

2019-2020 Confirmation Program Year 1

(starting as early as 9th grade, Year 1 of 2)

Welcome to our Confirmation preparation program! In the sacrament of Confirmation, by the grace of God, we are strengthened in our faith by being sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit as each confirmand is anointed with sacred Chrism by the bishop. The Confirmation preparation program provides opportunities for personal encounters with Christ through prayer, fellowship, service, and catechesis. Upon receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, candidates are fully initiated into the Church.

Our program is laid out over two school calendar years so that beginning as early as the 9th grade (Year 1), ending with Confirmation as early as 10th grade (Year 2, after completing Year 1).

In order that families and students are given greater flexibility, we offer the options of either a fall or spring session each year. The two years will be mainly comprised of:

- Each year: six small group sessions based on the “Chosen” series from Ascension Press
- Each year: six video segments to be completed at home with parent and youth working together
- Year 1 only: a service day at Our Daily Bread (see permission form to choose a date)
- Year 2 only: an overnight retreat at the end of the 6 small group sessions
- Anytime: two service projects completed with the candidate’s family (total 8-10 service hours)

By fostering a closer relationship with Jesus throughout the coming years, we believe that your teen will be able to discern how he/she is vital to our parish and how to embrace his/her baptismal call to discipleship. Once your teen is fully initiated into the Catholic Church, it is our hope that he/she will continue to grow in prayer, community, and service in the life of the Church.

This sacrament has often been viewed as a rite of passage into a more adult role in the Church, but it is actually a strengthening of the relationship between the candidate and God. Your teen is still your child after receiving the Sacrament, and we expect you will continue to foster your teen's growing faith beyond the day of Confirmation, for example, by continuing to encourage your teen to attend weekly Mass just as you have been until now. The graces received in Confirmation take a lifetime for each one of us to grow into, and all of us need support in holiness! We also hope you will encourage your teen to bring an open heart and mind to the Confirmation sessions and other events.

What’s next? Since young people are busy and need to schedule in advance the commitment you are making to Confirmation preparation, we are including all of the session dates for your convenience. Prior to entering the process in the second year of preparation for Confirmation, the candidate should have:

- Attended Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
- Completed Year 1 sessions
- Chosen a sponsor for Confirmation who is a suitable candidate (see below)
- Chosen a Confirmation saint name (see below)
- Served at Our Daily Bread once (see permission form below, signups for a date will be online)
- Attended the Confirmation Orientation meeting (parent, youth and sponsor if able)
- Turned in a copy of his/her baptismal certificate to our office, unless baptized here

For any Confirmation program it is critical that we have adult volunteer support to make this a great experience for our young people. Consider joining our Confirmation Team to run small groups and/or to chaperone the retreat. We also need drivers to take teens to Our Daily Bread. Please indicate your willingness to serve by noting that on the registration form. Thank you in advance for your support.

Outline of Year 1 Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Registration, Our Daily Bread permission form, and \$60 payment due: Thurs, Sept 12, 2019

If not baptized here at St. Michael's, please turn in a copy of your baptismal certificate with your registration.

Confirmation Orientation Meeting: Year 1 meeting is Tues, Sept 17, 2019, 7-8:15 PM Fellowship Hall

Our Daily Bread service date will be a 3rd Sunday of the month, 7:45am until ~1:15pm, TBD. You'll sign up online after we receive your permission form (in this packet). The form is due Thurs, Sept 12, so we can schedule you.

Other service projects with your family (8-10 hours total) are due before Confirmation. Plan and work ahead!

Six small group sessions in either the fall or spring, on either Sundays or Tuesdays (see below).

Year 1 Confirmation Sponsor Certificate and Confirmation Name are due: Monday, May 4, 2020.

Don't forget to sign up for Year 2 before next September, and read the corresponding handbook!

Confirmation Sessions:

Please review the dates in the schedule below. We are offering two different meeting days and times. You only need to sign up for Fall Season OR Spring Season, and you choose either Sunday OR Tuesday within that season. Please commit to the season and day you register to attend. Thank you.

The video numbers below refer to Lessons in the "Chosen" series from Ascension Press. Videos 1-12 are Year 1, and Videos 13-24 are Year 2. Please be sure to cover the videos at home between classes on schedule, as the lessons build on one another. Consequently, missing out on half of the videos means missing out on more than half of the material.

Confirmation Sessions 2019-2020

	Video in Class	SUNDAY	TUESDAY	Video at Home
<u>FALL SEASON</u>	Year 1	9-10:15 AM	7-8:15 PM	Year 1
Session 1	Lesson 1	September 29	October 1	Lesson 2
Session 2	Lesson 3	October 6	October 8	Lesson 4
Session 3	Lesson 5	October 13	October 15	Lesson 6
Session 4	Lesson 7	October 20	October 22	Lesson 8
Session 5	Lesson 9	October 27	October 29	Lesson 10
Session 6	Lesson 11	November 3 <i>Daylight Savings Time!</i>	November 5	Lesson 12
<u>SPRING SEASON</u>	Video in class Year 1 or 2	Sunday 9-10:15 AM	Tuesday 7-8:15 PM	Video at Home Year 1 or 2
Session 1	Lesson 1	January 5	January 7	Lesson 2
Session 2	Lesson 3	January 12	January 14	Lesson 4
Session 3	Lesson 5	January 19 <i>even though it's MLK Holiday</i>	January 21	Lesson 6
Session 4	Lesson 7	January 26	January 28	Lesson 8
Session 5	Lesson 9	February 2	February 4	Lesson 10
Session 6	Lesson 11	February 9	February 11	Lesson 12

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Sponsor Guidelines

A sponsor must be:

- a practicing and Confirmed Catholic
- sufficiently mature in their own faith
- at least 16 years of age
- prayerful, open, and loving. It oftentimes is even more beneficial if the sponsor lives nearby and can meet with the candidate.
- **He or she cannot be the candidate's mother or father.** A baptismal godparent is the preferred choice, given the link between Baptism and Confirmation, or the candidate may choose another adult who has had an impact on the faith of the young person.

Why do Confirmation candidates need sponsors?

A sponsor's role is to support the candidate in his/her commitment to a Christian life. The sponsor must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence. The sponsor represents the support and prayers of the entire Church. He or she will be the candidate's "spiritual friend", and the obligation to support the Confirmation candidate extends well beyond Confirmation. If a candidate needs assistance with finding a sponsor, contact the Director of Faith Formation at St. Michael.

What does a sponsor need to do?

- * Provide a certificate from the pastor of the your (the sponsor's) parish concerning the requirements for being a sponsor (see the enclosed blank certificate).
- * Accompany the young person to the **Confirmation Orientation** and the **Rite of Enrollment Mass** (in September of Year 2 in Confirmation prep) **followed by a self-directed meeting**, perhaps over a meal, between the candidate and sponsor to discuss matters of faith and the spiritual life.
- * **Attend the Confirmation Mass and dress rehearsal.** If the sponsor can't be there, they should make arrangements for a proxy who must meet the same requirements as a sponsor.
- * Spend time with the candidate getting to know them better. Take him/her to dinner or lunch. Join him/her in school and parish activities. Meet the candidate where he/she is.
- * Share your faith story with the candidate, encourage them to think about and share their story, too. Be the person who notices the candidate's gifts, values the person, and affirms them.
- * Pray for and with the candidate throughout the Confirmation process.
- * Commit to doing some community or parish service together with the candidate.
- * Take a day trip to Emmitsburg's Grotto of Lourdes, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the Basilica of the Annunciation, Franciscan Monastery, or elsewhere.
- * Gain access to the Ascension Press videos through your candidate. Discuss the video reflections. The more you discuss growth in your faith life now, the more likely the candidate is to seek out your help when they need it post-Confirmation. (Sponsors will also receive a "sponsor guide" from Ascension Press in Year 2, to help open these discussions.)
- * Continue to be there for the candidate and lend spiritual support in life after the Confirmation ceremony is over. **The obligation to support this candidate lasts a lifetime.**

Please return to:

Saint Michael Church

1125 St Michael's Road

Mount Airy, MD 21771

410-489-7667

SACRAMENTAL SPONSOR CERTIFICATE

I, _____, a registered member of

_____ church in _____, _____
city state

have been asked to stand as a sponsor for _____
candidate

for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

As a practicing Catholic, I appreciate that this request is an important opportunity for me to witness to my faith and to give a good example of Catholic life. I have conscientiously considered what I have been asked to do. I promise, with God's help, to be the best sponsor I can be. Therefore, I now affirm the following:

- that I have completed my sixteenth year of age and am of sufficient maturity to fulfill the function of sponsor;
- that I have completed my own Christian initiation through reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist;
- that, if married, I am married according to the laws and teachings of the Catholic Church; and free from any impediment of church law to my fulfilling the office of sponsor;
- and I lead a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.

I am prepared to assist _____ in living a Christian life
candidate

by my own example, prayers, concern, and encouragement.

Signature of Sponsor

Date

I hereby certify that this person is a registered member of _____ parish,

in _____, _____, and, to the best of my knowledge, is
city state

capable of assuming the duties of sponsorship for this Sacrament and is sincere in the promises which are stated above.

Signature of Priest

CHURCH SEAL

St. Michael Year 1 Confirmation Preparation Registration 2019-20

(To be completed only for youth entering Year 1 Confirmation Preparation)

Youth's Full Name: _____

(as it appears on his/her Baptismal Certificate)

Birthdate: _____ Year of High School Graduation: _____

Home Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

County: _____ Home Phone: _____ School _____

Youth's current e-mail _____ Parent's email: _____

Church of Baptism: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

(Canon law requires notification of Confirmation in writing to the church of baptism. It is critical that we receive this information in full **so that your child's sacrament can be recorded**. Thank you in advance.)

Date of Baptism: _____ Reconciliation (yes/no): _____ First Communion (yes/no): _____

Mother's Full Name: _____ Mother's **Maiden** Name: _____

Mother's cell# _____

Fathers Full Name _____ Father's cell # _____

Please choose a session DAY and a SEASON, and please mark the dates on your calendar. If you miss more than 2 out of 6 sessions in a year, you will have to repeat that 6 week series another season.

SESSION DAY CHOICE: SUN 9AM____, OR TUES 7PM_____.

SEASON CHOICE: FALL____, OR SPRING_____.

There is a **\$60 fee** for Year 1 Confirmation preparation.

To purchase a Catholic Youth Bible, check here _____ and add \$28 to your total.

Checks for \$60 (\$88 with a Catholic Youth Bible) should be made payable to St. Michael Catholic Church, and be included at time of Registration.

Due date for registration: September 12, 2019

The due date applies to both fall and spring sessions for many reasons.

Thank you for helping us to serve you efficiently!

If you have any questions contact the Religious Education Administrative Assistant at 240-437-3670 or samatucci@stmichaelpoplarsprings.org

I AM WILLING TO BE A SMALL GROUP FACILITATOR Sun AM____ or Tues PM _____

Name: _____ Cleared to volunteer with children in the AOB (Virtus)? yes____ not yet_____

Year 1 Confirmation - Our Daily Bread St. Michael Permission and Release Form

Youth Name:	
Parents' Names:	***There will be online signups for ODB dates, so that everyone can see and confirm the date they're on.
Address:	Mom's Cell #: _____ Dad's cell #: _____ Please circle the cell number to which you want text communications
City/State/Zip:	Email address(es) for ODB communications: _____
Youth's Date of Birth:	Youth's Gender: (circle one) male female

In consideration of the wholesome recreational and learning experience in which my son/daughter will participate, I as parent or guardian of my son/daughter, do hereby agree to allow my son/daughter to accompany the youth ministry group of St. Michael Parish to:

Our Daily Bread 725 Fallsway, Baltimore MD

I/we acknowledge receipt of the attached information sheet describing the planned activities Initials.

In consideration of the opportunity for my son/daughter to participate in the Program, I agree to RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY St. Michael Catholic Church, the Division of youth and Young Adult Ministry, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Baltimore and his successors, a Corporate Sole, and all their agents, servants, and employees from any liability, claims, demands, and causes of action arising out of or relating to any loss, damage or injury sustained in connection with or arising out of my son/daughter's participation in the Program, unless caused by or due to the negligence of either the Corporation their agents, servants or employees.

I hereby grant permission to any staff person to obtain medical care from a licensed physician, hospital, or medical clinic for my son/daughter in the event that I cannot be reached.

(Check one of the following)

I am covered by hospitalization and medical insurance under policy # _____

Issued by _____

I do not have medical coverage and assume responsibility for the cost of hospitalization and medical care for my son/daughter.

I hereby grant permission to any staff person to provide the following over-the-counter drugs (generic form) to my son/daughter if requested by my son/daughter. (Check all that apply)

Tylenol Benadryl Advil Sudafed Midol Kaopectate Neosporin

Add any other medical information concerning medication, allergies, illness, and etc. _____

Add any dietary restrictions: _____

Parents/guardians of participants are advised that photographs or videotape of participants may be used in publications, websites or other materials produced from time to time by St. Michael Catholic Church, the Division of Youth and Young Adult Ministry or the Archdiocese of Baltimore. (Participants would not be identified, however, without specific written consent.) Parents/guardians who do not wish their child(ren) to be photographed or filmed should so notify the Division in writing. Please note that the Division has no control over the use of photographs or film taken by the media that may be covering the event in which your child(ren) participate(s).

_____ Date

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature

I am available to drive participants and attend the lunch serving: Name _____

I understand I must be cleared in Virtus for Child Protection within the AOB _____ (initial)

How to Choose a Confirmation Name

Your Confirmation name is how you will be introduced to the bishop. It is also a part of your permanent sacramental record. This name ties you to a particular saint or holy person in heaven, who will be praying for you throughout your earthly life. You want this person in heaven to be praying for you, because being a Christian is hard. But where do you begin to make such an important decision?

You will choose a name in Confirmation Year 1, so that you have the second year of preparation to develop a relationship and devotion to this holy person. You have all of Year 1 to pray and discern with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Here are some suggestions to guide your discernment:

- Baptism and Confirmation are linked, so many Confirmation candidates choose their baptismal name. The Archdiocese of Baltimore encourages this practice.
- Get to know some more saints and find the one who inspires the adult "you". Here's a helpful page to get you started: <https://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>.
- Google the patron saint of _____, because you love _____, and I guarantee there's a patron saint for that!
- Ask your family, sponsor, and other earthly supports in the faith which saints are close to them and why. See if one of those saint stories inspires you, too.
- The most important part of the whole Confirmation preparation is PRAYER. Pray for guidance toward a particular name, and trust that God will lead you. I believe He will!

Special note: You can choose a saint of the opposite sex. For example, Jane Doe can choose St. John the Beloved as her Confirmation name, and John Doe can choose St. Jane de Chantal. This happens every year, and it is no problem.

... Still having trouble?

Feel free to contact the Director of Faith Formation (Juliana), and we'll find one together!

Submit your Confirmation Name to Sally Amatucci by email or by dropping off this tear-off slip by May 4, 2020.

cut here _____

Confirmation candidate's name: _____ (first and last name)

Confirmation (saint) name chosen: _____ (saint name)

Date submitted: / /