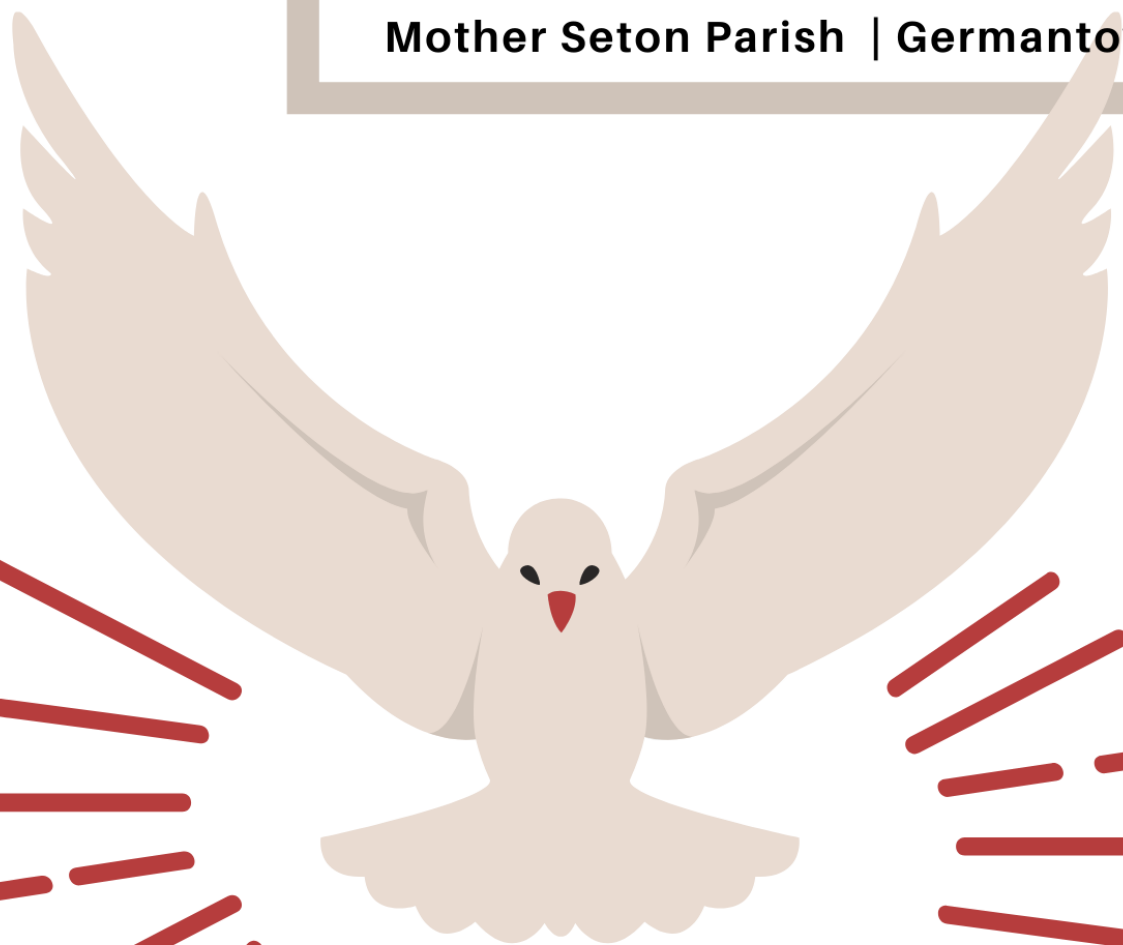


Mother Seton Parish | Germantown, MD



SEND DOWN
YOUR SPIRIT

confirmation

Year 1 Candidate Packet

7th Grade **2021-2022**

“

*How is it, then, that I seek you, Lord?
 Since in seeking you, my God, I seek a happy life,
 let me seek you so that my soul may live, for my body draws life
 from my soul and my soul draws life from you.*

St. Augustine

”

WELCOME CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES


In a special way God is calling you to draw closer to him through the sacrament of Confirmation. We know that each time we receive a sacrament God has a great gift for us—His grace. The grace that God gives enables us to respond to His call and to bear witness to Christ in the world. In the Gospels, the Spirit that descended on Jesus during Baptism descends on the Apostles at Pentecost commissioning them to go forth to proclaim the Word to the ends of the earth. We are already called to this mission by virtue of our Baptism, but at Confirmation we are more perfectly bound to the Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. We are forever marked with a spiritual “seal” as a sign of our total belonging to Christ.

We invite you to continue this journey of faith that began on the day of your Baptism. The three sacraments –Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation- together constitute the “sacraments of Christian initiation,” whereby the newly confirmed become better equipped to carry out the Church’s mission of love and service. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* emphasizes, “that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.” (CCC #1285)

Our Confirmation Program is designed to lead the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ, to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church, and to witness as members of the Body of Christ. Together with your parents, we will accompany you through this formation period recognizing that your spiritual journey is a lifelong apprenticeship of worship, prayer, study, stewardship, and virtuous decision-making.

YOU ARE ON AN ONGOING, SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



2021-2022 >>>>>>	2022-2023
<i>\$130 Sacramental Fee</i>	<i>\$130 Sacramental Fee</i>
7th grade Faith Formation (Purpose Program or Catholic School) Daily prayer life, continued spiritual journey Day retreat Service component Confirmation Sponsor chosen 	8th grade Faith Formation (Purpose Program or Catholic School) Flipbook of expectations Daily prayer life, continued spiritual journey Confirmation Saint chosen Service hour component Overnight weekend retreat Interview Confirmed in the Spring of 2023

THIS YEAR'S PREPARATION:

The sacrament of Confirmation is a gateway to a deep and lifelong personal relationship with our Savior. As with any relationship, closeness and intimacy must be cultivated. Preparation for Confirmation includes opportunities to commit to and open one's heart to that relationship through:

- **Daily prayer life**
- **Attending Mass**
- **NET Retreat**

In seeking to know God through the teachings of the Church it, we find this life giving love that the human heart so desires. Preparation for Confirmation includes many aspects of study to grow in faith and love of God, two main ways:

- **Faithful participation in Faith Formation nights** (or Religion class at school)
- **Exploring the Purpose books you receive and any personal questions about your faith**

Our journey in faith is meant to be explored and deepened in communion with others. This means we grow in faith through relationships with others who are examples of faith to us and are on the journey with us, including:

- **Discussing and sharing in faith with your family members**
- **Choosing and journeying with a Sponsor (an example of faith for you)**

Following the example of Christ we are called to love, to serve, and to build up the Church. Truly, when our hearts are turned towards Christ, we cannot help but be called to action. As you prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, you will be called to look outside yourself to find and act on ways you can live the Gospel message and participate in Christ's church.

- **The service component of this program is TBD and will be communicated soon**

A little more about...

Attending Mass

Students are expected to attend Mass every Sunday (or Saturday evening) and on Holy Days of Obligation (the first Precept—or minimum requirement—of the Church).

Why is it important to attend mass weekly?

Participating in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation of all baptized Catholics. In fact, intentionally keeping oneself away from the Mass may be a situation of grave sin. When we worship as a community, we build up the Body of Christ because we are 'being the Body of Christ'. The following excerpts from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) are offered to help the candidate deepen his/her understanding of why the Eucharistic celebration is the source and summit of the Christian life. **More about communion:** CCC 1384-1387. **More about the Sunday obligation:** CCC 2180-2182.

Parents, your teen needs you...

Attending mass together is a powerful way that parents demonstrate to their children the importance that they place on obedience to Christ's commands. If a parent wants their teen to know the beauty of the Eucharist and the significance of participation in a community of faith, that behavior must be modeled in a sincere way. Work hard as a family this year to make mass a priority. In the time leading up to Sunday, plan for how to work around scheduling difficulties. After mass, discuss the readings and/or homily together. Make mass an intentional moment of worship in your family's week. Your teen will notice.

Attending Class

Candidates are expected to regularly attend Faith Formation nights.
(Catholic school students fulfill this expectation through their school's religion class.)

What do I need to know?

Our Confirmation prep classes meet on Monday evenings. Students are expected to be prepared for the classes, **including arriving on time and staying for the entire session**. Attendance at the Confirmation classes is important in preparing the candidates for reception of the sacrament. When a class is missed, the candidate loses time for fellowship and prayer as well as the educational material covered that day. We expect that you will make these gatherings a priority and therefore make a sincere effort to adjust other obligations accordingly.

What to do if you miss a class:

1. If you know your student will miss class please contact our Faith Formation secretary ahead of time: Juliana at 301-444-3496 or by email at reled@mothersetonparish.org. If the date has passed that you missed class, please do the same so we can acknowledge the reason for the absence.
2. Makeups? If you miss a class, unfortunately there are no makeup dates. We can let you know what the topic covered was, and parents, please work with your teen to discuss that topic at home that week and research any questions you have together. Another good idea is to have your teen spend some extra time reading the books he/she has received through the program and working on his/her Flipbook that week.

Please keep in mind the **Attendance Policy for Religious Education for the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. is 85%**. In keeping with that policy, if a teen has 3 or more absences from faith formation parents will be called for a conference with the Director of Faith Formation and/or the Pastor to discuss future participation in the program. See Parent Handbook for more.

MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Apr 23

8:30am – 3:00pm
Parish Center

NET Retreat

What is the NET Retreat?

The National Evangelization Team (NET) is a team of young adult missionaries who travel the country putting on retreats for Catholic youth. The team will challenge our youth to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church through their inspirational presentation, small group discussions, music, prayer, and Mass. This retreat will be on-site at Mother Seton and the cost of the retreat is included in the sacramental fee you have paid.



**Our NET retreat will be
Saturday April 23, 2022
In the Parish Center and Church**

Choosing a Sponsor

IN SHORT

You will choose a qualified sponsor with whom you will meet regularly (especially in year leading up to your Confirmation) as part of your prep. Your sponsor will complete a form to verify they meet qualifications, due April 15.



Insofar as possible, there is to be a sponsor for the person to be confirmed; the sponsor is to 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



What does the sponsor do?

This person is a representative of the whole Church into which the candidate is being confirmed, serves as a witness for the Church, and companions the candidate on his/her faith journey. Your sponsor will bring you forward to receive the sacrament, present you to the Bishop for anointing, and will later help you to fulfill your baptismal promises faithfully through the Holy Spirit whom you have received.

Thus, it is recommended that the sponsor be able to meet regularly with you, spend time building a bond, help you prepare for the sacrament through prayer, study, service and discussion and be in physical attendance at rehearsal and the confirmation liturgy. Part of this preparation together will include Specific activities next year, and you will eventually end up needing to arrange some time to spend with your sponsor for these activities—a special time during a family event, a hike or walk, a phone conversation, a ball game, lunch, etc. You will receive more instructions about this during the 8th grade year of preparation.

What are the qualifications of a sponsor?

The confirmation sponsor must be a baptized, confirmed, practicing Roman Catholic and should be a person who can serve as a strong role-model of an active, Spirit-filled Catholic. Pastors are charged with the responsibility of seeing that the sponsors of our candidates are of adequate maturity and Catholic formation to take on this responsibility.

A sponsor must be:

- ➡ of sufficient maturity to fulfill this role (at least 16 years old)
- ➡ a practicing Roman Catholic who has been baptized, confirmed and received the sacrament of First Holy Communion. He/She should participate in the celebration of the Eucharist each week
- ➡ fulfilling their own baptismal promises by living the Christian life of faith and morals, guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church
- ➡ be in good standing with the church and not prohibited by [church] law from exercising the role of sponsor (ex. irregular marriage)
- ➡ not be a parent of the Confirmation candidate

The form your sponsor will fill out will ask him/her to review and sign off on meeting these qualifications. The form is included at the end of this packet and is available online.

Things to think about before you ask someone to be your sponsor:

TIP #1

Your sponsor should be someone who, through his/her example, shows you what it means to be Catholic.

TIP #2

Your sponsor should be someone that you trust and feel comfortable turning to for help, advice and guidance, especially in regard to your spiritual life.

TIP #3

Your sponsor is *your* choice. Think of someone that you respect and who actively lives out the beliefs of our Catholic faith—someone with a relationship with Christ that you would hope to learn from.

TIP #4

Your sponsor should be willing and able to take an *active role* in your preparation for Confirmation.

TIP #5

It is recommended (though not required) that the sponsor be a baptismal godparent of the confirmation candidate. This most fully expresses the integral connection between Baptism and Confirmation. Would your godparent be a fitting choice?

TIP #6

After you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation your relationship with your sponsor *does not end!* You both are called to lead each other closer to God, to continue to grow in knowledge of your faith, and to challenge one another to lead lives of holiness and service.

TIP #7

PRAY! Spend some time asking God for guidance on who to choose as your sponsor.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ➡ Can I have more than one sponsor? No, there is one sponsor for each person confirmed.
- ➡ What if my sponsor cannot make it to Confirmation? Attendance by proxy is allowed in certain situations, such as the sponsor living out-of-town and being unable to travel to the celebration. Requests for proxy should be directed to the parish Director of Religious Education.

Once you have chosen your Sponsor

Once you know who you would like to have as your Confirmation Sponsor, find a personal time to ask him or her. If he/she says yes, be sure to:

- ➡ Give them the **Sponsor Form** (found this packet or printed from our website)
- ➡ We will not have a Confirmation date and time to give to your sponsor until the summer of 2022.
- ➡ Talk about how you think your Confirmation Sponsor could support you in prayer and conversation in the time between now and your Confirmation. Let them know that you will have more directed activities to complete together next year, but that those are meant to just be a helpful tool and launching point.

You must have chosen your sponsor and turned in your form by April 11th, 2022.

Review of Important Dates



Important Dates:

Every Weekend	Attend Mass	Mother Seton Mass times are Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm & 7:00pm (Español), and on Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:45am, 12:30pm, & 5:00pm
Sept 27	Confirmation Orientation	6:15pm in the Main Church. For ALL <u>Candidates and Parents.</u>
Oct 18	Faith Formation Classes Begin	6:15-7:30pm every other week for 7 th grade non-Catholic school students. See full class schedule for specific dates.
April 11	Sponsor Forms Due	Should be completed by your sponsor and turned in or sent by mail to our Faith Formation Office by this day.
April 23	NET Retreat	8:30am – 3:00pm in the Parish Center and Church