



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 2026. 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 Trevor Hamilton before you begin registration (thamilton@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 Trevor Hamilton before registering)
- Attend individual pre-Confirmation meeting with the Assistant 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 Trevor Hamilton about make up work.
- Attend the mandatory Confirmation retreat on **Sunday, November 15** at Blessed Sacrament Huguenot School in Powhatan, VA. If you have a scheduling conflict, please contact Trevor Hamilton ASAP (thamilton@saintbenedictparish.org). The registration deadline for this retreat is October 15. Please return your permission form (available on the parish website) to Trevor Hamilton by this date.
- 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 \$30 fee to cover the cost of our Confirmation curriculum and other resources. Please do not let finances be an issue. If you are in need of any assistance, please contact us.
- Registration for Confirmation can be completed at the link below. Please submit your registration by October 1.
- Register: <https://www.givecentral.org/2026-2027-St-Benedict-Confirmation-Registration>

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 Trevor Hamilton.

Baptism Information

- If 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: Trevor Hamilton

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 Trevor Hamilton at thamilton@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 February 1

Confirmation Schedule 2026-2027

Sunday, October 4 at 9:45am - Introductory Meeting at St. Benedict (Teen & 1 Parent required)

November 15: Confirmation Retreat at Blessed Sacrament Huguenot (registration deadline 10/15/25)

Regular Confirmation preparation meetings will take place at St. Benedict between October and March. Meetings will occur a few times per month, and exact dates will depend on selected small group. After registering for Confirmation, you will receive a survey to select the best small group times for your schedule. Then, based on group availabilities, you will be assigned to one of the options and dates will be announced. Small group options are listed below:

- A. Saturdays at 9:00am
- B. Sundays at 12:30pm
- C. Mondays at 7:00pm
- D. Tuesdays at 7:00pm

Confirmation Date: May 16 (subject to change)

The Confirmation date will be confirmed by the Diocese of Richmond after all registrations are submitted.

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

God bless you,

Reverend Father John David Ramsey
Pastor

Trevor Hamilton
Associate Director of Evangelization and Catechesis