



# **CONFIRMATION 2026**

## **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 middle and high school teens (6th grade & above) are invited to begin the semester long process of Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation. Teens who begin Confirmation Preparation in the fall of 2025 will be confirmed on Saturday, January 10, 2026.

### **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, focused on family catechesis and small group discipleship 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 2025-2026

## 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 Sunday 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 whichever 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 2:30pm - 4:30pm in the Church Chapel or call the office for an appointment.

### MASS TIMES

**Saturday Vigil Mass:** 5:00pm, **Sunday:** 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:30pm (Spanish), 5:00pm  
Traveling for the weekend? **Visit [masstimes.org](https://www.masstimes.org)** to find a Mass near you!

## 2. PREPARATION SESSIONS

Confirmation preparation will be a hybrid setup--one part will be family-oriented and the second part is discipleship based.

The first part will be family catechesis focused and will take place the first Sunday of each month at our Family Adventure Day Program after the 8:00am OR 10:00am Mass where parents, teens and their families will pray and learn together about the Holy Spirit and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The second part will be a small group discipleship program where teens will come together for 6 sessions on Sunday evenings after the 5:00pm Mass. Teens are also encouraged to attend our Youth Ministry programs when a Confirmation session is not scheduled. Our Youth Ministry programs meet on Sundays after the 5:00pm Mass in the PLC.

### 3. CONFIRMATION CLASS & PROJECTS

There are 3 additional projects that need to be completed: Saint Name Paper, Sponsor Interview, 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 reminders and due dates to keep everyone on task.

### 4. PARENT INVOLVEMENT

This ministry year, Bishop Wack and the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee have placed major emphasis on what Saint Pope John Paul II referred to as the “Domestic Church.” That emphasis is that the family are the first catechists to our youth and should play the largest role in faith formation. Our Family Adventure Day program is focused on empowering parents in their roles as frontline teachers to their families. It is crucial and required that families attend these days with their teens.

We need parent’s help with meals/food for evening meetings, as well as cleaning-up.

During our evening small group sessions, it is vital that we have parent volunteers that can help facilitate small groups of teens as they are guided through the preparation sessions. Parents can volunteer to be a small group facilitator with the Saint Mary Confirmation Coordinators. The church will provide all the training and materials needed to be an effective small group leader, we just need your willingness to serve! *Per Diocesan policy, all volunteers need to be background checked and fingerprinted for Safe Environment requirements.*

### 5. CHOOSING A SPONSOR/A SAINT NAME

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, teens choose a Saint 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 2025 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. We will have the opportunity to present the Saint they have chosen at the November 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 the end of October 2025 (earlier is encouraged).

# GETTING STARTED



- ☐ Register as parishioners of Saint Mary Catholic Church
- ☐ Register for Confirmation at: <https://saintmary.life/confirmation>
- ☐ Pay by cash/check at the parish office
- ☐ Email a pdf or image of baptismal certificate to [Scott.Gulig@saintmary.life](mailto:Scott.Gulig@saintmary.life) (if not baptized at SMCC)
- ☐ Turn in Confirmation Participation Agreement.
- ☐ Make sure you are receiving Flocknote "Confirmation 2026" group emails.
- ☐ Go to confession prior to Confirmation

## Special projects

Sponsor Approval Form Due October 5

Saint name Project Due October 26

Sponsor Interview Form Due November 16

Letter to Bishop and Pastor Due January 1, 2026

# IMPORTANT DATES

## Family Adventure Day after 8:00am OR 10:00am Mass in the Parish Life Center

September 7

October 5

November 2

December 7

## Confirmation Small Group Discipleship after Sunday 5:00pm Mass in the Parish Life Center

September 14

September 21

October 19

October 26

November 16

December 7

**Online Registration Closes September 14!**

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026 CONFIRMATION @ TBA

For further information, please contact Scott Gulig at

[scott.gulig@saintmary.life](mailto:scott.gulig@saintmary.life)

or Lydmarie Machado 850.243.3742 ext. 211

[lydmarie.machado@saintmary.life](mailto:lydmarie.machado@saintmary.life)