



Confirmation 2026-2027

Our Lady of the Fields

1070 Cecil Avenue South, Millersville, MD 21108 | 410-923-6953 | confirmation@olfparish.com

June 2026

Dear Confirmation Families,

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10) These words of Jesus mirror the heart of parents who seek to raise faithful disciples who pursue what is true, good, and beautiful. Confirmation is a sacrament God uses to empower our young people to have full and abundant lives, especially at this age.

At Our Lady of the Fields, we are striving to develop formation for our youth that builds disciples and empowers strong Catholic families. We have worked hard to remove barriers and unnecessary hoops. Through participation in our Confirmation program, our candidates and their parents are given opportunities to build and strengthen their relationships with God, the Church, and one another by deepening prayer, building community, and learning to live the timeless truths of our faith.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore has made the decision, guided by the Holy Spirit and the leadership of our Archbishop, to lower the standard age of Confirmation to 9 years old. Because of this shift, our second phase in meeting that standard is to confirm 6th, 7th, and 8th graders this coming year to continue the grandfathering process as we launch a family formation model. This next step for our candidates this upcoming year will necessitate some changes to structure and requirements for our Confirmation Program.

We recommend you visit the ArchBalt website to watch a video from Archbishop Lori and other information regarding the age change: <https://www.archbalt.org/faith-formation/im-a-parishioner/>

Regardless of the change in requirements, the goals remain the same--for each candidate to be prepared to receive the sacrament with an understanding of what Confirmation is, an increased prayer life, and a greater sense of belonging in our Catholic Church. Additionally, we are inviting parents to take this journey of preparation with their child(ren) by accompanying them and participating in the formation process.

Here are the dates and details for our formation program:

- (1) **Confirmation Preparation Sessions** | All candidates, including Catholic school students, and at least one parent are required to attend 4 sessions. This model, taking place over the course of the year, has been developed as part of the progression towards greater family ministry at Our Lady of the Fields and the Archdiocese of Baltimore. These sessions include times of prayer, learning about the Catholic faith, group discussions, and activities designed for parents to accompany the candidates in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Families will select either Sunday or Wednesday sessions in the parish hall on the following dates:

- Sundays 3:30pm-4:45pm
 - September 27
 - October 25
 - November 8
 - January 31
- Wednesdays 7pm-8:15pm
 - September 30
 - October 28
 - November 11
 - February 3

- (2) **Family At Home Projects** | During each of the sessions above, candidates and their families will be given resources to encourage continued development of faith practices as a family. These are practical ways for families to further integrate spirituality and prayer into the daily life of the home as well as the family's regular attendance at Sunday Masses.
- (3) **Youth Ministry Nights** | Every candidate is encouraged to regularly attend youth group gatherings held twice a month. Edge Nights (Middle School) is the flagship offering of our Youth Ministry Program bringing the Candidates into the larger community of their peers and offering a wider, fuller perspective. Each gathering usually includes group activities, prayer, and discussion to offer a wide range of opportunities for our young people to learn and appropriate their faith. Edge Nights take place on Thursday nights 6:30-8pm (does not include dinner). Calendar will be posted on webpage this summer.
- (4) **Sponsor Orientation (Zoom Meeting)** | Wednesday, **October 21** at 7:00pm EST. The Sponsor is an important part of this sacrament. The Church lays out criteria for who can serve this function and they will play an important role in the preparation process. At heart, the Sponsor accompanies the Candidate on the journey to Confirmation and continues that service throughout the life of the Candidate. Sponsor Information is due to the Confirmation Office by **October 7**. Sponsor Information can be submitted via a Google Form to be sent at a later date. Sponsors are welcome to attend the Confirmation Preparation Sessions in addition to a parent, not as a substitute.
- (5) **On-Going Faith Formation** | This sacramental preparation program is in tandem with Faith Formation at the parish or religion classes at Catholic Schools. Candidates in 6th, 7th and 8th grade should be registered in regular faith formation or currently attending Catholic school as part of their on-going formation in the Catholic faith.

Candidates also preparing for Baptism or Reception into the Catholic Church will participate in the Confirmation preparation process according to their grade level. They will celebrate all their Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) at the Easter Vigil, on March 27 at 8:00 pm.

Parents who themselves missed receiving their Confirmation may be able to be confirmed at the same liturgy as their child(ren). To learn more about how you can receive your Confirmation, please speak with Dr. Lauri Przybysz in our Faith Formation office, lauri@olfparish.com, 410-923-7025.

To participate in Confirmation Formation this year, complete online registration on our website.

Registration is due August 14. Please communicate in advance any foreseen scheduling conflicts with the Confirmation Preparation Sessions. We will work with individual families on a case-by-case basis to ensure that our Candidates are afforded every opportunity to participate fully in Confirmation Formation. All questions or concerns can be directed to myself or Mrs. Lisa Hogan via email confirmation@olfparish.com.

The Confirmation Masses will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen with Bishop Adam Parker on Saturday, March 13. Rehearsal will be on Wednesday, March 10 at Our Lady of the Fields at 6:30pm. Mass times are to be announced; families will select their preference at a later date.

It is a privilege to accompany our parents and candidates on this journey towards a wonderful Sacrament!

With joy,



Ian Gill

Youth Minister – Our Lady of the Fields