

Thank you, parents...

Thank you for taking the first step in preparing for your child's Confirmation. This information is meant to be a guide to the Confirmation program at St. Mary's in Mt. Angel. Please feel free to follow up with Katie Beaubien Franchini or Fr. Philip with any questions.

In an effort to better prepare and evangelize our young people, St. Mary's is continuing our two-year Confirmation preparation program. The focus is life-long participation in the Catholic Church and appreciation of the Mass. In addition to attending regular youth group both years (held Sunday morning or Wednesday evening), first year Confirmation students will attend a special monthly preparation session held the first Sunday of the month, during our "Sacrament Sunday" preparation time. (*Please see the Youth Ministry calendar for specific dates and times.*) During our monthly gatherings, we will learn about the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and revisit the 7 Sacraments.

Following the first year of preparation, students will be enrolled in their second year, which is the year they will be confirmed.

Here are some important points from the Archdiocese of Portland regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation:

"Confirmation preparation and reception is intended to take place during the freshman and sophomore years of high school with primary emphasis on the sophomore year. Youth should have the opportunity for preparation

and reception of the sacrament by the end of their 16th year of age."

"Candidates must have participated in a Confirmation Preparation Program in order to be confirmed. The preparation program should be at least six months in length allowing for some programs to be up to two years in length."

"It is recommended that parishes require a candidate be involved in ... Youth Ministry... or other formational experiences outside of and including regular weekend Mass attendance for one year prior to beginning the program."

"It is expected that the parish assume responsibility for providing on-going comprehensive youth ministry and other formational experiences and opportunities in addition to and beyond Confirmation."

"[I]t is recommended that Confirmation be available on an annual basis."

"Confirmation is not intended to be a 'graduation' from Catholic education and formation."

Based on these guidelines, **Confirmation preparation will be offered each year for all high school students in their sophomore year and beyond who have completed the Confirmation Year One preparation.** In addition to regular youth group attendance, Year Two students will come to a Sunday afternoon session every other week (approximately two gatherings per month) and will focus specifically on the Sacrament of Confirmation. We will learn about the 12 Fruits of the Holy Spirit, and take a deeper look at the Mass. (*Please see the*

Confirmation calendar for specific dates and times.) Confirmation preparation is not, nor is it intended to be, an overview of the Catholic faith, a Bible Study, or a youth group. Candidates and families are encouraged to pray together and learn more about the Catholic faith as a family. **The focus is life-long participation in the Catholic Church and appreciation of the Mass.**

Confirmation completes the Sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic Church, along with Baptism and Eucharist. It is not a "graduation," but rather a commencement—a beginning—of life as a fully initiated Catholic, with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within each person as an Advocate and Guide. Teens are invited and encouraged to continue participating in youth ministry activities after receiving Confirmation.

This program will take many people to make it work, so all parents of Confirmation students are strongly encouraged to volunteer in some capacity within Youth Ministry. For questions or clarifications, please contact Katie Beaubien Franchini, Director of Youth Ministry at (503)845-4279 or youthministry@stmarymtangel.org.

THANK YOU!



FAQ's

Why are there so many meeting hours for students preparing for Confirmation?

A: In prior years, Confirmation students met once a month for an hour, for a total of approximately seven hours. In evaluating the Confirmation prep program, we determined this was not enough time to adequately prepare and form teens into young disciples. In an effort to further our goal of life-long participation and appreciation of the Mass, we increased the hours that both Year 1 and Year 2 Confirmation students meet. Between both years, students will have about 40 hours of Confirmation prep and formation.

Why are the Year Two Confirmation meetings from 2-4 pm on Sunday afternoons?

A: The time itself is tied to the 12:30 pm Mass time. In order to include our Hispanic brothers and sisters easily, this time is important. From experience, gatherings work better when they take place either just prior to or following a Mass. Since our Faith Formation already happens between the 10 am and 12:30 pm Masses, we needed a different time. Additionally, the Sunday afternoon time allows us to meet for two hours on a bi-weekly basis, instead of trying to fit all the teaching into one hour.

If my teen attends Catholic School, do they still have to come to Confirmation class and/or youth group?

A: Yes. Those preparing for Confirmation need to be and learn together. We want the Confirmation teens to participate in community – with each other and with St. Mary's. There are activities we do that cannot be repeated outside of our large group gatherings or small group discussions. If you have concerns with this, please speak with Katie Beaubien Franchini or Fr. Philip Waibel. Thank you for raising your kids in the Catholic faith!

Important Confirmation Prep Info

1. Confirmation preparation is available to **high school students**. Year One will attend a special monthly preparation session held the first Sunday of the month, in addition to regular youth group.
2. Those who are participating in the Year Two Confirmation program **must attend** bimonthly (usually twice a month) gatherings for eight months (September – May), in addition to regular youth group.
3. Year Two Candidates will have a **Mandatory Retreat** (usually in mid-November) in preparation for the reception of the Sacrament. Further information will be provided during the year. Please see Confirmation calendar for location and dates. **We greatly appreciate if parents can volunteer.*
4. A copy of the candidate's **Baptism Certificate** must be turned in at the Year Two parent and student orientation meeting in September. **We are not able to receive candidates into the Confirmation program without a copy of the Baptismal Certificate.**
5. Along with attending all Confirmation gatherings, students in the Confirmation program are expected to attend Mass each weekend. Year Two students must also participate in a Confirmation retreat, as well as fulfill other program requirements (to be stated at the Orientation Meeting in September).
6. **Parents and sponsors are expected to take an active role in the formation and preparation of the youth**, understanding that parents are the primary catechists of their children. Additional information will be given to parents throughout the year to share and discuss with your young adult.

St. Mary Youth Confirmation Program



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