

2022 CONFIRMATION PARENT PACKET



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

FAITH FORMATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 301-739-0390

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Director of Faith Formation: Ms. Jordan Tippet
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Office Hours:

Tuesday- Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

Take Note . . .

The process of Confirmation preparation is meant to be supplemental to what you are already doing at home, while seeking to introduce candidates to their Catholic peers. As a family, this is a great time to deepen your relationship with God as your son or daughter prepares to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

“Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators.” ~Pope Paul VI

From the Rite of Confirmation . . .

Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. Through Christ our Lord.

Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, God desires to pour out His Holy Spirit upon us and show us the great love that He has for us.

What is Confirmation?

The theology of confirmation is articulated clearly in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1285-1321) and expressed in the actual Rite of Confirmation. The regulations for its celebration are presented in the Code of Canon Law. These resources offer us the best guidelines for understanding the four essential aspects of the theology of confirmation.

1. Confirmation is sacrament of Christian initiation. As such, its effects are necessary for our on-going conversion as Christians. Confirmation, along with the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, initiate us into the Christian life. It is true that the sacrament is only celebrated once, but its effects are palpable throughout the life of the believer who is disposed to responding to the graces it confers.
2. Confirmation completes baptismal graces (1285) but not initiation. A common misconception is that one needs confirmation to be fully initiated. In a sense, confirmation “completes” the set of three sacraments of initiation for someone who has already been baptized and received First Eucharist. Nevertheless, it is imperative to understand that Eucharist, not confirmation, completes initiation. The initiatory process is ordered to the Eucharist, the Sacrament that is the source and summit of the life and mission of the Christian and the Church. The completion of baptismal graces does not mean that the graces received in baptism are insufficient or partial; rather, the effects of confirmation complete the effects of the baptismal graces. In baptism, we are born again of water and the Spirit, receive the Spirit of adoption, are forgiven of original and actual sin, receive the call to discipleship and holiness, and are incorporated into the visible body of Christ; whereas in confirmation, we are strengthened to live the life of discipleship to which we are called in baptism.
3. Confirmation is a seal with the Gift of the Spirit. During the Rite of Confirmation, the bishop (or designated priest) anoints the forehead of the candidate, with the words, “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.” With the confirmation anointing, what is being confirmed, or **being sealed**, is our baptismal calling. While it is true that the candidate needs to be willing to enter into this sacramental relationship and thus confirm the creed received at baptism, it is important not to center the theological meaning of confirmation on the candidate’s profession of faith. Doing so would inadvertently distort the understanding of who is confirming whom in the sacrament. A similar misunderstanding would happen if we were to teach that the theology of the

Eucharist consists of our acceptance of all the teachings, expressed in our "Amen." Although our stating, "Amen," prior to receiving the Eucharist signifies that we believe all that the Church teaches, this is not the theology of the Eucharist.

The above notes are from Dr. Ximena DeBroeck's, *Confirmation: Initiation Not Completion. The Catechetical Review*.

4. CCC 1308 states, "Although Confirmation is sometimes called the "sacrament of Christian maturity," we must not confuse adult faith with the adult age of natural growth, nor forget that the baptismal grace is a grace of free, unmerited election and does not need "ratification" to become effective. St. Thomas reminds us of this:

Age of body does not determine age of soul. Even in childhood man can attain spiritual maturity: as the book of Wisdom says: "For old age is not honored for length of time or measured by number of years. "Many children, through the strength of the Holy Spirit they have received, have bravely fought for Christ even to the shedding of their blood. 126 St. Thomas Aquinas, STh III, 72, 8, ad 2; Cf. Wis 4:8.

The Effects of Confirmation (CCC 1303)

Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace by:

- Strengthening our identity as children of God
- Uniting us more firmly to Christ
- Increasing the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us
- Giving us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith as true witnesses of Christ

By Confirmation, Christians, that is, those who are anointed, share more completely in the mission of Jesus Christ and the fullness of the Holy Spirit with which he is filled, so that their lives may give off the "aroma of Christ." -CCC 1294

Requirements

These are not intended to be “hoops,” but they are mile-markers that indicate the progression of the Confirmation candidate. The candidates MUST:

- Have been Baptized (A Baptismal Certificate MUST be provided if your child was not Baptized at St. Mary's)
- Have a sincere desire to be confirmed.
- Attend Sunday Mass on a weekly basis.
- Have a basic understanding of the pillars of our faith.
- Attend class weekly and complete make-up work for any classes missed.
- Complete the candidate interview process with Fr. Cibelli
- Write a letter to Bishop Parker, who will be confirming you.
- Complete AT LEAST 4 DIRECT service hours
- Select a sponsor and complete the sponsor sessions (parents cannot be sponsors—please see sponsor guidelines).
- Select a saint name
- Attend A Retreat

But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.

-John 16:13

Confirmation Teacher Contact info.

Charlee McNeil: 301-660-0012 or charleemcneil52@gmail.com

MAKE UP! If you know that your child will miss a class, makeup work must be completed.

St. Mary's Confirmation Preparation 2022 Calendar: Sundays 10:15am-11:15am

JANUARY

- 9 Introduction
- 23 Confirmation Class
- 30 Confirmation Class

FEBRUARY

- 13 NO CLASS- Mount2000
- 20 Confirmation Class
- 27 Confirmation Saint Presentations

MARCH

- 13 Confirmation Class
- 27 Confirmation Class

APRIL

- 10 Confirmation Class/ Bishop Letters Due
- 24 Confirmation Class

INTERVIEW WEEK- Students need to schedule an appointment with Fr. Cibelli

*Instructions will be emailed and given in class

MAY

- 8 Confirmation Class

Choosing a Sponsor

And behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch... was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Acts 8:27-31

Sponsors act as spiritual role models and guides for the candidates while they prepare for Confirmation. They should also take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament (*Code of Canon Law 892*).

In order to be a sponsor a person must be (from *Code of Canon Law 874*-this means there are NO EXCEPTIONS):

- Baptized, received First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- If married, married according to the laws and teachings of the Catholic Church.
- If single, not cohabitating with someone without the benefit of Marriage.
- Regularly attend Holy Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.
- Receive the Sacrament of Penance at least once a year, as necessary.

When choosing a sponsor, your teen should begin with prayer, asking God for His guidance in making this important decision. A good starting place for your teen to start are:

- Baptismal godparents (this is a great way to demonstrate the connection between Baptism and Confirmation)
- A relative
- A family friend
- Your candidate's teacher
- An active parishioner she may admire.

No matter who your child chooses, it should be someone the he feels comfortable talking to about spiritual matters and a person he looks up to as a spiritual role model. **This person is not someone you choose FOR your child.**

Choosing a Saint

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. -Hebrews 12:1-2

Every candidate is asked to take the name of a recognized saint or blessed. This saint will serve as a model of holiness for the candidate to encourage them to “persevere in running the race” (Hebrews 12:1). Candidates do not have to take the name of a new saint if their first or middle name is that of a recognized saint, but they can if they want to. Saints can be chosen based on a particular devotion the candidate has and can be of the opposite sex. Candidates should make this decision with prayer and consider saints that they have a particular connection or devotion to. **DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA!**

Saint Presentation

You will present information about your Confirmation Saint in class. There are two parts to your presentation: a poster highlighting your Saint's life and a typed report about your saint. Below are the requirements for each component of your project.

Saint Poster

- What to Include:
 - Saint name
 - A picture of your saint (if available)
 - Birth and death dates, as well as Feast day
 - What is your saint the patron of? (ex. St. Sebastian: Athletes)
 - What do you admire the most about your saint?
- Your **name** on the back of the poster (this is really important)

Saint Report

- What to Include
 - Saint's name and where your saint is from
 - Birth and death dates, how he/she died (if available)
 - Patronage(s)
 - At least three facts about the life of the saint
 - What do you admire the most about your saint? Why did you choose him/her?
 - How will you try to be more like your saint and follow his/her example?
 - What makes your saint unique? Is there an interesting story about his/her life?
 - Why is he/she worthy of sainthood? How does his/her life reflect a deep relationship with God?
- Other Requirements
 - Your **name** should be at the top of your report
 - **TYPED, 12 PT. FONT, DOUBLE SPACED, AT LEAST 250 WORDS!**
 - At least 3 paragraphs, **DO NOT PLAIGERIZE!**

**ALL THE
IMPORTANT
THINGS THAT
NEED TO BE
TURNED IN...**

CANDIDATE & SPONSOR INFORMATION SHEET

PLEASE FILL IN ALL INFORMATION COMPLETELY (middle names, sponsor info etc.) If no middle name, please write N/A. If your child *was not* baptized at St. Mary's or did not make First Communion at St. Mary's, we have to receive a copy of the original Baptismal Certificate. It is the parent's responsibility to request a copy of the certificate from the church where the candidate was baptized.

(Please PRINT)

Student Name: _____
Last Full First Full Middle

Full Address: _____
Street _____
City State Zip

Phone Number: _____ Student's Birth date: _____

Email Address: _____

Were you baptized Catholic? _____ Date of Baptism (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Place of Baptism: _____
Church City State

Place of First Communion _____
Church City State

Have you made your 1st Confession? _____ Confirmation (Saint) Name: _____

Father's Full Name: _____
First Full Middle Last

Mother's Full Name: _____
First Full Middle Last Maiden

*Name of Sponsor: _____
First Full Middle Last

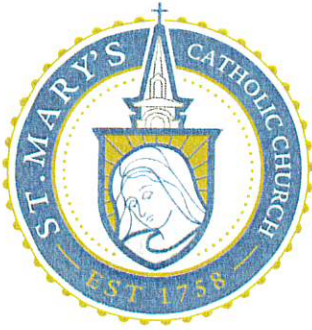
Full Address of Sponsor: _____
Street _____
City State Zip

Phone Number: _____

Sponsor's Parish: _____
Name City State Zip

***Please Note: Sponsors must meet the criteria outlined in Canon 874:**

Baptized, received First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the Catholic Church; If married, married according to the laws and teachings of the Catholic Church; If single, not cohabitating with someone without the benefit of Marriage; Regularly attend Holy Mass ever Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation; Receive the Sacrament of Penance at least once a year, as necessary.



Application to serve as Godparent/Sponsor

Please PRINT. Upon completion, return in person or by mail to the Parish Office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Person Sponsored: _____

I understand that The Code of Canon Law (CIC 874) defines the requirements for Godparents/Sponsors for the good of the person receiving the Sacrament. Therefore, I affirm before God the following:

Please initial each statement. These statements may not be amended in any way.

_____ I have been Baptized, and I have received First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.

_____ If married, I am validly married according to the laws and teachings of the Catholic Church.
or

_____ If I am single, I am not cohabiting with someone without the benefit of Marriage.

_____ I regularly attend Holy Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.

_____ I receive the Sacrament of Penance at least once a year, as necessary.

_____ I, to the best of my knowledge, have not incurred any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared by the Church.

I, the undersigned, understand and meet the above requirements and accept all the responsibilities entailed in the sacred privilege of being a Godparent/Sponsor:

Godparent/Sponsor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pastor's Signature: _____

Parish: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Date: _____

Parish Seal



St. Mary's Catholic Church
Confirmation Sponsor/Candidate ACTIVITIES
DUE: First Class in April

Activity #1: Sharing Faith Stories

Candidate Name: _____

Sponsor Name: _____

Date Completed: _____

Sponsors and candidates are asked to discuss the topics below in relation to each of your lives. We suggest you go out for coffee, lunch or dinner. You may also FaceTime or have a phone conversation. While the expectation is for you to discuss from your hearts, you do not need to record personal details in this report. A simple summary for each question is sufficient. Each question should be answered by both the Sponsor AND candidate.

1. Talk about significant religious celebrations in your lives such as First Communion, etc. Also discuss some other special memories connected with the Church. Was there a point of realization/conversion (an “aha!” moment) when you felt especially close to God?

2. What is uniquely Catholic about your life?

3. Share some significant life experiences. What part did your faith play in these experiences?

4. What are some challenges to your faith that you have experienced (past or present)? How have you already faced or do you plan to face these challenges?

Sponsor/Candidate Activity #2: Faith Activity

Choose **ONE** of the Sponsor/Candidate activities below and write a brief reflection. Once you have completed the activity, write a reflection about it below and turn it in.

CHOOSE ONE (1):

1. Attend Mass together. Discuss how the Gospel and homily will be part of your life. Together write a prayer thanking the Holy Spirit for guidance.
2. Together choose a social problem in our county. Decide what you both will do to take a proactive stand. For example, you could write to a legislator, help at a soup kitchen or visit a nursing home. Together write a reflection on how you both put your faith into action.
3. Walk the Stations of the Cross inside of St. Mary's Church during Lent together. There are several free, printable guides online if you do not have your own. You may choose to share your own reflections at each station in addition to reading the written reflection.
4. Write a prayer together and write it down in the reflection area below.
5. Develop your own faith sharing activity and explain it below.

***If your sponsor is out of town and unable to sign, a parent may sign.**

Candidate Name: _____

Sponsor Name: _____

Date Completed: _____

Activity: _____

Reflection on Sponsor/Candidate Activity:

Candidate Signature

Sponsor Signature



2022 St. Mary's Catholic Church Confirmation Service Reflection Form

Name: _____ **Service Project:** _____

Date: _____ **Supervisor Signature:** _____

*This MUST BE a DIRECT service project that is approved by Fr. Cibelli OR Jordan Tippet. Please note that service projects coordinated by St. Mary's are ALREADY approved. **Direct Service** is service that directly affects the persons we want to impact. This may include volunteering, making food and delivering it to the homeless, cleaning up a park, etc.

Reflection Information

On the bottom and back of this page, please answer the following questions in essay format. This essay needs to be AT LEAST two paragraphs.

1. What exactly did you do in your service project?
2. What did you learn about the people you served or about yourself while serving?
3. How did this experience strengthen your understanding of Christ's command and your commitment to serve others who are in need?
4. What Corporal OR Spiritual work of Mercy does your project illustrate and why?

Confirmation Service Reflection



**St. Mary's Catholic Church
Confirmation Letter to the Bishop
(Due the first class of April)**

The bishop has asked that all confirmation candidates (that's you) write him a letter about your preparation for Confirmation. **In Bishop Parker's letter to YOU, he tells you share your thoughts about the following:**

1. What do you think will be the most significant change in your life as a result of receiving the sacrament of Confirmation?
2. Remember that those who are confirmed are true witnesses of Christ and are therefore required to spread the faith by word and deed. What are some practical ways that you can spread the faith?
3. What type of service project did you do in preparation for Confirmation and in what way will you serve the Church in the future? Are you willing to think and pray about becoming a priest or a sister?

Therefore, answering the above questions are THE MOST important. Other things you may want to include are:

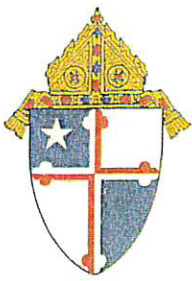
- Some important things that you have learned so far in your Confirmation preparation
- Your retreat experience.
- Your Confirmation name or Sponsor and why you chose them

Your completed letter should be given to Miss McNeil. This letter does not have to be long (keep it around a page), **but it must be TYPED in 12pt font.** Please take your time and put some obvious effort into it, including reviewing the letter for grammar and spelling errors. **The bishop will actually read your letter and every year Bishop Parker remembers MOST OF THEM—AND WHO WROTE THEM!** You will be asked to redo your letter if it does not meet these standards, so please put some effort into it.

Helpful Hints (these things are often messed up):

- You may start your letter with "Dear Bishop Parker," or "Your Excellency,"
- We are Catholic (not catholic)— Uppercase "C"
- We believe in God (not god)— Uppercase "G"
- When referring to God, **He, Him,** etc. should be capitalized
- You are being confirmed (not conformed)— seriously, so MANY people mix it up!

The actual Letter from Bishop Parker TO YOU is on the next page!!



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

VICAR GENERAL

Dear Confirmation Candidate,

Congratulations on your upcoming Confirmation! I am very much looking forward to meeting you and to conferring the sacrament of Confirmation upon you. Until then, I will remember you in prayer as you prepare to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in this most wonderful sacrament.

As you prepare for the sacrament, and so that I can know a little bit more about you, I am asking you to write me a short letter in which you share with me your thoughts about being confirmed. In particular,

- What do you think will be the most significant change in your life as a result of receiving the sacrament of Confirmation?
- Remember that those who are confirmed are true witnesses of Christ and are therefore required to spread the faith by word and deed. What are some practical ways that you can spread the faith?
- What type of service project did you do in preparation for Confirmation and in what way will you serve the Church in the future? Are you willing to think and pray about becoming a priest or a sister?

Your letter need not be long, but I do ask you to give it some thought. You may give your letter to your Confirmation teacher who will forward it to me along with those of the other candidates.

May this time of preparation for Confirmation be a source of great grace and peace for you, your family and your sponsor; and may God who has begun this good work in you bring it to fulfillment!

In the Lord,

Most Reverend Adam J. Parker
Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore