

# Confirmation Program

for Fall 2021

St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church

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## **Confirmation**

*For it had not yet fallen on any them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.” (Act 8:14-17)*

The Sacrament of Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal gifts. It unites us more firmly to Christ by the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost, giving us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ.

Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian’s soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once in one’s life. [CC 1317]

This special outpouring of the Holy Spirit not only completes the baptismal grace but also brings about a closer union with Christ. Through this deeper union, those confirmed share more perfectly in God’s life as his Children and are more perfectly united with the entire family of God, the Church. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are increased in Confirmation and through them we receive the power to “be not afraid” so that we can spread and defend the Christian faith. [Mt28:19; Acts 18:9; Heb13:6].

A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both with the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs. [CC 1319]

## Confirmation Preparations

Students must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist prior to receiving Confirmation. Prior to beginning Confirmation preparation, he/she must have completed at least one year of religious study.

Confirmation preparation at St. Mary on the Hill usually takes place in the eighth grade. Religious studies in preparation for the sacraments may be completed either through the CCD program or St. Mary on the Hill School. Permission is required from Fr. Ross, in order to homeschool your child's religious studies in preparation for confirmation. Preparation includes retreats, service, Adoration, and parent/sponsor/student meetings.

Confirmation takes place in the Fall (usually in November) of the student's freshman year in high school. The sacrament is administered by Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah, Most Rev. Stephen Parkes.

Parents and students should be attending Sunday mass on a weekly basis.

Parents and students should be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis.

During Holy Week all candidates and their families are encouraged to fully participate in the Tridium. The Liturgies celebrated during this most Holy Week encourage and allow us to be a part of Christ's Passion and Resurrection.

Starting in **the Fall of 2021 (September & October)**, students and sponsors and/or parents will meet in the Church on Sunday evenings for the final preparation sessions. The date of Confirmation and practice will be announced once we know the Bishop's schedule.

We have not yet received the confirmation directives from our new Bishop. In the past, the Bishop has requested that candidates being prepared for Confirmation write a letter to him requesting the sacrament of Confirmation. These letters, if required, would be written during the Fall of 2021. This letter would also discuss your saint (one of your Baptismal names). If your name does not contain a saint's name, then you may choose one, preferably a saint from the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century. The saint's name will be your confirmation name and will be the name the Bishop uses when he anoints you during Confirmation.

Attached is a confirmation checklist for your child. Please review this checklist to ensure the information is correct. Periodically, this checklist will be updated and sent to you. A copy of your child's baptismal certificate is required to ensure proper record keeping is maintained with your child's church of baptism. The attached checklist indicates whether or not your child's baptismal certificate is currently on file. If not, please submit a copy to the CCD or Church office by **October 30, 2020**.

## Confirmation Preparation Schedule

2020 -2021

<del>Saturday, October 3, 2020</del> —Cancelled	<del>Day Retreat—Camp Long, Aiken, SC</del>
Friday, October 30, 2020	Baptismal Certificates Due
Saturday, April 17, 2021	Day Retreat – St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School, conducted by NET Ministries
May 31, 2021	Sponsor Information (Name, address, sponsor’s Church)
September – October, 2021	Sunday evening classes
October 2021	Letter to the Bishop - TBD
October/November 2021	Reconciliation/Practice/Confirmation Date to be announced

## Retreats

Students are required to attend **either** the one day retreat on ~~Saturday, October 3, 2020,~~  
~~or the one day retreat on~~ Saturday, April 17, 2021.

The retreat brings together the youth from St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Community and gives them an opportunity to get to know each other while sharing their faith.

~~The retreat at Camp Long, Saturday, October 3, 2020 gives the students an opportunity to meet the challenges of the ROPEs course. This is a low ROPEs course which is all about team work and working together to accomplish a goal. They also attend different workshops related to aspects of confirmation. The Camp Long Retreat is a one day retreat and there is no cost.~~

The retreat at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School, Saturday, April 17, 2021 will be conducted by NET (National Evangelization Teams) Ministries. NET Ministries challenges young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. The NET retreat provides a wonderful opportunity for the youth to explore their faith by seeing the witness of the young adult team members who come from all across the country to share their Catholic faith.

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## Sponsors

When choosing a sponsor, please be sure that the person meets the canonical directives for sponsors (attached). After you have chosen a sponsor, please provide the name of the sponsor, sponsor's address, and the sponsor's Church, including the Church's address.  
**The sponsor information should be turned into the CCD Office or Church Office no later than May 31, 2021.**

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## Confirmation Name

You will choose a saint's name for your confirmation name. The saint's name will be the name the Bishop uses when he anoints you during Confirmation. Your saint should be one of your Baptismal names. If your name does not contain a saint's name, then you may choose one, preferably a saint from the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century. If you have a saint that has special meaning to you, you may want to use that saint's name.

## **Adoration**

Adoration is a quiet time to spend with the Lord. The Adoration Chapel is located at 1220 Monte Sano Ave beside the school. The chapel is currently closed but is scheduled to reopen on October 7, 2020. The adoration chapel is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. More details about the reopening will be provided in future bulletins. Quiet time in the Church outside of Mass is another way of spending time with the Lord.

## **Service**

Part of our Catholic faith teaches us we are part of a community and are responsible to give back to the community. Service may be done individually or as a group.

Examples of individual service:

- Babysitting – without pay
- Yard work for a neighbor – without pay
- Volunteer work at hospital
- Visitation at nursing home

Examples of family service:

- Visitation at nursing home
- Master's Table Soup Kitchen
- Family Promise
- Catholic Social Service Thrift Store

## **Service Opportunities**

Many service opportunities are available through the ministries at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church, such as altar servers, church nursery, St. Joseph's Guild, Golden Harvest Food Bank, Catholic Social Service Thrift Store, etc. Please see the ministry catalog for a complete list of ministries and the contact information.

Watch the bulletin for service opportunities. Service Opportunities are usually listed in the Youth section upon receiving notification of the service event.

CONFIRMANDI \_\_\_\_\_

I am prepared to begin my final year of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. As parents or guardians of the above Confirmandi, it is our intention to actively participate in the preparation for Confirmation. As faithful Catholics, we, the Confirmandi and parents/guardians, understand and accept our responsibility to.....

- Attend mass each week.
- Pray regularly, both as individuals and as a family
- Celebrate the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation on a regular basis
- Provide all necessary documentation as required and on time
- Participate in Adoration
- Participate in Service projects
- Attend a one day retreat
- Attend religious education classes
- Encourage and pray for each other
- Participate in the final preparation which is held in the Fall of 2021

\_\_\_\_ ~~I will attend the one day retreat on Saturday, October 3, 2020 at Camp Long, Aiken, SC CANCELLED~~

\_\_\_\_ I will attend the one day retreat on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School conducted by NET Ministries.

\_\_\_\_ The information provided on the Confirmation Checklist is correct. If not, please provide the correct information in the comments section below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Confirmandi

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_