



Dear Confirmands and Parents,

In Confirmation, a person receives a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit in order to give witness to Jesus Christ. The Church seeks to adequately prepare each young person for this great sacrament.

According to the requirements of the Diocese of Richmond, there will be an initial meeting with the candidates for Confirmation (confirmands) and their parents. There will be 14 hours of preparation for the confirmands, which will be divided among 7 additional Sunday gatherings, each lasting 2 hours, along with a follow-up meeting (known as Mystagogy). Please note that these meetings are in addition to either religion classes in a Catholic school, classes in the parish religious education program (Wednesdays, 6:30pm-8:15pm), or a homeschool program. The confirmands are also required to attend a Confirmation retreat, and they should participate in a prayer vigil the evening before Confirmation. Please see the attached schedule for the dates and times of these events. To help offset the cost of curriculum materials and Confirmation retreat programming, the fee for Confirmation is \$30. If you require assistance, please let us know, we are happy to help.

Prior to Confirmation classes beginning, each confirmand is asked to set up a quick, 20min interview with the Director of Evangelization and Catechesis to assess openness to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This interview is more about the candidates own journey of faith, and is not pass/fail.

To prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, the confirmand must:

- Attend all events (initial meeting, formation gatherings, youth group (if not in a Catholic school), retreat). Missed meetings will result in mandatory make up sessions.
- Submit a new Proof of Baptism with notations (a copy that includes a record of First Communion) issued by Church of Baptism by **December 12 (Copies of the original certificate are not accepted)**. Please have the parish where your son or daughter was baptized mail the Proof of Baptism to:

*St. Benedict Catholic Church
ATTN: Ben Fleser
300 N. Sheppard St.
Richmond, VA 23221*

If your child was baptized at St. Benedict's, a proof of baptism is not necessary; simply email Ben Fleser (bfleser@saintbenedictparish.org)

- As a practicing Catholic, attend Mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation (*Code of Canon Law*, canon 1247). However, if you are not attending Mass at this time out of concerns of safety, we encourage you to watch the Mass via livestream. The confirmand should also receive the Sacrament of Penance (Confession or Reconciliation) before being confirmed (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1310).
- Select a sponsor. According to Church law, "The sponsor's function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament" (*Code of Canon Law*, canon 892). All sponsors, whether residing inside the Diocese of Richmond or in a

different Diocese, will need to complete a Sponsor Attestation Form. The deadline for submitting this form is December 8. The criteria for the sponsor are as follows:

- Be at least 16 years of age
- Be a Catholic who has received Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation; and who practices the faith.
- Not be the mother or father of the person to be confirmed (canons 874, 893 §1)

Thank you for supporting your son or daughter. Please contact the parish if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely in Christ,

Reverend Father John David Ramsey
Pastor

Ben Fleser
Director of Evangelization and Catechesis

Confirmation 2021-2022 Schedule of Events

Orientation Meeting with Confirmand and at least one parent

Location: St. Benedict Church Sunday, October 3
Time: 12:30pm

Confirmation Interviews

Done virtually or in person from October 4-14

Confirmation Formation Gatherings

Location: St. Benedict Catholic Church
Time: All meetings are from 1:00pm to 3:00pm

*Although we are offering in person meetings, please let us know if you do not yet feel safe meeting in person and we will make accommodations.

Formation Gathering Dates

1. Sunday, October 17th, 2021
2. Sunday, October 31, 2021
3. Sunday, November 14, 2021
4. Sunday, December 12, 2021
5. Sunday, January 9, 2022
6. Sunday, January 23, 2022
7. Sunday, February 6, 2022

8. Saturday, February 26, 2021 (Retreat)

Confirmation Retreat

Location: TBD

Date: Saturday, February 26, 2021

Confirmation Mass: The information below will be available by December.

Location: TBD

Date: TBD

Time: TBD

Confirmation Mystagogy

TBD following the Rite of Confirmation

Preparation for Confirmation normally begins if a young person will be 15 by the time the sacrament is received (March/April); in most cases, this will occur during the 10th grade.

Registration: Please register online at <https://www.saintbenedictparish.org/confirmation>