

CONFIRMATION GUIDELINES

2024-2025

Jane Moreno

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CONFIRMATION PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Regular attendance at Mass.
- Baptismal certificate.
- Regular attendance at Family Faith Formation (FFF) sessions, or an approved Home Study (e.g., Seton), or at another Catholic School.
- Attendance at confirmation meetings, retreat and practice.
- Frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Completion of 20 service hours.
- Choice of a saint name and completion of a saint paper.
- Choice of a sponsor, and sponsor certificate or letter of eligibility.
- Letter to the Pastor.
- Knowledge of the Church's basic teachings, practices and prayers.

CONFIRMATION FEE

The Confirmation fee for students is **\$100**. There may be an additional fee to cover our off-site retreat. Contact Mylene Garcia with any questions.

CONFIRMATION MEETINGS

Candidates for Confirmation must attend the Confirmation Preparation meetings. Dates are: **October 27th; January 26th; February 23rd; April 6th**. All meetings will be held at **4:00pm in Fellowship Hall**. At least one parent must attend with the student. Sponsors are encouraged to attend.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

The Church requires proof of Baptism for Confirmation. You are to present a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate, even if your child was baptized at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Please do not give us the original. If you need a copy of the original certificate, we can copy that for you. It is important that the address of the church where your child was baptized be on the certificate. You may write/type it in, but it is essential we receive that information. If you do not have a copy of your child's baptismal certificate, please request it from the parish where your child was baptized. It may take several weeks to get a copy. If your child was baptized through the Military Ordinate please contact them at:

Archdiocese for the Military Services, United States of America
P.O. Box 4469, Washington, D.C. 20017-0469
Phone: (202)269-9100 website: www.milarch.org

Baptismal certificates are due at the **October 27th** meeting.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

All candidates are required to attend the all-day retreat scheduled for a Saturday, **March 08, 2025**.

SELECTING A SAINT NAME

As a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation, your child has two options concerning the choice of a Confirmation name: 1) Choose their present Baptismal name, if it is that of a recognized saint of the Church, or 2) Pick a saint's name that would symbolize a new beginning in their faith life and their connection with that particular saint. We ask that each candidate write a report explaining their name choice and sharing information they learned regarding their saint. The saint's name should be identified by **January 26, 2025** and that report is due **February 23, 2025**.

*If a student is unable to attend the retreat on this date, parents may explore having the student attend a retreat at another parish. They should then finalize alternative arrangements and notify **Jane Moreno**, Coordinator of Liturgy and Sacrament Preparation.

SELECTING A SPONSOR

In preparation for Confirmation, your child must select a sponsor or “spiritual guide”. It is recommended that your child choose a sponsor from this parish or from the Northern Virginia area. If this is not possible, please encourage regular communication between them via phone, email, social media and, most importantly, personal visits. Because of the intimate connection between Baptism and Confirmation, it is desirable to have one of the Baptismal godparents become the Confirmation sponsor.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

1. Chosen by the candidate or the parents.
2. Completed their sixteenth year.
3. Be a confirmed, practicing catholic who can serve as a role model in the Faith.
4. Can be male or female.
5. Cannot be the father or mother of the candidate.

Provide the parish office (ATTN: Jane Moreno) with the name of the sponsor no later than **October 27th**. A sponsor certificate is due **April 06, 2025**.

IF THE SPONSOR CANNOT ATTEND THE CONFIRMATION MASS:

If your child’s sponsor is unable to attend the Confirmation Mass, a proxy is needed. The proxy must be a Confirmed, practicing Catholic following all the other sponsor requirements. It may not be a parent. When a proxy stands-in for a sponsor, the parish office must be notified of the proxy’s name for the Confirmation register.

SPONSOR CERTIFICATE

Every sponsor must provide the parish office with a sponsor certificate or letter of eligibility. This certificate is obtained by the sponsor from the parish where he/she is registered. All parishes have slightly different forms. Sponsors who are parishioners here (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton) still need to obtain and turn-in a sponsor certificate of eligibility. To obtain the blank certificate, please contact the Parish Office at (703) 494-4008. The sponsor will be asked to stop by the office to meet with Father Bashista or Father Merkle. Sponsor certificates of eligibility are due no later than the **April 06, 2025**.

CONFIRMATION ROBES

All confirmandi must wear a Confirmation robe in order to be confirmed by the Bishop. The boys will wear a red robe and the girls, white. Students will be measured at the **February 23rd** Confirmation preparation meeting and must be completed by that date. Robes will be distributed at the final Confirmation meeting on **April 25th**. Please inform Jane Moreno if you plan to use a sibling's robe or a borrowed robe.

SERVICE HOURS

Each candidate should complete 20 hours of service to the community in preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Service hours documentation may be turned in when 20 hours are completed but, no later than **March 8th**. The Faith Formation office will make every effort to suggest service opportunities for your child. This will most often be accomplished through the bulletin, the website, flyers, letters and emails, and through your child's Family Faith Formation Facilitator. Ultimately, it is up to your child to choose the type of service in which he/she would like to take. Service need not be a complicated affair. It can be simply helping out a parent or friend above and beyond what one would normally do. If there are questions as to whether a particular activity is suitable for service hour credit, please have your child call the office and ask for Jane Moreno or Mylene Garcia, to discuss it. To receive credit they fill out the reflection sheet for each type of completed service. Keep a copy of the service hours earned for your own records.

MANDATORY CONFIRMATION PRACTICE – Friday, **April 25th** from **5:00-6:00pm** in the main church. Your child's sponsor or a parent must attend the practice.

CONFIRMATION WILL BE ON MONDAY, APRIL 28th AT **7:00 PM**. Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions.

LETTER TO THE PASTOR

Each confirmandi is asked to write a personal letter to the pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Address the letter to Reverend Brian G. Bashista. In this letter, the child formally asks the pastor to present them to the Bishop for their reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Each letter should include five parts:

1. Why do you want to be confirmed?
2. Why did you choose your Confirmation Saint's name?
3. Explain your preparation (home study, service project, meetings, retreat, Family Faith Formation classes) and what this has meant to you.
4. Why did you choose your particular Confirmation sponsor?
5. Complete the following "As a full member of the Church I promise to strive to..." The letter should be one page long, written in ink or typed on white 8 ½" by 11" paper. Address the letter to Father Bashista and include the student's name, home address and phone number. Please do not mail the letters directly to Father Bashista. Instead, turn in the letter to the Parish office, Attn: Sacrament Preparation. Letters will be bound and presented to Father before Confirmation. Please submit the letter for Father Bashista no later than Sunday, **April 6th**.