

Our Lady's Church

Confirmation Requirements outline

Each requirement below is a step toward being ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Most Important Requirement: Pray daily and ask your parents and others to pray for you as you prepare to receive this Sacrament!

Practicing Catholic: Students are highly encouraged to attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Days, receive the Sacrament of Confession often, and to have an active prayer life. Establishing these practices now will carry through to a loving, Catholic life as an adult.

Baptismal Certificate: Please provide a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate if your child was not baptized at Our Lady's Church. If you do not have the certificate, please contact the parish where your child was baptized and have them fax the certificate to us @ 301-475-6632 or send a scanned image through email.

Patron Saint's Name: Students choose a Confirmation name of a saint that they see as a role model or have a special connection with. The chosen person needs to be canonized (Saint) or beatified (Blessed) by the Church.

Research Paper on Confirmation Saint or Blessed. Students prepare a 1- 2 page research paper on the chosen saint to explain the history of that saint and why that saint is special to them. The purpose of the paper is for the student to understand how the saint answered God's call to sainthood and to explain why they have chosen that saint as patron. Please include source information.

Sponsor Information: Students choose a Confirmation Sponsor. This person will stand with the student during the Confirmation Mass and the rehearsal and will be a lifelong mentor in the faith. Therefore, the sponsor must be

- 1) At least 16 years old
- 2) A practicing Catholic
- 3) Someone other than a parent (siblings are allowed, provided they meet all the other requirements).

For Our Lady's parishioners, please submit a parish sponsor certificate. For parishioners from other parishes, please have the sponsor request a parish sponsor form from his/her pastor and have it signed and stamped.

Letter to the Bishop: Students write a letter to the Bishop containing the following:

- 1) The student's name and address at the top of the letter.
- 2) The salutation Your Eminence. Or "Dear Bishop Dorsonville".
- 3) Introduce yourself, including your age, school, favorite activities, etc.
- 4) Introduce your sponsor, telling why you chose this person to be your sponsor.
- 5) Include information about your saint name and why you chose this saint (a few sentences is enough, do not reprint your research paper).
- 6) Describe your parish and/or community service activities, what you learned from providing service, and how you plan to continue to provide service in the future.
- 7) Why you want to be Confirmed.
- 8) How you plan to continue to grow in faith now that your formal CCD education is completed.
- 9) Thank the bishop.
- 10) Sign the letter

Community Service Hours: Helping others and our church community is a central theme of Christianity and an important practice to carry into adulthood. Students can choose any of the following service opportunities or find a different option outside the church to complete the Community Service Statement. In church: altar society, altar serving, lecturing, helping at a parish event (cemetery clean up, 2nd grade retreat), or singing at Mass.

Proper Attire for Confirmation: Ladies: A dress, skirt, or dress pants, with dress shoes or sandals. If the top has spaghetti straps or no straps, please wear some sort of covering in addition. Skirts should extend below fingertips. Gentlemen: Dress slacks, dress shirt, tie, and dress shoes. A suit or sport jacket is optional. Note to all students: NO FLIP-FLOPS or TENNIS SHOES.