**Candidates Guide to Confirmation**

2023 - 2024

*“...the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For by the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.”*

*- Catechism of the Catholic Church #1285*

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It is with great joy that the staff at Mary Our Queen Catholic Church journeys with candidates through their preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. This sacrament is the celebration of the promise of Christ for an “outpouring of the Spirit” to be our advocate, guide, comforter, and counselor.

It is necessary then, that each candidate be properly prepared in mind and spirit to receive this holy sacrament. Listed below are the ways in which Mary Our Queen Catholic Church, along with the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Roman Catholic Church, strive to adequately prepare souls for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Attached is the **Confirmation Packet** that will need to be completed and returned to Lindsey Martin (Confirmation Coordinator) **by March 3, 2024.**

If at any point you have questions, concerns, or need to discuss anything please contact Lindsey Martin by email at lmartin@maryourqueen.com or by calling the parish office at (770)416-0002.

**Requirements for Confirmation**

A candidate for Confirmation should have attended or be attending a Catholic school, a parish religious education program, or a home school religious education program for at least two years before enrollment in the formation for Confirmation.

A candidate will need to enroll in the Confirmation program which consists of 6 preparation classes, a retreat, an interview, and the completion of the Confirmation Packet. More details can be found under the “Important Dates” section.

**What is Needed from the Candidate**

1. Baptismal Certificate
	1. A copy of the candidate's baptismal certificate is required to be submitted for the records at Mary Our Queen Catholic Church. This certificate may be post-mailed, hand delivered, or scanned and emailed.
		1. To obtain a baptismal certificate you must contact the parish where the candidate was baptized and request a copy.
		2. If the candidate was baptized at MOQ there will already be a certificate on file.
2. Sponsor for Confirmation
	1. The candidate will need to select a sponsor. This person is someone who models a faithful Catholic life and shares a relationship with the candidate.
	2. The sponsor must be a Confirmed Catholic at least 16 years of age and receive a letter of good standing from the parish where they are registered.
		1. The sponsor cannot be a parent of the candidate; however, a parent can stand in place of a sponsor and act as a proxy.
		2. A sponsor form can be found on the parish website.
3. Patron Saint
	1. The candidate must choose a saint for whom they will be named at Confirmation. They may choose any male or female saint that has been canonized by the Catholic Church.
		1. Typically, a saint is chosen because of the qualities, talents, or personal life stories that the candidate feels they can relate to or they wish to model in their own life.
	2. After choosing a saint the candidate will need to provide some form of presentation on who they chose and why. More details can be found in the packet.
4. Letter of Request
	1. The candidate must write a brief letter (3-4 paragraphs) expressing why the wish to be confirmed and what the sacrament means to them.
		1. They will address this letter to the pastor of the parish (Father Byrd) where they will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.
5. Sacrament of Penance
	1. The candidate must receive reconciliation (confession) within one month of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.
		1. Confessions are available at MOQ regularly on Saturdays and Sundays from 4:30 until the 5:00 pm Mass. You also may call and make an appointment for confession.
		2. During the spring retreat in March confession will be available for the retreatants.
6. Participation in Parish Life
	1. The candidate should choose an aspect of parish life to participate in for the duration of their preparation process.
		1. They may choose ministries at the parish, such as alter serving, lectoring, ushering, participating in the choir, etc. on a regular basis.
		2. They may choose other aspects of ministry such as the Food Pantry, Faith Formation Assistants, etc.
7. Interview
	1. The candidate will have a one-on-one interview with one of the Ministry Leaders prior to Confirmation.
		1. These interviews will take place in the month of February. Lindsey will contact and set up an interview time with the candidate and their parent/guardian.
		2. Interviews are typically 15 – 30 minutes in duration.

**What is Needed from the Sponsor:**

1. Prayer and Guidance
	1. First and foremost, the sponsor should take seriously their role as spiritual mentor to the candidate. They should strive to pray regularly with and for the candidate as well as assist the candidate in the journey of faith through example, discussion, and study.
2. Letter of Good Standing
	1. Once a candidate selects a sponsor and the sponsor agrees to accept their role in leading and journeying with the candidate in the ways of a Christian life, the sponsor must obtain a Letter of Good Standing.
		1. The Letter of Good Standing can be found in the packet or on the parish website. The sponsor should fill it out, have it signed by their pastor, and return it to the candidate to be submitted with the rest of the paperwork.
3. Participation in Preparation
	1. The sponsor will be invited to join the candidate at their final class.
	2. The sponsor is asked to join the candidate for rehearsal prior to Confirmation. At this time the sponsor and the candidate will be led through the details of the celebration of the Sacrament.

 **What is Needed from the Parents/Guardians:**

1. Prayer and Guidance
	1. As is mentioned above for the sponsor, it is also the great responsibility of the parents of the candidate to continue to pray for and with their child during these formative months. It is crucial for the candidate that they experience and witness in their homes authentic Christian living.
	2. It is highly encouraged that the parent's journey with the candidates as much as possible. Engage them in conversation about their classes, involve them in

ministry opportunities and the parish community, volunteer at service projects alongside them, and pray with them frequently.

1. Commitment to the Program
	1. In order to more surely have a successful Confirmation preparation it is imperative that the parents of the candidates ensure that this time of formation is a priority.
	2. If there are concerns about content, conflicts with scheduling, or any other obstacles, worries, or questions about your child's preparation journey, please contact Lindsey Martin as soon as possible.

**Important Dates:**

1. Confirmation Prep Classes
	* 6 classes; 3 in the fall and 3 in the spring.
	* Always on Sundays from 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm
		1. October 1, November 5, December 3
		2. January 7, February 4, March 3
2. Sponsor Classes
	* Required: March 3
3. Retreat
	* March 8 - 10
4. Confirmation Packet Completed and Returned
	* March 3
5. Interviews
	* February 2024
	* Specific dates and times to be determined between Lindsey and parents.
6. Confirmation Rehearsal
	* Wednesday, April 10th at 7:00 pm at Mary Our Queen Catholic Church
7. The Sacrament of Confirmation
	* Sunday, April 14th at 11:00 am at Mary Our Queen Catholic Church

**Confirmation Packet**

*Due March 3, 2024*

Checklist:

\_\_\_ Baptismal Certificate \_\_\_ Letter of Request

\_\_\_ Sponsor Selected \_\_\_ Parish Life Form

\_\_\_ Sponsor Letter of Good Standing \_\_\_ Saint Chosen \_\_\_\_ Enrollment Form \_\_\_\_ Saint Project

In the following pages you will find the necessary information that you will need to fill out and return prior to Confirmation.

Confirmation Sponsor

Name of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to candidate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor’s Parish: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please give a brief explanation of why you have chosen this person to be your sponsor:

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Confirmation Patron Saint

Name of Saint: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Feast Day: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Patron Saint of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief explanation of why you chose this saint:

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***\*Along with this explanation, please create a project of some kind that expresses who you are and who this saint is; for example, you can build something, draw/paint something, write a song, etc.***

Participation In Parish Life

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has faithfully served our parish by:

* Altar Serving
* Singing in the Choir
* Ushering
* Being a Lector
* Serving the Food Pantry
* Teaching/Assisting Religious Education
* Participating in the Pro-Life Ministry
* Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As the supervisor/mentor/leader of the ministry, I affirm that the candidate was consistent, reliable, and hard working as a member of this ministry.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Supervisor Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Supervisor Phone Number