

# ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CONFIRMATION PROGRAM



1861 HARBOR DRIVE  
CHESTER, MARYLAND 21619

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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MISSION .....	2
PROGRAM OVERVIEW.....	3
CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS .....	4
SPONSOR’S ROLE .....	5
SELECTING A SPONSOR .....	5
SELECTING A CONFIRMATION NAME .....	5
CONFIRMATION LETTERS .....	6
COMMUNITY SERVICE .....	6
CLASS TIME .....	6
CONFIRMATION DRESS CODE .....	7
CONTACT LIST .....	7
HOME SCHOOLING POLICY .....	8
ARE YOU READY? .....	8

# OUR MISSION

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For every Catholic, participation in Parish Life is both a right and a duty. The church is spiritually strong and vibrant to the extent that the Baptized members of the Parish community live their faith and share it with others. In confirmation, the candidate is agreeing to enter into that Parish community, so it is proper that he or she prepare for that serious obligation in the Parish setting.

Participation in Parish life includes a variety of actions including; contributions of time, talent, and treasure to Parish activities; apostolic service to the needy in the parish and its larger communities; cooperation in the religious education of all family members; and above all regular sharing in the Sacramental life and worship of the Parish community.

Confirmation brings to fullness that life in the Holy Spirit into which we were first initiated at Baptism. Therefore, a comprehensive preparation for Confirmation necessitates proper planning of curriculum, serious catechist-formation, Clergy participation, parental involvement, and the prayerful support of the total Parish community. Program components include liturgy, study, service, and retreat. Beyond just catechesis, our Parish program includes significant service project experiences; a spiritual retreat for enhanced religious formation; education in liturgy fostering active participation on the part of the candidates in special liturgies and celebrations of the Eucharist; and a Confirmation interview to develop mutual relationships and understanding of the candidates' readiness and willingness to be confirmed.

Confirmation is not a Sacrament that is chosen for us as in Baptism. It is a serious choice we must make on our own. It is a commitment we make to live in the fullness of faith. Such a commitment requires careful preparation and the support of the family and Parish community.

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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The curriculum is centered on knowing God, believing in God, and acting for God:

- **Knowing God** will be accomplished each class through
  - Lectures, question and answer
  - Text books “Chosen: Your Journey Towards Confirmation” & “Our Life In the Church”
  - Supplemental resources include “Did Adam & Eve Have Belly Buttons?” (the Catechism, YouCat, & Catholic Youth Bible)
  - Weekly review of prior lessons
  - Tests and quizzes
  - An anonymous question box in each class
  
- **Believing In God** (trusting) activities seek to make God real to students and deepen their relationship with Him.
  - Prayer at beginning and end of class, offering up intentions, students lead prayer
  - Structured reflections and meditation using
  - Scripture reading
  - Prayer Books and Devotions such as the Rosary
  - Inspirational Music
  - Participation in the Sacraments at selected class sessions
  - Attend Mass
  - Go to Confession
  - Eucharistic Adoration
  - Just Ask Father – Father will stop by classrooms periodically to answer student's questions.
  - Class Retreat - Students will attend a day of retreat to deepen their faith
  
- **Acting for God** activities seek to help Students practice their faith every day.
  - Participation in the Sacraments
  - Performance of community service (outside class)
  - Participate in group community service projects
  - Assist with Family Life committee service projects
  - Assist with Mass (Lector, Ushers, etc.)
  - Assist Lower Grade Catechists (Religious Ed).
  - Assist the elderly
  - Assist the poor and needy, etc.



# CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS

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- Each Candidate must clearly understand that the Sacrament of Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds. (CCC 1316).
- Attend Mass EVERY week - Faithful attendance at Mass weekly is a **MANDATORY requirement**. **Students are expected to attend Mass each weekend & on Holy Days of Obligation.** We encourage students to attend Mass with their Confirmation Sponsor when possible.
- Successfully complete class requirements which will be defined to the candidates in their classes by their catechist.
- Attendance at all classes – any more than **THREE ABSENCES (September-April)** may result in not being Confirmed, unless there is a serious medical or family reason for your absence.
- Come to class **on time!** Candidates coming in late are very disruptive to class and this will not be tolerated. Candidates are expected to remain in class until it is over. They should not be leaving class early for "other commitments." Please plan accordingly.
- Must turn in Baptismal Certificate, if not baptized here at St. Christopher's.
- Must turn in Sponsor Certificate on or before assigned due date.
- **Letters to Fr. Paul:** Write a 1-page typed & double spaced) Confirmation letter demonstrating your desire to be Confirmed- **the letter should explain how God is working in your daily life, should demonstrate an understanding of the Sacrament, and should include how Confirmation will affect your life.** (This letter is can be turned into the classroom catechist). **Fr. Paul DOES read these, please make sure they are proof read and signed.**
- Confirmation Interview - the Candidates will be asked questions that will demonstrate their readiness for Confirmation and their willingness and ability to spread and defend their faith as confirmed Catholics.
- Complete 3 Community Service Projects – **One Project** must be outside the Parish, **One Project** must be for the Parish (Hospitality Sunday, Spaghetti Dinner, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Christmas Pageant, Cookies & Cocoa W/Santa, etc.) and **One Project** can be for a liturgical ministry within the Church (Choir, altar serving, lectoring, ushering, greeting, etc.) All outside Parish Service Projects must be approved ahead of time by your catechist. Keep track of your service projects on the tracking form given to you (if you lose your form you can get a new one off the parish website).
- **Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation: All candidates must receive this sacrament within 1 month of their Confirmation.** Consult the bulletin for times. It is the student's responsibility to make sure they go to Confession.
- Attend the Confirmation Retreat (See Calendar for date/time) – **MANDATORY – if a Candidate fails to go on the retreat he/she may not be confirmed until they complete a retreat.** You have advanced notice for the date of this retreat so please work all schedules around it (sports, hunting, etc. are NOT excuses for missing this retreat.) Students WILL NOT be permitted to come late or leave early from the Confirmation Retreat. If, for serious reasons beyond your control, you miss the retreat, contact the RE Office as soon as possible to make other arrangements.
- Attend the Confirmation Rehearsal (**See Calendar for date/time**)– **MANDATORY for Confirmandi** – The Sponsor must be there if possible or @ least one parent.

# SPONSOR'S ROLE

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A Sponsor should play an important role in preparing the candidate for confirmation, is required to participate in the Confirmation ceremony, and should serve as a guide and role model afterward in the life long journey towards Christ. Specifically, sponsors should:

- Commit the time to help prepare the confirmandi.
- Write a letter to the confirmandi encouraging them in their faith. **(Requirement- students need this letter at their Confirmation Retreat)**
- Attend Mass with confirmandi when possible.
- Attend Confirmation rehearsal and the ceremony **(Requirement)**
- Make themselves available to guide the confirmed after Confirmation.
- Encourage the confirmed to practice their faith by frequenting the sacraments, serving as good examples to society, and living up to their commitment to spread and defend the faith.

## Selecting a Sponsor

A Sponsor is required for the person being confirmed. Any **Catholic** who is 16 years of age or older who has received the sacrament of confirmation and the Eucharist and is practicing the faith is eligible. The baptismal sponsor can also be the sponsor for confirmation. Parents/Step-Parents cannot be sponsors of their children.

A Sponsor should be prepared to assist the person being confirmed in their preparation, during the ceremony, and afterward in the life long journey toward Christ.

## Selecting a Confirmation Name

We are encouraging students to select a confirmation name. While confirmation names are not required, they are consistent with the Church's tradition of assigning new names to the faithful when they accept a new ministry (i.e. religious, St. Peter, St. Paul) and afford students the opportunity to reflect on the life of a saint they wish to emulate. There are many good books on the lives of the saints. For online information on saints, ask your teachers- there are many resources available to you!

# CONFIRMATION LETTER TO FR. PAUL

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Each candidate for confirmation is required to write a Confirmation letter explaining to Fr. Paul how God is at work in their lives. The letter should also explain why he or she wishes to receive this sacrament. The letter should demonstrate that the candidate understands the sacrament, his/her desire to receive the sacrament, and how this will change his/her life. This letter must be **typed, 1-page double spaced**. Please make sure that your name is on your letter. These letters are read and taken very seriously, please make sure your child proof reads their letter prior to turning it in.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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Community service is a natural outflow of Catholic living. "Faith without works is dead" James 2:14-26. The act of serving others changes our hearts, broadens our perspective, and draws us closer to God and each other. Both St. Christopher's Parish and our local community provide a wide variety of service opportunities.

Each Candidate must complete three mandatory community service projects. We do not track hours. Keep track of your service projects on the tracking form given to you (if you lose your form you can get a new one off the parish website).

One service project must be outside the Parish, examples: Helping at area Nursing Homes, Senior Homes, Participating in the March for Life, working at a food bank or food kitchen, assisting at a homeless shelter. You could even run your own coat drive or food drive for the homeless or needy. All outside the Parish Service Projects must be approved ahead of time by your catechist.

One service project must be for the Parish (Hospitality Sunday, Spaghetti Dinner, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Christmas Pageant, Cookies & Cocoa W/Santa, etc.) and the Third can be for either. Your teacher will also be consulting with the coordinator of whatever Parish activity you choose; to be sure you were an active participant. Students are responsible for tracking their service projects, discussing scheduling with their parents, and turning in their tracking sheet.

One service project must be for a liturgical ministry within the Parish (Choir, altar serving, lecturing, ushering, greeting, etc.) Find something that interests you! We encourage you to continue serving in a liturgical ministry even after you have been confirmed.

# CLASS TIME

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Class will be held 8-8:50AM and 10-11 AM on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evening 6:30-7:45PM in the religious education classrooms. Please make sure you arrive on time for class and stay until class is dismissed. Please make sure to come to class prepared with any assignments from your teachers.

# CONFIRMATION DRESS CODE

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For Confirmandi and Sponsors: Please choose Modesty when choosing your outfit. Students, keep in mind, your forehead must be uncovered for the anointing from the Bishop. You are free to wear any color you'd like for Confirmation.

## Men –

- Suit
- Dress pants (NO Jeans)
- Sport Jacket, Dress shirt, and tie
- Dress socks and dress shoes (NO sneakers)

## Women –

- Modest dress
- Dress skirt and blouse
- Dress or shirt must be knee length or longer
- Chest, back and shoulders must be covered- **no exceptions**

# CONTACT LIST

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Contact	Title	E-mail
Fr. Paul Campbell	Pastor	410-643-6220 <a href="mailto:pastor@stchristopherski.org">pastor@stchristopherski.org</a>
Mrs. Katie Sukley	DRE & Confirmation Coordinator	410-643-8489/ <a href="mailto:ksukley@stchristopherski.org">ksukley@stchristopherski.org</a>
Mrs. Alanna Giebler	8th Grade Girls Sunday 10AM & Wed. Catechist	<a href="mailto:agiebler@stchristopherski.org">agiebler@stchristopherski.org</a>
Mr. Ron Banghart & Mr. Gene Wesolowski	8th Grade Boys Sunday Catechist (10 AM-11:10AM)	<a href="mailto:RBanghart@stchristopherski.org">RBanghart@stchristopherski.org</a> <a href="mailto:GWesolowski@stchristopherski.org">GWesolowski@stchristopherski.org</a>
Mr. Kyle Waters & Mr. Forrest Freeland	8th Grade Boys Wednesday Catechists (Wed. 6:30-7:45PM)	<a href="mailto:KWaters@Stchristopherski.org">KWaters@Stchristopherski.org</a> <a href="mailto:FFreeland@Stchristopherski.org">FFreeland@Stchristopherski.org</a>
Mrs. Andrea Schulte & Mr. Brendan Schulte	8th Grade Sunday 8AM Catechists	<a href="mailto:ASchulte@stchristopherski.org">ASchulte@stchristopherski.org</a> <a href="mailto:BSchulte@stchristopherski.org">BSchulte@stchristopherski.org</a>

# HOME SCHOOLING POLICY

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Parents who home school their children may be unsure how they wish to prepare their child for Confirmation. Pope Paul VI declared that through the Sacrament of Confirmation we are “bound more intimately to the Church” and “they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith both by word and deed as true witnesses of Christ”. Because of the communal nature of Confirmation, parents must enroll their children in the church’s Confirmation Program unless you have permission to homeschool from both the DRE and Pastor.

## ARE YOU READY?

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Sometimes students feel that they are not ready to be confirmed or that they do not have the time to fully commit to the Confirmation Program. This is an important decision to be made by the student and the parent with input from the catechist/pastor/Confirmation Coordinator. The confirmation Program has been designed to help students “become ready” for confirmation.

Students will be tested on their knowledge of the faith but that test alone cannot determine readiness. If there are concerns about a child’s readiness, a meeting should occur between the parents, the catechist/pastor before prayerfully making a decision.

Confirmation is the beginning of a life long journey of spiritual growth, learning, and discovery. It requires an extra time commitment and sacrifice of both students and families. If you feel that you are unable to **FULLY** commit to the preparation of Confirmation this year please prayerfully consider taking a sabbatical and coming back when you can.



YOU ARE  
CALLED  
&  
Chosen  
BY GOD.  
HOW WILL YOU  
RESPOND?