



Greetings!

We are excited to begin the process of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, which is a particular outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we receive to strengthen us in our spiritual journey.

Before we begin our formal sessions, please read through all the information below regarding preliminary steps.

***Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is open to those who will be in at least the 10th grade in the Fall of 2022. Per the Confirmation guidelines for the Diocese of Richmond, the following is to be observed:**

"Effective July 2, 2012, Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo set the appropriate age for preparation and reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation to be when an individual is both at least 15 years of age and enrolled in at least the tenth grade." (Catholic Diocese of Richmond Confirmation Guidelines, p.10)

Bishop Knestout has kept these same guidelines in effect. Since the Bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation, our parish is obligated to follow what the bishop has prescribed regarding sacraments and cannot permit anyone to begin Confirmation earlier than the 10th grade.

***If you are seeking Confirmation for your son/daughter but they have not yet received First Communion, please contact Ben Fleser before you begin registration (bfleser@saintbenedictparish.org)**

St. Benedict Parish Requirements

- Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation (if you're attending Mass/registered at another parish, please contact Ben Fleser before registering)
- Attend individual pre-Confirmation meeting with the Director of Evangelization and Catechesis
- Attend all Confirmation sessions (see below for dates). **Preparation for Confirmation must take place in the Catholic parish.** If you will be absent for any sessions, please contact Ben Fleser about make up work.
- Attend the mandatory Confirmation retreat on Saturday, November 12. If you have a scheduling conflict, please contact Ben Fleser ASAP (bfleser@saintbenedictparish.org)
- If not enrolled at St. Benedict Catholic School, or in a Catholic homeschool program, please partake in religious education at St. Benedict.
- There is a \$20 fee to cover the cost of our Confirmation retreat and other resources. This fee is in addition to the fee for High School Youth Ministry. Please do not let finances be an issue. If you are in need of any assistance, please contact us.

Confirmation Sponsor

Each Confirmand is asked to select a sponsor to accompany them in their preparation for Confirmation. In order to be a sponsor according to Church law, a person must:

- Be at least 16 years old
- Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist.
- Not be bound by a canonical impediment (divorced and remarried without seeking to have the previous marriage annulled, for example)
- Be living a life befitting the role to be undertaken (for example, regularly attending Sunday Mass; if married, be in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church)
- Not be a parent of the Confirmand

All sponsors must submit a signed Confirmation Letter of Attestation. If the sponsor is from outside St. Benedict, they must also obtain a signature from the pastor of their parish on their attestation form.

If Members of a Different Parish

- If you are registered at, or members of a different parish other than St. Benedict, we strongly encourage you to partake of sacramental preparation at the parish of which you most frequently attend Mass. For questions and inquiries about this, please contact Ben Fleser.

Baptism Information

- If you your teen was baptized here at St. Benedict, no extra documentation is needed. Your teen's record of baptism and First Communion can be found here, at St. Benedict (If no record of First Communion is found on file here, we may need to obtain a record demonstrating First Communion has occurred).
- If your teen was baptized at a different Catholic church, parents must obtain a newly annotated baptismal certificate from the teen's church of baptism (a photocopy of the original certificate will not suffice). These annotated certificates **must also contain the date of your teen's First Communion** written on the back. Since all sacramental records are kept at the church of baptism, they should also have the record of your First Communion. Baptismal certificates can be obtained by contacting your teen's church of baptism and requesting a new certificate. You can have them mail the certificate directly to St. Benedict:

St. Benedict Catholic Church

Attn: Ben Fleser

300 N. Sheppard St., Richmond, VA 23221

- If baptized in a Non-Catholic church and/or your teen still hasn't received First Communion, please pause the registration process for now and contact Ben Fleser at bfleser@saintbenedictparish.org.

* After your teen completes their Confirmation, their Confirmation record will be sent to their church of baptism. We will keep a copy of the records at St. Benedict, but all sacramental records are kept together at the church of baptism.

- **Please aim to have your baptismal certificates submitted by December 1**

Confirmation Schedule 2022-2023

*All sessions are held Sundays from 1:00pm-3:00pm with a short break in the middle.

- **October 2:** Introductory Family Meeting at St. Benedict Church; 12:30pm (At least one parent required to be present)
- **October 3-12:** Confirmation Interviews (set up by appointment)
- **October 16:** Confirmation Session #1
- **October 30:** Confirmation Session #2
- **Saturday, November 12:** Confirmation Retreat
- **January 8:** Confirmation Session #3
- **January 22:** Confirmation Session #4
- **February 5:** Confirmation Session #5
- **February 26:** Confirmation Session #6

Confirmation Date: TBD

Mystagogy: TBD (one hour gathering)

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at bfleser@saintbenedictparish.org. We will be praying for you all as you begin this journey!

God bless you,

Reverend Father John David Ramsey
Pastor

Ben Fleser
Director of Evangelization and Catechesis