as our young parishioners grow in faith.

[Insert enclosed talking points as desired]

For more information about the upcoming change in Confirmation age, please see the “Frequently Asked Questions” enclosed in the bulletin.

English Pulpit Announcement for use in Wave 3 Parishes/Pastorates:

An Announcement Regarding Confirmation: Over the course of the next several years, all parishes in the Archdiocese of Baltimore will undergo a process of transition, shifting the typical time of Confirmation down to the age of 9 years (roughly 4th grade). This change will occur in several phases, beginning in fall 2025. Our parish/pastorate is not scheduled to *begin* the phase-in process until fall 2027, and it could take several years to complete the change. We will be in communication about when and how this change will unfold in our community.

Archbishop Lori has made this decision in order to better engage families in our ministries with children and youth, as our young parishioners grow in faith.

[Insert enclosed talking points as desired]

For more information about the upcoming change in Confirmation age, please see the “Frequently Asked Questions” enclosed in the bulletin.

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS – SPANISH

Spanish Pulpit Announcement for use in Wave 1 Parishes/Pastorates:

Anuncio sobre el sacramento de la Confirmación: En los próximos años, todas las parroquias de la Arquidiócesis de Baltimore pasarán por un proceso de transición, en el que la edad típica de la Confirmación pasará a ser los 9 años (aproximadamente 4º grado escolar). Este cambio se producirá en varias fases, a partir del otoño de 2025.

Nuestra parroquia/pastorado es una de las programadas para comenzar el proceso de transición en el próximo año catequético 2025-2026, aunque podría tomar varios años completar el cambio. Estamos trabajando con la Arquidiócesis y con las otras parroquias que están más adelantadas en este proceso de cambio para desarrollar un plan de implementación que se adapte mejor a las necesidades de nuestra comunidad.

El Arzobispo Lori ha tomado esta decisión para involucrar mejor a las familias en nuestros ministerios con niños y jóvenes, a medida que nuestros jóvenes feligreses crecen en la fe.

[Insert enclosed talking points as desired]

Para obtener más información sobre el próximo cambio en la edad de Confirmación, consulte las "Preguntas frecuentes" adjuntas en el boletín.

Spanish Pulpit Announcement for use in Wave 2 Parishes/Pastorates:

Anuncio sobre el sacramento de la Confirmación: En los próximos años, todas las parroquias de la Arquidiócesis de Baltimore pasarán por un proceso de transición, en el que la edad típica de la Confirmación pasará a ser los 9 años (aproximadamente 4º grado escolar). Este cambio se producirá en varias fases, a partir del otoño de 2025.

Nuestra parroquia/pastorado no está programado para comenzar el proceso de introducción gradual hasta el otoño de 2026, y podría tomar varios años completar el cambio. Estaremos en comunicación sobre cuándo y cómo se desarrollará este cambio en nuestra comunidad.

El Arzobispo Lori ha tomado esta decisión para involucrar mejor a las familias en nuestros ministerios con niños y jóvenes, a medida que nuestros jóvenes feligreses crecen en la fe.

[Insert enclosed talking points as desired]

Para obtener más información sobre el próximo cambio en la edad de Confirmación, consulte las "Preguntas frecuentes" adjuntas en el boletín.

Spanish Pulpit Announcement for use in Wave 3 Parishes/Pastorates:

Un anuncio sobre la Confirmación: En los próximos años, todas las parroquias de la Arquidiócesis de Baltimore pasarán por un proceso de transición, cambiando el tiempo típico de la Confirmación a la edad de 9 años (aproximadamente 4º grado escolar). Este cambio se producirá en varias fases, a partir del otoño de 2025.

Nuestra parroquia/pastorado no está programado para comenzar el proceso de introducción gradual hasta el otoño de 2027, y podría tomar varios años completar el cambio. Estaremos en comunicación sobre cuándo y cómo se desarrollará este cambio en nuestra comunidad.

El Arzobispo Lori ha tomado esta decisión para involucrar mejor a las familias en nuestros ministerios con niños y jóvenes, a medida que nuestros jóvenes feligreses crecen en la fe.

[Insert enclosed talking points as desired]

Para obtener más información sobre el próximo cambio en la edad de Confirmación, consulte las "Preguntas frecuentes" adjuntas en el boletín.

Possible Talking Points for Pastors & Parish Leaders

- Archbishop Lori has announced that the standard time for the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation will change to age 9 (*around the 4th grade*).
- First, this change is a response to the declining rates of Church affiliation nationwide. Research on when and why people walk away from the Church occurs shows that it often happens quite early in a person's life, frequently before the age of 13.
- Second, this change also responds to the needs of our pre-teens. Today's 9-year-olds are wrestling with identity at much younger ages than we might imagine, in a world where they are exposed to an exponentially higher volume of content (much of it distressing) than ever before. They need the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit to help navigate the difficult stage ahead.
- Third, this change unleashes the untapped potential of our young disciples. The Sacrament of Confirmation is often misunderstood as a sacrament of maturity, tied to adulthood; in fact, it is a Sacrament of Initiation through which the Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses of Jesus Christ. Both the lives of the Saints and our experiences with children today show us that 9-year-olds are quite capable of becoming such witnesses, so it is entirely appropriate for Confirmation to be offered at this younger age. In fact, ask many of the elders in our community – they were likely Confirmed at a similar age!
- To the adults in our community who were never Confirmed: we warmly invite you to consider if you are being called you to receive fullness of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation now. We will work with you to ensure the process of preparing for Confirmation makes sense within your busy life. It is never too late in one's life to seek this Sacrament!
- Over the next several years, as we shift the standard age of Confirmation, we must also transform how we accompany entire families, especially those with children and teens in the household. We will be investing deeply in our family faith formation and youth ministry efforts, and will need your generosity of time, talent, and treasure. We must all pray and work together to help the faithful stay engaged with the Church and with Jesus Christ, who sends us out on joyful mission to share the Good News.