

**2023-2024**  
**Confirmation Program**  
**Handbook & Registration**



*St. Michael Catholic Church*  
*1125 St. Michaels Road*  
*Mt. Airy, MD 21771*  
*410-489-7667*  
*[www.stmichaelspoplarsprings.org](http://www.stmichaelspoplarsprings.org)*

## **2023-24 Confirmation Program (9<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Confirmation (10<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Welcome to our Confirmation preparation program! In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized person is "sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit" and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ. 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 it is actually meant to strengthen the relationship between the candidate and God. Your teen is still your child after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, we hope your child will continue to foster and explore their growing faith. You can support this by continuing to encourage your teen to attend and participate at Mass. The grace received in Confirmation takes a lifetime for each one of us to grow into, and all of us need support in holiness! We hope you will encourage your teen to bring an open heart and mind to Confirmation sessions and other events. Your teen is vital to our parish. We look forward to helping them embrace their baptismal call to discipleship. Once your teen is fully initiated into the Catholic Church, it is our hope that they 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 all together. The Confirmation Preparation Sessions will complete Lessons 1-12. The Confirmation Sessions will complete Lessons 13-24. If you have not yet registered your high schooler(s) for Confirmation, please complete our online registration. **If you need to pay by check or need financial assistance, contact Ted at [tburkhardt@smpschurch.org](mailto:tburkhardt@smpschurch.org).**

### **Schedule of Sessions for Year 1 and Year 2 Confirmation:**

Sundays 5:00-8:00pm. We begin with Mass at 5:00pm, followed by dinner and the Confirmation Sessions which begin October 1 and run through April 21.

### **Tuition for Confirmation**

Number of Children	Confirmation (Pre and Post)*	Number of Children	Confirmation**
Each Child	\$110	Each Child	\$210

\* Tuition for Confirmation Preparation coincides with other grades. \*\* Tuition for the year of Confirmation is \$210 per child.

(Please note: The online registration suggests 9<sup>th</sup> Graders attend "Preparation" and 10<sup>th</sup> Graders attend the year of Confirmation. However, ALL high school students are welcome and encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation)

**Digital copies of the handbook can be found on the High School Page of our website:**

**<https://www.smpschurch.org/education/high-school/>**

**Sponsor forms are also found at the end of the handbook.**

# Important Dates

## Confirmation Preparation (9<sup>th</sup> Grade) & Confirmation (10<sup>th</sup> Grade)

### Confirmation Preparation and Confirmation - Registration and Payment

due date: Sunday, August 13th, 2023

**High School LifeTeen Confirmation Parent Meeting:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 7:00-8:00pm, Fellowship Hall. At least one parent must attend.

**Service Projects for our all LifeTeen Students** Service should be done once in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and once in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. There will be a few group service days provided throughout the year, so the teens can do this in during some sessions. Contact Sydney if you have desire for a certain type of service!



**Letter to the Bishop from Confirmation Students:** Teen letters will be written during their sessions. 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 Confirmation Students:** These interviews will take place in early 2024 TBD. 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!

**Confirmation Retreat for Confirmation Students:** Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 2024 at the Gretna Glen Retreat Center. More information to come.

## **Confirmation Mass and Dress Rehearsal for Confirmation Students:**

- The Confirmation Mass is to be determined.
- Rehearsals will be the night before. Candidates and Sponsors both must attend the rehearsal, or an adult proxy must convey the information in total to the missing person.
- Sign-ups for liturgical roles at Mass will be emailed to you closer to the date.

Teens are encouraged to volunteer in a particular ministry such as participating in youth group or passing on the faith through peer ministry. Please contact our office if you need help "plugging in" and fully participating in parish life. Welcome, fully initiated members of the community!

**For any Confirmation program it is critical that we have parent support to make this a great experience for our young people. Please consider being a small group leader which includes being a Confirmation Retreat Team member. We will send out a sign-up link asking for your willingness to serve at our Confirmation Mass. Thank you in advance for your support.**



# Sponsor Guidelines

(Needed by the beginning of Confirmation Preparation (9<sup>th</sup> Grade))

## 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.
- **They 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 their 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. They 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 our Pastoral Assistant, Ted Burkhardt at [tburkhardt@smpschurch.org](mailto:tburkhardt@smpschurch.org)

## What does a sponsor need to do?

- Provide a certificate from the pastor of their parish concerning the requirements for being a sponsor (see the enclosed blank certificate as an example).
- During this process there must be **at least one 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, 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 Confirmation (10<sup>th</sup> Grade))**

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.
- 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 High School page of our website .

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 one together!

**Forms can be found on the High School Page of our website:  
<https://www.smpschurch.org/education/high-school/>**

*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

*sponsor*

church in \_\_\_\_\_,

*Name of church*

*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