

Candidates Guide to Confirmation

2024 - 2025

“...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

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 **February 23, 2025**.

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, and the completion of the Confirmation Packet. More details can be found under the “Important Dates” section.

Before moving forward, please make sure you register your child for this sacramental program.

Use this QR code or visit the parish website at maryourqueen.com



What is Needed from the Candidate

1. Baptismal Certificate
 - a. 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.
 - i. To obtain a baptismal certificate you must contact the parish where the candidate was baptized and request a copy.
 - ii. If the candidate was baptized at MOQ there will already be a certificate on file.
2. Sponsor for Confirmation
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - i. The sponsor cannot be a parent of the candidate; however, a parent can stand in place of a sponsor and act as a proxy.
 - ii. A sponsor form can be found on the parish website as well as at the end of this packet.
3. Patron Saint
 - a. 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.
 - i. 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.
4. Letter of Request
 - a. The candidate must write a brief letter (3-4 paragraphs) expressing why they wish to be confirmed and what the sacrament means to them.
 - i. They will address this letter to the pastor of the parish (Father Byrd) where they will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.
5. Retreat Experience
 - a. Candidates are required to participate in a retreat that will assist them in their interior growth and preparation for reception of the Holy Spirit as well as connect them to their faith community.
6. Sacrament of Penance
 - a. The candidate must receive reconciliation (confession) within one month of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - i. 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.
 - ii. During the spring retreat in March confession will be available for the retreatants.

7. Participation in Parish Life
 - a. The candidate should choose an aspect of parish life to participate in for the duration of their preparation process.
 - i. They may choose ministries at the parish, such as altar serving, lectoring, ushering, participating in the choir, etc. on a regular basis.
 - ii. They may choose other aspects of ministry such as the Food Pantry, Faith Formation Assistants, etc.
8. Interview
 - a. There will be an in-take interview between Lindsey, the candidate, and one of their parents, before preparation begins.
 - i. Sponsors are invited to join this meeting but are not required.
 - b. The candidate will have a one-on-one interview with one of the Ministry Leaders prior to Confirmation.
 - i. Lindsey will contact parents to set up an interview time with the candidate.
 - ii. Interviews are typically 15 – 30 minutes in duration.

What is Needed from the Sponsor:

1. Prayer and Guidance
 - a. 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
 - a. 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.
 - i. 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
 - a. The sponsor will be invited to join the candidate for one of the classes (this may be done in person or virtually).
 - b. 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
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Parents are asked to fill in for the sponsor when the latter is unavailable.
2. Commitment to the Program
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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 total
 - Always on Sundays from 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm
 - i. September 22, October 20, November 10, December 15, January 26, February 23
2. Sponsor Class
 - Required: December 15
3. Retreat Options
 - Ablaze, July 15-19
 - Fall Retreat: November 15-17
 - Spring Retreat, March 28-30
4. Confirmation Packet Completed and Returned
 - February 23
5. Interviews
 - August 2024 and March 2025
 - Specific dates and times to be determined between Lindsey and parents.
6. Confirmation Rehearsal
 - June 4, 7pm
7. The Sacrament of Confirmation
 - June 8, 11am



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Confirmation Packet

Due February 23, 2025

Checklist:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptismal Certificate | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter of Request |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor Selected | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Life Form |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor Letter of Good Standing | <input type="checkbox"/> Saint Chosen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Retreat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Confession | |

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



Confirmation Patron Saint

Name of Saint: _____

Feast Day: _____

Patron Saint of: _____

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



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



ENROLLMENT FORM – 2025

Mary Our Queen Catholic Church

Youth must be registered and participating in an approved faith formation program, in Catholic School, or in a homeschool program to be Confirmed. The below information needs to be accurate and complete. This information is copied into the Book of Heaven and sent to the candidates parish of baptism for their records.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Name as appears on the Baptismal Certificate: _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Birthdate _____ Age _____

School _____ Grade _____

Father's Full Name _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Mother's Full (**Maiden**) Name _____
(First) (Middle) (**Maiden**)

Parent's Email Address _____

Was the Candidate baptized in the Catholic Church? Yes No

Church of Baptism _____

Date of Baptism _____ City & State _____

Year & Place of First Eucharist _____



Letter of Request

The Church requires that you “request” the Sacrament of Confirmation, indicating that *you* feel you are ready to receive the Sacrament. This letter should be written by you to Father Charles Byrd. Below is an example format of how you *may* choose to write the letter.

Date _____

Dear Father Byrd,

I, (name), am a member of (name of church you are registered at) and I am seeking to be confirmed as a member of the Roman Catholic Church. I want to receive this Sacrament because...

I have prepared for this Sacrament by... (talk about what you have been involved in that has benefited your spiritual growth, formation of faith, and/or been of service to the church. Consider sharing about your own prayer life or how you live out the faith already.)

I have asked (name of sponsor and their relationship to you) to present me to the Bishop on the day of my Confirmation. I chose (her/him/sponsor’s name) because...

I have chosen the name (Saint name you have chosen: for example, ‘I have chosen the name Joan’). Explain why you chose this name/saint.

Close by sharing what you hope to gain from this Sacrament or how it will affect your life moving forward. Express gratitude to Father for taking the time to read the letter and for allowing you the opportunity to receive this Sacrament.

Sincerely,

(your name, preferably signed by hand)



SPONSOR LETTER OF GOOD STANDING

This form must be signed and sealed by the sponsor's pastor.

A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic. Sponsors should be at least 16 years of age and should have received the sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation. A sponsor serves as a role model for the candidate by living a fully Christian life, and therefore, his/her lifestyle should be in accord with the Catholic Faith. Do not submit this form if you do not qualify.

This is to certify that I, _____, a registered member of

(Name of parish, city, and state)

accept the invitation to be a sponsor for the Confirmation of _____

(Name of Candidate)

In accepting this responsibility, **I truthfully state before Almighty God** all the following (please check all that apply):

- I am a baptized and currently practicing Catholic at least 16 years of age.
- I have received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- I regularly attend Mass in this parish on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, receive the Sacraments of the Church regularly, and profess the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. I have been registered at this parish for at least three months, and I support the parish financially and/or with my time.
- If married, my marriage is recognized validly by the Roman Catholic Church. If single, I am not living in cohabitation.
- I try to live my life according to Gospel values, even when those values conflict with the value systems of our culture and society.
- I intend to encourage this child in the practice of the Catholic Faith by word and example.
- The statements I have checked above are true.



I understand and accept the responsibility, which I undertake as a godparent/sponsor. I promise to be a support and example to this person in his/her efforts to live a Catholic life that reflects the spirit and teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. I am also prepared to assist the parents in their Christian duty by my support, encouragement, and prayer.

Sponsor Signature (Sign this form in the presence of the priest.)

PRIEST'S CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that _____ is a registered member of this parish in good standing, and, to the best of my knowledge, can assume the duties and responsibilities of the role of godparent/sponsor.

Pastor's Signature

Date

Parish Seal