

Calendar: Parents are expected to be attentive to the program calendar that will be distributed before the year begins.

Volunteers: Every year we need volunteers for the different areas of the program: hall monitors, office help, assistants, and catechists. If you would like to volunteer, please let the director know.

Communication: Communication about the program will be made in several ways: bulletin announcements, text and email messages, notes given at the end of class or sent home with children.

Cancellations Due to Weather: We follow the Prince George's County Public School's Policy for Inclement weather. A text and email will also be sent indicating whether there will be classes or not.

Discipline:

- * No electronic devices are permitted to be used during class. They may be confiscated and returned to parents.
- * Intentionally damaging or taking other's property, especially St. Ambrose School's, will result in disciplinary measures.
- * Respect for others, especially for catechists and volunteers is expected.
- * Cursing, verbal and physical fights will result in disciplinary measures.

Saint Ambrose Parish

3107 63rd Avenue, Cheverly, MD 20785



Confirmation Program

For 7th grade and above

2018-2019 Handbook

Registration Deadline: September 8, 2019

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Pastor

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CONFIRMATION

Confirmation imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual mark, the "character," which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit by clothing him with power from on high so that he may be his witness. conferring an increase and deepening of baptismal grace :

- ⇒ it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!"
- ⇒ it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- ⇒ it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- ⇒ it renders our bond with the Church more perfect
- ⇒ it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross (CIC 1302-1304).

With this in mind, St. Mary's wants to provide transformative experiences and spaces so that the candidates can deepen their relationship with Christ and be animated by the Holy Spirit so that they may live more fully in relationship with God and be living witnesses of God's love in the world, participating fully in the life of the church and community as missionary disciples. To make this vision a reality, a proper and adequate formation is necessary, incorporating a human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation, accompanying the candidate along the way.

To achieve this mission, we offer a new formation program lasting 2 years for 7th graders and above, incorporating the following elements.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Candidates: All children in the program must meet all expectations in terms of content, attendance, retreats, meetings and events proper of each stage of preparation. Participation is essential to ensure learning and the deepening of faith.

Parents:

- * Parents must also meet all program expectations and attend meetings, formation sessions and events proper of each stage of preparation.
- * Formation Sessions: A child's faith formation should take place, primarily, at home and this program extends the tools to help you in such task encouraging collaboration between the parents, the pastor and the formation team. With this in mind, parents must attend monthly formation sessions the program will provide. We will also offer different types of formation during the year in which you can choose to participate.

Attendance: No absences are allowed for the retreats. 2 excused absences are allowed for emergency reasons for all other activities. If for any reason the candidate must be absent, parents and candidates must together make up the missed activity demonstrating understanding of the content covered. Guidelines for make up will be provided.

Curriculum: We will use the Archdiocesan Curriculum *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Handbook: It is expected that you read this handbook about the program, its requirements and expectations. You will sign the registration form indicating you've read it.

Contact: Parish Office: 301-773-9300
Director's Email: ambrosedre@gmail.com

Registrations: You may register in the Parish Office (behind the church) Monday through Thursday from 10:00am to 4:00pm and after Mass on Sundays at the Ambrose to You desk. Registration deadline is September 8, 2019.

Documents: to submit at the time of registration - no registrations will be accepted without the following:

- * Registration Form
- * Parish Registration Form (if not yet a member)
- * Baptized: copy of baptism certificate
- * Unbaptized: copy of birth certificate
- * Letter from director or pastor if can already completed one year of preparation at another parish (2018-2019).

Cost per Year:

Registration: \$20 - to be paid at registration
Retreats: \$20 per retreat (6 retreats per year) - paid at each retreat
Confirmation Robe: \$20 - paid at the end of the second year

No one will be excluded from the program for inability to pay. If you are experiencing difficulties that may keep you from paying the fee, please let us know so you may received a partial or full discount.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Formation: Formation for Confirmation will take place in a dynamic 2 year program through a combination of retreats, catechetical sessions, participation in parish life, liturgical celebrations, community service, projects, evaluations, parent and sponsor sessions and optional participation in weekly sessions and youth group. Each of these elements is explained below.

A guide and calendar will be provided for these activities.

Interviews: Candidates will interview with the pastor and director at the beginning and at the end of the two years. In these interviews, we seek to know the candidate better, his disposition for formation and identify the level of preparation for the sacrament.

Mass: The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. As such, it is an essential and fundamental part of a Christian living. Candidates will demonstrate weekly Mass attendance at St. Ambrose or any other parish for the duration of the program (2 years) through the completion of a Mass booklet.





Retreats: Candidates will participate in 6 one day retreats per year. These retreats will be an excellent opportunity to realize the vision mentioned at the beginning considering the different areas of formation and utilizing the different teaching methods available.

Catechetical Sessions: These sessions take place in between retreats and will be another opportunity for deepening the understanding of the faith. Dates will be in the calendar.

Parish Life: St. Ambrose is a very active parish and there are many opportunities to be actively involved. Candidates will be able to participate in an activity of their choice to introduce them into the life of the parish.

Community Service: Serving others is an essential aspect of our Christian identity and candidates will be able to participate in different service projects putting their faith into practice.

Projects: Candidates will be able to deepen their knowledge of the faith by completing projects at home that would include reading assignments, research, action items and more.

Evaluations: Candidates will be evaluated regularly to ensure increase in knowledge of the faith, utilizing different evaluation methods including the Archdiocesan Faith Knowledge Assessment.

Gatherings with Parents and Sponsors: Candidates will gather on a couple of occasions with their parents and sponsor (for those in second year).

Sunday Classes: Candidates that wish to deepen their knowledge of the faith even more will have the option to attend weekly classes. These classes will be optional. However, should the candidate choose to sign up for them, they must follow the attendance policy for the I-6 program.

Youth Group: Candidates will also have the opportunity to join the youth group and share their faith with peers. Participation is optional.

