

Mother Seton Parish | 19951 Father Hurley Blvd, Germantown, MD 20874

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION INFORMATION PACKET

YOU WILL
BE MY
WITNESSES



2021
-2022



*But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel,
“Do not fear for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are Mine!”
Isaiah 43:1*



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



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*“Christ has confidence in young people
and entrusts them with the very future of his mission,*

‘Go and make disciples.’

*Go beyond the confines of what is humanly possible
and create a world of brothers and sisters!
And young people have confidence in Christ:
they are not afraid to risk for him the only life they have,
because they know they will not be disappointed.”*

-Pope Francis
at World Youth Day in 2013



*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



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**
- ➔ **Attending Overnight 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 are:

- ➔ **Faithful participation in Faith Formation nights**
- ➔ **Completion of the weekly Confirmation Flipbook**

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:

- ➔ **Exploring your faith with your family members**
- ➔ **Choosing and journeying with a Sponsor (an example of faith for you)**
- ➔ **Choosing and journeying with a Saint (your "heavenly sponsor")**

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.

- ➔ **Corporal Works of Mercy challenges in your Flipbook**
- ➔ **5 hours of service *within Mother Seton Parish***

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.

Confirmation Flipbook

Candidates are expected to keep up with their flipbook activities throughout the year. **Flipbooks will be handed in by April 11th** and returned to candidates after they are marked completed.

HANG YOUR FLIPBOOK SOMEWHERE IN YOUR HOME where you will see it during the week. We recommend a magnet hook or command hook.

Each Sunday, flip to a new page of your flipbook. Each page has 4 squares that highlight areas you should focus on each week. It is important to keep pace with your booklet—it is not meant to be done as catchup work once a month or every so often. Your flipbook is designed to help you stay on your journey of seeking, formation, and growth.

In your FLIPBOOK:



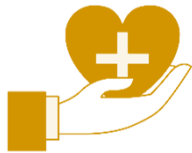
Scripture / Mass

Scripture, discussing the faith with your family, and verses for reflection.



Prayer Life

Prayer practices to focus on for the week.



Corporal Works of Mercy

Challenges to see and help the needy in your own daily life.



Staying on Track

Upcoming classes, expectations, and reminders.

Also to be completed:

Sponsor Form	Saint Page	Service Log	Letter to Bishop
To be sent in to us by candidate's sponsor.	Worksheet about your chosen saint IN the flipbook.	Tracking your parish service IN the flipbook.	Typed, printed and attached TO the flipbook.

In-Parish Service

Candidates are expected to serve within the Parish through our Parish ministries for at least 5 hours this year. Candidates will fill out a service log to track hours in their Flipbook, getting it signed along the way.

Why is In-Parish Service?

Following the example of Christ we are called to love, to serve, and to build up the Church. In preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, candidates learn to live the gospel message by reaching out to serve those in need through the Corporal Works of Mercy activities in their Flipbook, but also through their connection to the life of the Church in our own Parish community. All are called to develop their gifts and talents to put them at the service of the common good, and the commitment to follow this call is strengthened in our Confirmation. Our service, within the parish and outside of it, also provides opportunity for forming relationship with the people we serve and the people we serve alongside, which serves to form us all more deeply into one human family, one body in Christ. In Parish Service in particular, helps form our candidates to understand that an intentional disciple and active Catholic is connected to their parish community and giving of their time and talents in a ministry or manner that builds up Christ's church at their "ground-zero."

How do we find opportunities to serve?

Candidates and their families are responsible for seeking out, choosing, and signing up for service activities. We will be sending opportunities we know of **by email through Flocknote**, but you are not limited to these choices. We encourage candidates to try to find a project or population to serve that they think they may be interested in continuing to work with after their Confirmation.

Flocknote emails are sent by mail@flocknote.com, it is helpful to add this email address to your contacts list to ensure these emails are shown in your primary inbox.

FLOCKNOTE Keep an eye out of the Flocknote emails that will allow you to Signup for service opportunities in advance.

SIGN UP Sign up to serve for a particular project. Some opportunities have limited space for volunteers and sign ups are first-come, first-serve.

SERVE Show up and serve for the projects you have signed up for. Candidates are expected to complete at least 5 hours of in-parish service.

LOG IT Record the hours you have served in the Service Hours Log in your Flipbook. This will require the signature of the individual in charge of each project.

MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Oct 3rd

4:45pm
Main Church

Rite of Enrollment

What is the Rite of Enrollment?

The Rite of Enrollment is a ceremony in which the Candidates make their official commitment to enter into preparations for the sacrament of Confirmation. This usually takes place at a Sunday Mass in the presence of the parish community who, as well, pledge their support of prayer, encouragement, and Christian example.



**Rite of Enrollment Mass will be on
Sunday, October 3rd, 2021, 5:00 pm Mass**

Candidates should plan to dress appropriately, arrive by 4:45pm, and sit together in the designated section.

March 18-20

Friday to Sunday
Sandy Hill Camp

PLUS:

***Feb 17 parent meeting
at 7pm in Church.***


Overnight Retreat

What is overnight Confirmation Retreat?

Our candidates will participate in a weekend long retreat. You will receive further information about the weekend retreat at a parent meeting in February. It is an expectation of our program that ALL students attend either our overnight retreat or (in case of irreparable scheduling conflict and with prior approval) another parish's overnight retreat. This means it is very important for you to mark off this weekend on your calendar NOW. If you already know there may be some obstacle to your student attending our overnight retreat, the time to plan for alternatives is *now* since the number of overnight retreats offered by local parishes is limited. (We are open to parent volunteers for our retreat team, meaning pending approval parents may become VIRTUS-certified to attend the retreat with their student if that makes them or their student more comfortable with the event.)



**Our overnight weekend retreat will be
Friday March 18 – Sunday March 20, 2022
At Sandy Hill Camp (transportation provided)**

*We will hold a mandatory parent meeting to go over details about this trip on  **Feb 17 at 7pm in the Church.***

April 2

Beginning at 10am
Parish Center

Confirmation Interview

What is a Confirmation Interview?

Before the Confirmation Mass, we take the opportunity to ensure that each candidate is sufficiently prepared and has had his/her questions addressed. Through our “interview” process, the candidate and his/her parent will meet with a member of our pastoral staff to discuss the candidate’s readiness for the sacrament of Confirmation and to review the candidate’s Confirmation Booklet.

Candidates and their parents are asked to report to the Parish Center. Members of the pastoral staff will be stationed in the main area of the parish center and will conduct the interviews in order of your arrival. Below are a few of the questions you will be asked.



**Confirmation Interviews will be
Saturday April 2, 2022, between 10am and 1pm
In the Parish Center**

Please remember that at least one parent must stay with each candidate for the entirety of the interview.

Confirmation Interview “Cheat Sheet”

Here’s a sneak peek at some of the topics your interviewer may ask you to speak about at your Confirmation Interview:

- Your relationship with Jesus
- The 7 Sacraments, the sacraments of initiation
- The Eucharist and your participation in the mass
- Your understanding and feelings about Confirmation
- Relationship between Pentecost and Confirmation
- Your Confirmation Saint
- The future of your faith life
- Your Sponsor
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

May 9

7:00pm
Parish Center

First Rehearsal

What is a Confirmation Rehearsal?

We will need to review with our candidates the ins and outs of the Confirmation liturgy. It is important to familiarize our candidates with their role in the mass and the conferring of the sacrament. When to do what, what to say, etc. We will also go over logistical details like when to meet, what to wear, and more important information. The first rehearsal is just for the candidates. The second rehearsal will necessitate the attendance of a sponsor or an adult to stand in place of that sponsor if the sponsor is unavailable.

Candidates are asked to report to the Parish Center for rehearsal.



**Our FIRST Confirmation Rehearsal will be
May 9th, 7pm
In the Parish Center**

May 11

7:00pm
Parish Center

With Sponsors!

Second Rehearsal

Why a second rehearsal?

We will not be able to adequately cover and rehearse all the necessary parts of the liturgy in one rehearsal. Additionally, the first rehearsal is just for the candidates. **The second rehearsal necessitates the attendance of a sponsor or an adult to stand in place of that sponsor if the sponsor is unavailable.**

Candidates and their sponsor are asked to report to the Parish Center for rehearsal.



**Our SECOND Confirmation Rehearsal will be
May 11th, 7pm
In the Parish Center
*SPONSORS SHOULD BE IN ATTENDANCE.***

May 14

10:30am

(arrive 9:45 in the
Parish Center)

Confirmation Mass

Frequently Asked Questions:

What takes place at the Confirmation Mass? The Confirmation Mass contains all the elements of a regular Mass, with added elements for presenting the candidates, renewing baptismal promises, and conferring the sacrament of Confirmation. After the homily but before the Eucharistic Prayer, candidates will process forward to one-by-one be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit by the visiting Bishop.

When should the candidate arrive and where? Candidates should arrive NO LATER THAN 9:45am in the Parish Center on the morning of the Confirmation. The Mass itself begins at 10:30am.

What should the candidate wear? All candidates will receive a red zip-up robe to wear over their clothing at one of the rehearsals. Underneath the red robe, candidates should wear their Sunday best. No sneakers, jeans, flip-flops, or other casual wear that will show from under your robe. Ladies, please be sure that if you choose to wear heels you choose a reasonable pair in which you can walk well and comfortably.

Will the candidates sit with their families? The candidates will sit all together in assigned seating in the front of the church. The rest of the church will be open seating for families. We recommend arriving early to secure a seat and being sure to make room for those who are standing if possible.

How long is the Confirmation Mass? The liturgy usually lasts close to 2 hours, sometimes a little less, and is followed by group pictures before candidates return to their families.

Will we be able to take pictures? A professional photographer will be taking your candidate's picture while he/she receives the sacrament. Parents are asked to refrain from leaving their pew to take photos at anytime during the liturgy. No flash photography. After the professional group photo is taken, the students will remain standing in their group for any parents who wish to come forward and take a group picture using their own devices.

Is there a reception? There is no reception after the Confirmation. We hope you can take time as a family to celebrate after Mass.

What if my sponsor cannot attend? If for some reason your sponsor cannot attend the Confirmation Mass, please contact our office as soon as possible and we will discuss your options.

Please add me to your calendar



INITIAL PAPERWORK	
DUE OCTOBER 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Registration Form / Pledge of Commitment (beige page)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Baptismal Certificate (unless baptized at Mother Seton)
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>SPONSOR FORM</i> if not already handed in at the end of last year
CONFIRMATION FLIPBOOK (including...)	
DUE APRIL 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed Flipbook Weekly Pages
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor Checkpoints
	<input type="checkbox"/> Saint Page
	<input type="checkbox"/> Service Log
	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter to the Bishop (attached with paperclip or binder clip)

Important Dates:

Sept 27	Confirmation Orientation	5:00pm in the Main Church. <u>For All Candidates and Parents</u>
Oct 3	Rite of Enrollment Mass	5pm mass, candidates must arrive by 4:45pm and sit in the designated section.
Oct 18	Faith Formation Classes Begin	5-6:45pm every other week for 8 th grade. See full class schedule for specific dates.
Oct 18	Initial Paperwork Due	Beige page, Baptismal Certificate, and Sponsor form all due.
Feb 17	Conf Parent Meeting	7pm for all 8 th grade Confirmation parents to discuss the spring Confirmation Retreat.
Mar 18-20	Overnight Weekend Retreat	Off-site Confirmation Retreat trip at Sandy Hill Camp. More details to come.
Apr 11	Confirmation Flipbooks Due	Bring completed flipbook (and attached Letter to Bishop) to class on or before this date.
Apr 2	Confirmation Interviews	6pm. First come first serve in the parish center, more details to come.
May 9	Confirmation Rehearsal 1	7pm, Candidates only
May 11	Confirmation Rehearsal 2	7pm, Candidates and <u>Sponsors</u>
May 14	Confirmation Mass	10:30am, candidates must arrive by 9:45am in the Parish Center.

DATES TO SERVE IN THE PARISH:

Service opportunities within the parish through various parish ministries are available throughout the year. Since new opportunities may arise as time goes on, the dates are not listed here on our calendar but instead are communicated through Flocknote.

DO NOT WAIT until the end of the year, there will NOT be enough opportunities in February and March to fulfill your candidate's hours. Be sure to keep an eye out for Signups sent by email through Flocknote (mail@flocknote.com.)