

2021-22

Confirmation Yr 1 and Yr 2

Handbook & Registration



St. Michael Catholic Church

1125 St. Michaels Road

Mt. Airy, MD 21771

410-489-7667

www.stmichaelspoplarsprings.org

2021-22 Confirmation Program Year 1 (9th Grade) and Year 2 (10th Grade)

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 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.

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.

We will be using the Purpose curriculum from LifeTeen. There are 24 sessions altogether. This year's Yr 1 Class will complete Lessons 1-12. Yr 2's Class will complete all 24 lessons as we did not use Purpose in Yr 1 last year. To register for Year 1 or Year 2 Confirmation, please turn in your completed form to our Administrative Assistant for Religious Ed: SAmatucci@smpschurch.org.

Schedule of Sessions for Year 1 and Year 2 Confirmation:

Sundays 9:00 am – 10:25 am. Sessions begin October 3 and run through April 10. This schedule accommodates attendance at the 10:30 AM Mass.

Wednesdays 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. Sessions begin October 6 and run through April 20.

Tuition for Confirmation

Number of Children	Year 1	Number of Children	Year 2*
1 Child	\$110	1 Child	\$150
2 Children	\$160	2 Children	\$275

* Tuition for Confirmation Year 2 is broken down as follows: \$100 for a one-day retreat, and \$50 for program and materials.

**Forms and information can be found on the Confirmation website:
<https://smpsconfirmation.weebly.com/>**

Registration and sponsor forms are also found at the end of this handbook.

Important Dates: Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Preparation Year 1 and Year 2 Registration Form and payment due date: Sunday, September 12, 2021

Confirmation Preparation Orientation Meeting for Year 1 and Year 2

Students: Sunday, September 19, 2021, 2:00pm, Fellowship Hall. One parent and student should attend.

Service Projects for Year 1 and Year 2 Students: Service should be done once in 9th grade and once in 10th grade. There will be a few group service days provided throughout the year, so the teen can do this as a cohort.



Letter to the Bishop from Year 2 Students: Teen letters will be written in small group sessions in February. Your teen's letter to the bishop will be turned in to our office, and we will mail the group of letters together.

Confirmation Interviews for Year 2 Students: These interviews will take place in March. The interviews will be conducted by pastoral staff and adults on the Confirmation Team. It is a conversation, not a pass/fail test. It is a privilege for us to hear what God is doing in your child's life. We want to hear their faith story, help them pull together their experience over the years of preparation for this sacrament, and guide them in the next steps of faith after Confirmation. There is nothing for them to worry about in the interview!

The program is designed so the letters, services, and interviews are built into the annual calendar.

Day Retreat for Year 2 Students: TBD (February) More information on retreat information sheet.

Confirmation Mass and Dress Rehearsal for Year 2 Students:

- Confirmation Masses are usually at 2:00pm and 5:00pm on a Sunday, but we do not have the date as of yet.
- Confirmation Mass will fulfill your Sunday Mass obligation because we will be celebrating the Sunday Mass.
- Rehearsals will be the night before. Rehearsal is 6:00pm for the 2:00pm Mass or at 7:00pm for the 5:00pm Mass. Candidates and Sponsors both must attend the rehearsal, or an adult proxy must convey the information in total to the missing person.
- Signups for Mass times and liturgical roles at Mass will be emailed to you closer to the date.

Teens are encouraged to volunteer 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!

The sponsor is encouraged to use the Story Guide on the website. Please facilitate communication between the sponsor and candidate so that they share faith and have fruitful discussions.

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.

**Sponsor Guidelines
(Needed by beginning of Year 2)**

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 your (the sponsor's) parish concerning the requirements for being a sponsor (see the enclosed blank certificate).
- During this process there should be 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.
- 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.
- Continue to be there for the candidate and lend spiritual support in life after the Confirmation ceremony is over. **The gift of supporting this candidate is a lifetime opportunity.**

How to Choose a Confirmation Name (Needed by beginning of Year 2)

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 we 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. We believe He will!

Once you have chosen a name, please fill out the online form on the website under the saint name tab.

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 not a problem. You can also feminize names like Francis to Frances, for example.

...still have trouble? Feel free to contact your small group leader, and we'll find on together!

**Forms and information can be found on the Confirmation website:
<https://smpsconfirmation.weebly.com/>**

Confirmation Year 2 Retreat Information Sheet

For planning and information for when we determine location and date.

Please read the following and plan to attend the day retreat. The retreat is a requirement and it is necessary for candidates to attend the full day. Please RSVP online.

- Depart: 8:00 AM by school bus from St. Michael lower parking lot on the Saturday of the retreat. Please arrive by 7:30 AM so that we can load the bus.
- Food: Lunch, dinner, and snacks will be provided.
- Return: 8:00 PM to St. Michael by school bus.
- Cost: is included in the confirmation registration payment of \$150.
- Dress: respectfully, comfortably, and appropriately for the forecasted weather as we will be walking between meeting spaces and eating halls. We will also be outdoors for some activities, so bring **extra layers of clothes** for the occasion.

What else to bring:

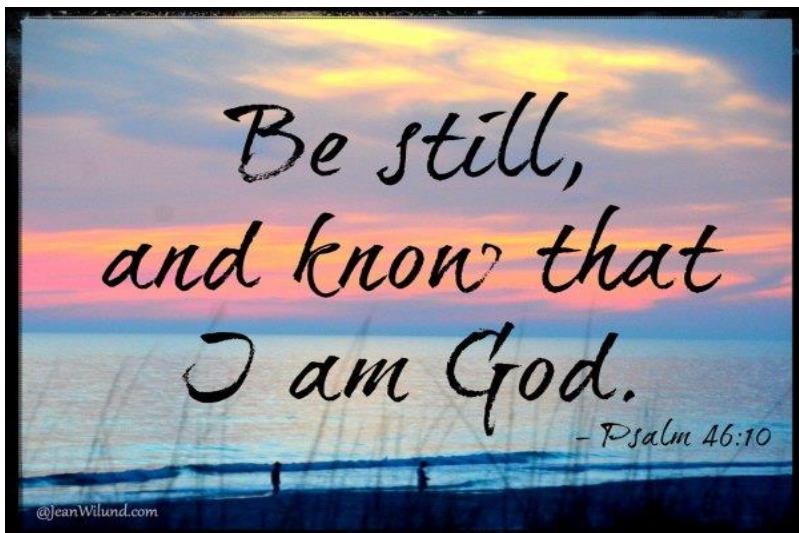
Bible

Journal

Pen

Bring a **snack to share with the group if your last name begins with A-M**: a bag of chips, cookies, a tray of brownies, or fruit, **and one 2 liter** bottle of soda or other soft drink to share **if your last name begins with N-Z**.

Note: electronic devices are not needed and they detract from the retreat experience. We will hold cell phones in a safe place during the retreat. The emergency number will be communicated prior to the retreat.



Please return to:

Saint Michael Church

1125 St Michaels Road
Mount Airy, MD 21771
410-489-7667

SACRAMENTAL SPONSOR CERTIFICATE

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

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St. Michael Youth Ministry

Confirmation Year 1 and Year 2 Registration 2021-22

Candidate's Full Name: _____
(as it appears on their Baptismal Certificate)

Birthdate: _____ Year of High School Graduation: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____ Home Phone: _____ School: _____

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

Baptism Received? _____ Reconciliation Received? _____ First Communion Received? _____

(If your child was not baptized at St. Michael, please provide a copy of the baptismal certificate. Please check with the administrative assistant to see if we have one on file already.)

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

Mother's cell#: _____

Fathers Full Name: _____ Father's cell #: _____

For Year 2

Sponsor's Name: _____ (Cannot be a parent. See handbook for guidelines.)

Sponsor's Email Address: _____

Church Sponsor Belongs to: _____

Year 2 Confirmation fee is **\$150 = \$50.00 Confirmation Fee + \$100.00 retreat fee.**
To purchase a Catholic Youth Bible, check here _____ and add \$28 to your total.

Checks for \$150 (or \$178 with a Catholic Youth Bible) should be made 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, session fees, and Confirmation liturgy and music.

-or-

You may pay online at <https://www.givecentral.org/location/632/allevnts> and look for Confirmation.

Due date for registration form: *September 12, 2021*.

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

We need small group facilitators who can commit to attending the retreat, if possible.

I AM WILLING TO BE A SMALL GROUP FACILITATOR - Sun AM_____, or Weds PM_____

AND/OR RETREAT CHAPERONE _____

Name: _____ Virtus trained? yes_____ no_____