



CONFIRMATION 2024 **Saint Mary Catholic Church**

"you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses"
Acts 1:8

INVITATION

Welcome to the Saint Mary Confirmation Program! At Saint Mary's, all high school teens (9th grade & above) are invited to begin the year long process of Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation. Teens who begin Confirmation Preparation in the fall of 2023 will be Confirmed on September 22, 2024.

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation perfects the grace of Baptism. Baptism is the beginning of new life and Confirmation is the strengthening of new life. We receive the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. Confirmation unites us more firmly to Christ and increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us.

WHY CONFIRMATION PREPARATION?

The Confirmation Preparation process consists of various elements, which provide a framework for supporting youth and the parish as they grow as a faith community. The process includes opportunities for learning, service, and worship, which require sufficient time for growth, reflection, and maturation. The preparation time is essential to the process. Confirmation invites youth to life-long faith formation and to service in ministry. It is not a graduation from church, but instead it is a beginning to a life of faith and holy habits. We look forward to this journey as we explore and enrich our faith together by following Christ and being open to the Holy Spirit.



REQUIRED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES 2023-2024

1. MASS

Keep Holy the Lord's Day

The Eucharistic Liturgy is the source and summit of our Catholic faith. Regular Mass attendance is vital to the spiritual growth of every Catholic. At weekly Mass, teens experience the depths of God's love through the Word, the community, and the Eucharist. **All those in Sacrament prep are required to check in for whatever weekend Mass that your family attends.** We also encourage parents to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation as frequently as you can. Making these two sacraments a priority will show your child that it is a priority and foundational to the Catholic faith. *If this requirement is not met, the Sacrament will be delayed a year.*

CONFESSION TIMES

Saturday from 3:00pm - 4:30pm in the Church Chapel or call the office for an appointment.

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8am , 10am, 5:00pm

Traveling for the weekend? **Visit [masstimes.org](https://www.masstimes.org)** to find a Mass near you!

2. PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Confirmation classes will be a hybrid-- the first part will take place with monthly student gatherings. The second part will be in each home, where parents and teens will pray, do the online Chosen sessions, and prepare together for the great Gift of the Holy Spirit. The parish will provide guidance, materials, and support along the way. We are also asking for parental help with snacks and small group facilitation on Confirmation meeting days. There will be a sign up for this emailed out.

3. CONFIRMATION CLASS & PROJECTS

It is our hope that the classes will not only offer your child a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith, but will also solidify their hearts as chosen children of God at this critical time in their life. The programs have been designed to address and answer your child's fundamental questions about life, and to challenge him or her to embrace a life of faith. There are 4 additional projects that need to be completed: Saint Name Paper, Sponsor Interview, Attend a Teaching Mass/Tour of the Church, and writing a letter to the Bishop and our Pastor on why you want to be confirmed. Outlines will be provided for each of these assignments. There will be check in points and due dates throughout the year to keep everyone on task.

4. LIFE NIGHTS AND CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

Life Nights create an environment that meets the spiritual, educational, social and emotional needs of today's high school teens. Teens grow as a faith community, increasing in understanding of what it means to be young and Catholic in today's changing world. Life Nights are an important part of every young person's ongoing faith formation both during and after the Confirmation Program. Confirmation teens are asked to commit to regular, active participation in Life Nights.

Saint Mary Life Nights are Sunday nights after the 5:00pm Mass in the PLC Youth Room. Dinner is provided. Parents, if you are able, please sign up to assist with a meal.

Students in Confirmation will be required to volunteer in a number of capacities at Saint Mary's. Opportunities include: coffee and donut set up, hospitality, ushering, child care, altar serving, choir, VBS, Adventure Days and assisting with middle school Edge nights. Throughout the year of prep, 15 hours of church service is required. We believe this is an important aspect of community here at Saint Mary's. Church service encourages youth to take ownership of their important role in that community and the larger body of Christ. Each student will receive a tracker to document hours.

5. RETREAT REQUIREMENT

Confirmation Candidates are required to attend one retreat. The retreat options are:

- Steubenville Atlanta Youth Conference: Summer 2024, TBA
(This event is highly recommended!)
- Diocesan Youth Conference: February 10, 2024
- Camp Covecrest, July 2024

6. CHOOSING A SPONSOR/A SAINT NAME

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, students choose a name to be confirmed under. This should be the name of a saint who models what it truly means to pursue and live holiness. In fall of 2023 the teens will be asked to choose a saint name. However, it's never too early to choose a saint and begin asking for his/her intercession as candidates seek to live a life of holiness each day. Students will have the opportunity to present the Saint they have chosen at the December meeting.

A sponsor is a person that the confirmation candidate can rely on during their faith journey. He or she should be a person with a deep commitment to the Catholic faith and who is an active, confirmed member of their parish. They should be willing to listen, help the candidate answer questions, and be enthusiastic in sharing their faith, example and wisdom. Sponsors are expected to maintain REGULAR contact with their candidate to pray, socialize and develop a stronger relationship. Sponsor must be selected by Jan 2024 (earlier is encouraged).

CONFIRMATION CHECKLIST

- Register as parishioners of Saint Mary Catholic Church.
- Register for Confirmation at: <https://saintmary.life/confirmation-2024>
- Pay by cash/check at the parish office. Sacrament is \$85.
- Bring a copy of baptismal certificate to the parish office (if not baptized at SMCC).
- Turn in Confirmation Participation Agreement.
- Register for the online class portal once you receive the access code.
- Make sure you are receiving Flocknote "Confirmation 2024" group emails. *Let Julia Doane know if you are not receiving them!*

IMPORTANT DATES

Chosen Session and Project Completion Dates

October 15 - Parent-Student Meeting after 10am mass in PLC cafeteria

November 12

December 10

January 14

February 11

March 19

April 14

May 12

August 11

August 25

September 1

September 15

September 22, 2024 Confirmation

Online Registration Closes November 1!

Special projects

Saint name Project Due December 10

Sponsor Approval Form Due January 14

Sponsor Interview Form Due March 19

Teaching Mass August 11

Letter to Bishop and Pastor Due September 1

**Student meetings
will be held after the
10am mass in the PLC!**



For further information, please contact Julia Doane

Phone: 850.243.3742 ext.214

Email: Julia.doane@saintmary.life



Confirmation Commitment 2024

As a baptized Catholic, I am preparing for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, by which I will be more perfectly bound to the Catholic Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the Faith as a witness of the Christ. As a candidate for Confirmation, I promise the following:

- I will approach my Confirmation journey with an open mind and an open heart.
- I will fully participate in all Chosen sessions, projects and session check in questions.
- I will attend Mass every Sunday and on all holy days of obligation.
- I will check in at the Hospitality Desk each time I attend mass.
- I will participate in Life Teen nights.
- I will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before my Confirmation.
- I will accept more responsibility in my family, parish and community by putting my talents and gifts at the service of others.
- I will commit to daily prayer, praying especially for growth in faith, hope and love.

As I make these promises, I ask God to give me the grace to be open to His plans for my life - plans he reveals to me in prayer, in my talents and aspirations, and in the encouragement of those who know and love me. I place myself in the loving embrace of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in asking for help in fulfilling this commitment.

Name of Candidate (Print)

Signature of Candidate

Date

Witnessed by: Signature(s) of Candidate's Parents(s)/Legal Guardians(s)

Date