

2019-20 Confirmation Program Year 2

(during 10th grade or later, Year 2 of 2)

Welcome to Year 2 of 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 Gift 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)

This sacrament has often been viewed as a rite of passage into a more adult role in the Church, but actually it strengthens 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 child’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. Your teen is vital to our parish. We look forward to helping your teen 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.

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
- Chosen a Confirmation saint name
- Served at Our Daily Bread once
- Attended the Confirmation Orientation meeting
- Turned in a copy of his/her baptismal certificate to our office, unless baptized here

Important Dates: Year 2 Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Preparation Year 2 Registration Form, \$210 payment, and Retreat Permission Form Due Date:

Thursday, September 12, 2019

This deadline applies to fall and spring season registrations for many reasons. You will miss important communications and fall behind, if you neglect to register by September 12.

If you didn't submit them in Year 1, please also submit a copy of your baptismal certificate and your sponsor form now. Confirmation/saint names are also overdue and should be turned in as soon as possible. These are parts of your permanent sacramental record.

Year 2 Confirmation Preparation Orientation Meeting:

Thursday, September 12, 2019, 7:00-8:15 PM Fellowship Hall

If possible, the sponsor should attend this meeting, so that he/she can support the candidate through this second year of preparation, opening the kinds of discussions that will support the candidate after Confirmation. This relationship takes time and commitment to develop.

Confirmation Rite of Enrollment Mass Required for Candidate (Year 2) and Sponsor (or a proxy)

Saturday, September 21, at 5:00 P.M. OR Sunday September 22, at 12:00 P.M.

Mass should be followed by a self-directed sponsor-and-candidate meal and discussion about growth in faith and preparing for Confirmation.

Letter to the Bishop: Due Feb 25 – just two days after the spring retreat, so please plan ahead! Bishop Parker will write a letter requesting a response from each candidate and containing the specifics of what he would like to know from each candidate. Your teen's letter will be turned in to our office, and we will mail the group of letters together. The bishop often quotes these letters during Confirmation Mass and remembers specific candidates' names. He has asked about missing letters, too. The deadline is a hard deadline, because he needs to have them a month before Confirmation.

Day of Reflection: Sunday, March 8, 2020 from Noon until 4:00pm, starting with 12pm Mass. Pizza provided. Candidates only are required to attend. Lunch begins right after the noon Mass.

Confirmation Interviews: These interviews will take place from March 2 - 12, 2020. The interviews will be conducted by pastoral staff and adults on the Confirmation Team. This is required by the diocese. It is a conversation, not a pass/fail test. It is a privilege for us to hear what God is doing in your lives. You are inspiring! We want to hear your faith story, help you pull together your two prayerful years of preparation for this sacrament, and guide you in the next steps of faith after Confirmation. There is nothing to worry about in the interview!

Confirmation Mass and Dress Rehearsal: Confirmation Masses will be at Noon and 3PM on Sunday, March 22. It will fulfill your Sunday Mass obligation, because we will be celebrating the Sunday Mass. Rehearsals will be the night before, which is Saturday, March 21. Rehearsal is 6PM for the Noon Mass; or at 7:30PM for the 3PM Mass. Candidates and Sponsors both must attend the rehearsal, or an adult proxy must convey the information in total to the sponsor.

Signups for Mass times and liturgical roles at Mass will be emailed to you closer to the date.

Mystagogy: This is the time after Confirmation in which the recently Confirmed reflect on what they have received and put it into action through prayer, service, and deeper fellowship with the Church community. This allows the newly Confirmed to understand through experience what they have received.

Teens might consider volunteering in a particular ministry (and getting to know the other volunteers), **participating in youth group**, or passing on the faith through peer ministry, just as a few examples. Please contact our office if you need help "plugging in" and fully participating in parish life. Welcome, fully initiated members of the community!

Confirmation Sessions

As you did last year, you only need to sign up for Fall Season OR Spring Season, and you select either Sunday OR Tuesday sessions. Please make the commitment to that specific session day and to the retreat that wraps up that particular season. If you inform us with less than 30 days' notice that you cannot attend the retreat you selected on your registration form, there will be additional charges of one or two nights' stay at the retreat center due to their policies.

The video numbers below refer to Lessons in the "Chosen" series. Videos 1-12 were for 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.

Confirmation sessions and retreat: 2019-2020

	Video in Class Year 2	SUNDAY 9-10:15 AM	TUESDAY 7-8:15 PM	Video at home Year 2
<u>FALL SEASON</u>				
Session 1	Lesson 13	September 29	October 1	Lesson 14
Session 2	Lesson 15	October 6	October 8	Lesson 16
Session 3	Lesson 17	October 13	October 15	Lesson 18
Session 4	Lesson 19	October 20	October 22	Lesson 20
Session 5	Lesson 21	October 27	October 29	Lesson 22
Session 6	Lesson 23	November 3 <i>Daylight Savings Time!</i>	November 5	Lesson 24
Confirmation Year 2 Fall Retreat	FALL RETREAT	November 8 - 10	November 8 - 10	FALL RETREAT
<u>SPRING SEASON</u>				
	Video in class Year 2	SUNDAY 9-10:15 AM	TUESDAY 7-8:15 PM	Video at home Year 2
Session 1	Lesson 13	January 5	January 8	Lesson 14
Session 2	Lesson 15	January 12	January 15	Lesson 16
Session 3	Lesson 17	January 19 <i>even though it's MLK Holiday</i>	January 22	Lesson 18
Session 4	Lesson 19	January 26	January 29	Lesson 20
Session 5	Lesson 21	February 2	February 5	Lesson 22
Session 6	Lesson 23	February 9	February 12	Lesson 24
Confirmation Year 2 Spring Retreat	Spring Retreat	Feb 21-23	Feb 21-23	SPRING RETREAT

**For any Confirmation program it is critical that we have parent volunteer support to make this a great experience for our young people. Please consider being a small group leader which includes Confirmation Retreat Team member. Please indicate your willingness to serve by noting that on the registration form.
Thank you in advance for your support.**

The sponsor will receive a Sponsor Guide to these videos. Please facilitate communication between the sponsor and candidate, to that they share faith and have fruitful discussions. Give the sponsor access through your account, so they can view the videos and then discuss them with your teen.

The videos build on one another, so it is essential that your candidate view the assigned video between classes. Missing half of the videos would mean missing out on more than half of the course content / understanding.

Thank you for dedicating time to complete this each year.

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 to the "Chosen" videos to help open these discussions in Year 2.)
- * 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.**

How to Choose a Confirmation Name

Your Confirmation name is how you will be introduced to the bishop to be Confirmed. 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?

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!

You should have chosen a name in Confirmation Year 1, so that you would have the second year of preparation to develop a relationship and devotion to this holy person. If you did not submit this during Year 1, please make an effort to submit the name urgently.

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!

cut here _____

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

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

Date submitted to Sally Amatucci: / /

St. Michael Youth Ministry
Confirmation Year 2 Registration 2019-20

(To be completed only by teens who have completed Year 1 Confirmation Preparation)

Candidate's Full Name: _____
(as it appears on their Baptism Certificate)
Birthdate: _____ Year of High School Graduation: _____
Home Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____
County: _____ Home Phone: _____ School _____
Youth's current e-mail _____ Parent email: _____

Church of Baptism : _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
(Church's name and address with City, State and Zip are required information for your child's sacramental record.)

Date of Baptism: _____ Reconciliation Received? _____ First Communion Received? _____
Mother's Full Name: _____ Mother's **Maiden** Name: _____
Mother's cell# _____
Fathers Full Name _____ Father's cell # _____

Registration is not complete without this information
Sponsor's Name _____ (Cannot be a parent. See handbook for guidelines.)
Sponsor's Address: _____
Sponsor's email address _____
Church Sponsor Belongs to: _____ _____ (complete name and address for updating the church of baptism records)
SESSION CHOICE: SUN 9AM____, OR TUES 7PM____.
SEASON CHOICE: FALL____, OR SPRING____.
Please commit to attending the retreat that corresponds to the season you have selected. You incur additional charges when you change the retreat headcount within 30 days of the retreat date.

Year 2 Confirmation fee is **\$210 = \$75.00 Confirmation Fee + \$135.00 retreat fee.**
To purchase a Catholic Youth Bible, check here _____ and add \$28 to your total.

Checks for \$210 (or \$238 with a Catholic Youth Bible) should be payable to St. Michael Catholic Church, and be included at time of Registration. This covers the cost of the retreat, bus transportation and meals, supplies, pizza for the large group sessions, books, and Confirmation liturgy and music.

Due date for registration and retreat permission form: *September 12, 2019*.
This deadline applies to both fall and spring seasons.

**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 ____
AND RETREAT CHAPERONE _____. We need small group facilitators who can commit to attending retreat, if possible.
Name: _____ Virtus trained? yes _____ no _____

Please return to:

Saint Michael Church

1125 St Michaels 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 the 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

Confirmation Retreat Information Sheet

**If you sign up for the fall season your retreat is November 8-10, 2019,
OR if you sign up for the spring season your retreat is February 21-23, 2020.**

Skycroft Conference Center

9621 Frostown Rd, Middletown, MD 21769

Please read the following and plan to attend the weekend retreat at the end of the session you choose. The retreat is a requirement and it is necessary for candidates to attend the full weekend. **The permission form needs to be returned with the Confirmation Registration by September 12th.** Please plan to attend the retreat corresponding to the season of small group sessions for which you registered.

Depart 5:00 PM by school bus from St Michael upper small parking lot on the Friday of the retreat weekend. Please arrive by 4:30PM so that we can load the bus.
Food: We will have dinner on Friday; breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday; and breakfast on Sunday. All meals are provided.
Return by 1:15 PM on the Sunday of the retreat weekend to St Michael by school bus.
Cost is included in the confirmation registration payment of \$210.
Dress respectfully, comfortably, and appropriately for the forecasted weather as we will be walking between meeting space, sleeping lodges, and eating halls. We will also be outdoors for some activities, so bring **extra layers of clothes** for the occasion.

What else to bring:

Bible

Journal

Text book

Pen

Sleeping bags or blankets, twin sized sheets, pillows

Towels

Toiletries, including soap for the shower

Sleepwear (plan for modesty and keeping warm!)

Cold weather layers of clothes

Bring a **snack to share with the group**: a bag of chips, cookies, a tray of brownies, or fruit, **and one 2 liter** bottle of soda or other soft drink to share.

Note: electronic devices are not needed. Cell phones do not get great service out there and they detract from the retreat experience. The emergency number will be communicated prior to the retreat. Texting will be the most reliable since cell service is minimal there.

Confirmation Retreat St. Michael Permission and Release Form

Youth Name:	Retreat Date (select sessions for which you sign up) Fall Nov. 8-10, 2019 OR Spring Feb 21-23, 2020
Parent(s) Name:	Mom Cell #: _____ Dad cell #: _____ Please circle the cell number to which you want text communications
Address:	Email address(es) for communication
City/State/Zip:	
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:

Skycroft Conference Center
9621 Frostown Rd, Middletown, MD 21769

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, 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 attend the retreat as a retreat chaperone/ small group leader _____ **Name** _____

I am available to attend the retreat as a support person _____ **Name** _____

I understand for either position I must be cleared by the AOB Office of Child and Youth Protection (Virtus). _____ **initial**

Service Project: Year 2

Service is at the heart of the Gospel message. Service helps to prepare our hearts for receiving more grace, and it is part of our preparation for Confirmation. Please choose (a) service project(s) that suits the charisms and gifts God has given you, and please do this service with an understanding of what kind of work of mercy it is. You should complete 8 - 10 hours of service, which your parents verify by signing the tear-off form below.

THE WORKS OF MERCY

CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL

FEED THE HUNGRY	INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT
GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY	COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL
SHELTER THE HOMELESS	ADMONISH SINNERS
CLOTHE THE NAKED	FORGIVE OFFENSES
VISIT THE SICK	COMFORT THE AFFLICTED
VISIT THE IMPRISONED	BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY
BURY THE DEAD	PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

"A BIT OF MERCY MAKES THE WORLD LESS COLD AND MORE JUST" (POPE FRANCIS)

cut here _____

Year 2 Service Project(s)

I, _____ did the following service (besides Year 1, Our Daily Bread):

Service description	Hours (total 8 to 10)	Work of Mercy	Parent's Signature