

Mother Seton Parish

19951 Father
Hurley Blvd

Germantown,
MD 20874



SEND DOWN
YOUR SPIRIT

confirmation

7th Grade

Year 1 Candidate Packet

2018-2019



But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob,
 And He who formed you, O Israel,
 “Do not fear for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name; you are Mine!”
Isaiah 43:1



Welcome Confirmation Candidates!

In a special way God is calling you to draw closer to him through the sacrament of Confirmation. We know that each time we receive a sacrament God has a great gift for us—His grace. The grace that God gives enables us to respond to His call and to bear witness to Christ in the world. In the Gospels, the Spirit that descended on Jesus during Baptism descends on the Apostles at Pentecost commissioning them to go forth to proclaim the Word to the ends of the earth. We are already called to this mission by virtue of our Baptism, but at Confirmation we are more perfectly bound to the Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. We are forever marked with a spiritual “seal” as a sign of our total belonging to Christ.

We invite you to continue this journey of faith that began on the day of your Baptism. The three sacraments –Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation- together constitute the “sacraments of Christian initiation,” whereby the newly confirmed become better equipped to carry out the Church’s mission of love and service. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* emphasizes, “that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.” (CCC #1285)

This year is Year 1 of your 2 year preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. The expectations outlined in this packet will be completed this year by each candidate. Next year, in Year 2 of the program, you will receive a new packet and booklet of expectations and activities to complete.

Our Confirmation Program is designed to lead the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ, to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church, and to witness as members of the Body of Christ. Together with your parents, we will accompany you through this formation period recognizing that your spiritual journey is a lifelong apprenticeship of worship, prayer, study, stewardship, and virtuous decision-making.

To that end we can summarize the preparation of Confirmation to include three main components: Prayer, Study, and Service.

Prayer	Study	Service
Mass Attendance Retreat	Religious Education Classes Jason Evert Event	5 hours service in parish 5 hours service in Community
Pages 2 - 3	Page 4	Page 5-15

PRAYER

The sacrament of Confirmation is a gateway to a deep and lifelong personal relationship with our Savior. As with any relationship, closeness and intimacy must be cultivated. Preparation for Confirmation includes opportunities to commit to and open one's heart to that relationship through:

- Daily prayer
- Attending Mass
- Participation in Confirmation Retreat

Mass Attendance

Students are expected to attend Mass every Sunday (or Saturday evening) and on Holy Days of Obligation (the first Precept—or minimum requirement—of the Church).

Why is it important to attend mass weekly?

Participating in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation of all baptized Catholics. In fact, intentionally keeping oneself away from the Mass may be a situation of grave sin. When we worship as a community, we build up the Body of Christ because we are 'being the Body of Christ'. The following excerpts from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) are offered to help the candidate deepen his/her understanding of why the Eucharistic celebration is the source and summit of the Christian life. **More about communion:** CCC 1384-1387. **More about the Sunday obligation:** CCC 2180-2182.

Parents, your teen needs you...

Attending mass together is a powerful way that parents demonstrate to their children the importance that they place on obedience to Christ's commands. If a parent wants their teen to know the beauty of the Eucharist and the significance of participation in a community of faith, that behavior must be modeled in a sincere way.

Included at the end of the Confirmation Booklet is a mass log. Parents, please keep this log to keep track of your family's mass attendance. Work hard as a family this year to make mass a priority. In the time leading up to Sunday, plan for how to work around scheduling difficulties. After mass, discuss the readings and/or homily together. Make mass an intentional moment of worship in your family's week. Your teen will notice.

Retreat

Candidates are expected to the 7th grade NET Retreat.

What is the 7th Grade NET Retreat?

In March, the National Evangelization Team (NET) is a team of young adult missionaries who travel the country putting on retreats for Catholic youth. The team will challenge our youth to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church through their inspirational presentation, small group discussions, music, prayer, and Mass. This retreat will be on-site at Mother Seton and the cost of the retreat is included in the sacramental fee you have paid.



NET Retreat



**Our NET retreat will be
Saturday, April 27, 2019
from 9am-3pm in the Parish Center**

STUDY

It is God's life giving love that the human heart desires and we seek and find this in teachings of the Church. Preparation for Confirmation includes many aspects of study to grow in faith and love of God. Specifically for this year, students are asked for:

- Faithful participation in Religious Education classes
- Attend the Jason Evert talk on Dec 13th.
- Personal initiative to seek answers for questions that arise during formation

Faith Formation Classes

Candidates are expected to regularly attend Faith Formation classes.

Archdiocesan attendance standard is at least 85% attendance.

(Catholic school students fulfill this expectation through their school's religion class.)

What do I need to know?

Our Confirmation prep classes meet on Monday evenings. Students are expected to be prepared for the classes, including arriving on time and staying for the entire session. This also includes completing any assigned readings or homework. Candidates are expected to complete all at-home and make-up work assigned.

Attendance at the Confirmation classes is important in preparing the candidates for reception of the sacrament. When a class is missed, the candidate loses time for fellowship and prayer as well as the educational material covered that day. We expect that you will make these gatherings a priority and therefore make a sincere effort to adjust your other obligations accordingly.

What to do if you miss a class:

1. If you know your student will miss class please contact our Faith Formation secretary ahead of time: Juliana at 301-444-3496 or by email at reled@mothersetonparish.org. If the date has passed that you missed class, please do the same so we can acknowledge the reason for the absence.
2. **Makeup the work.** Visit www.SetonYM.org to view instructions for accessing the videos you will need to teach your son/daughter a missed lesson at home.
3. Please keep in mind the **Attendance Policy for Religious Education for the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. is 80%**. In keeping with that policy, if a child has more than 5 absences from faith formation parents will be called for a conference with the Director of Faith Formation and the Pastor to discuss future participation in the program. See Parent Handbook for more.

JASON EVERT: Jason Evert will be here to speak to students about love and purity on December 13th. All Confirmation candidates (both Year 1 and Year 2) are expected to attend. The event is in the church and the time is TBA.

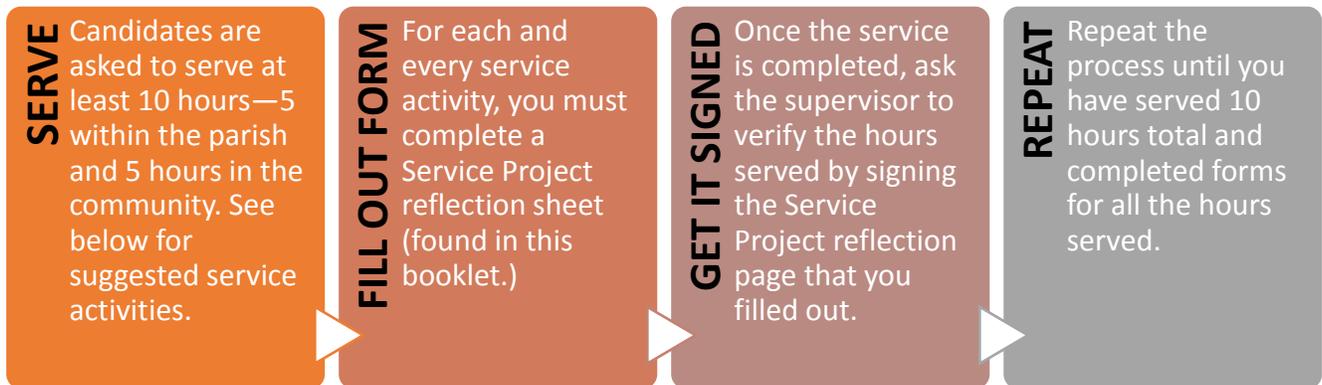
SERVICE

If we are to prepare candidates for a life of discipleship to Christ Jesus, we must promote an awareness of the importance of and vital need for performing service to others. Throughout Scripture we are called to love our neighbor and stand up for justice and peace. Serving others is not something we do “to get it over with”. It is something we do because we recognize the presence of Jesus in all persons and in all of God’s creation. You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. He replied to him, ‘You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.’” -- (Luke 10: 27-28)

10 Hours of Service

Candidates are asked to serve at least 10 hours –
5 within the parish and 5 hours in the community per Confirmation year.

In preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, candidates learn to live the gospel message by reaching out to serve those in need. Including family members or fellow students in your project builds unity and can be a source of joy while you work. The service component is a two-pronged approach: service within the parish and service in the community. **Candidates are asked to serve at least 10 hours – 5 within the parish and 5 hours in the community.** Once the service is completed, ask the supervisor to verify the hours served by signing the Service Project reflection page included in this binder. Reflect and write about your experience using the reflection page. Here are a few suggestions that may be helpful when considering a service project.



Candidates and their families are responsible for seeking out, choosing, and signing up for service activities. We have created a list of suggestions on the following pages, but you are not limited to these choices. We encourage candidates to try to find a project or population to serve that they think they may be interested in continuing to work with after their Confirmation. All are called to develop their gifts and talents to put them at the service of the common good, and the commitment to follow this call is strengthened in our Confirmation. Our service, within the parish and outside of it, also provides opportunity for forming relationship with the people we serve and the people we serve alongside, which serves to form us all more deeply into one human family, one body in Christ.

PARISH Opportunities

Corporal Works of Mercy Service Projects

Youth Choir

Ongoing

- Open to young singers and instrumentalists from 3rd through 12th grades. Rehearses each Tuesday in the music room and sings at the 9:00 am Mass every 2nd and 5th Sunday as well as Christmas, Easter, First Communion and other special liturgies. If you are interested in being part of the youth choir at the 9am mass or the newly forming teen choir at occasional Sun. 5pm Masses.
- ***Please call or email Amy Massey at 301-924-3838 extension 215 or email music@mothersetonparish.org for more information.***

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Ongoing

- 2 students are needed to help each Sundays at 8:30 am with Children's Liturgy of the Word to set up chairs and tables, after which these students can choose to leave, or choose to stay for the 9:00 Mass to help the Leaders with the children. For chair set up, the students will receive one service hour. If students stay to help with the children during Mass, they will receive two service hours total. (Parents must bring the students into the John Paul II room and stay with them until a Children's Liturgy of the Word leader shows up. The leader and parent must communicate when and where the student should be picked up, depending if they just set up and/or set up and help at Mass.)
- ***Please contact Joan Gerard to be scheduled: joaniearc@verizon.net.***

Altar Serving

Ongoing

- If you are already an altar server, you can count your time serving at mass towards your parish service hours. If you are interested in becoming an altar server at our weekend masses,
- ***Please email Father Ben at benjamin.agd@gmail.com***

Church Cleaningz

Fall and Spring

- Help is needed to polish pews, clean between the pews, sweep and dust. Dates: Nov 10th and April 6th (9:30am-1pm)
- ***Please contact Dorette Paulin at dcpaulin@verizon.net***

PARISH Opportunities

Corporal Works of Mercy Service Projects

Adaptive Needs Ministry Teen Mentor

October - April

- The Adaptive Finding God program is in need of 2-3 more teens to help with our program. The teens will be assigned to a student with special needs to help build and grow their faith and your own. You will help the catechist teach the lesson (which will be all prepared) and fill in when the catechist can't be there. We meet Saturday mornings approximately every other Saturday. Your time commitment is from 8:30-10:30 each time we meet, must commit for the whole school year. We started meeting in September and go through April. If you have a heart and desire to volunteer for this program:
- ***Please contact Mary Beth DeLuzio at coordinator@mothersetonparish.org or call 301.924.3838 extension 234.***

All Saints International Festival

Saturday-Sunday, Nov 3rd-4th

- 10 students are needed to help set up on Saturday, November 3rd at 8:30 p.m.-9:30p.m. in parish center. Festival is November 4th. 8 students are needed during the festival from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. 10 students are needed to help clean up after the International Festival in the Parish Center at 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm on the 4th. In total 28 students are needed.
- ***Please contact Juliana at reled@mothersetonparish.org or call 301.444.3496 to sign up***

Cheesecake Distribution

Sunday, Nov 18

- Please come and help distribute cheesecakes for our cheesecake fundraiser. We will need 10 volunteers, time commitment is 9am-1pm. Parents are welcomed too!
- ***Please contact Ms. Dominique Seraphin at 301-444-3495.***

Christmas Carols at Mother Seton Shrine

Dec 16

- Trip to the Mother Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg, Maryland. We will need 10+ volunteers to narrate and sing Christmas carols in Emmitsburg for the sisters at the Mother Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg. The event itself is at Mother Seton Shrine on Dec 16 (arrive at 2pm). But there are also rehearsals for this event on three Saturdays in December, the 1st, 8th, and 15th, from 10:30-12:30pm in the music room here at Mother Seton.
- ***Please contact Dorette Paulin at dcpaulin@verizon.net***

PARISH Opportunities

Corporal Works of Mercy Service Projects

First Reconciliation Retreat

Saturday, Jan 19

- We need 10+ students to help out with set up, taking the children around, and cleaning up for our First Reconciliation retreat. Time committment will be from 8:30am-1pm.
- ***Please contact Mary Beth DeLuzio at coordinator@mothersetonparish.org or call 301.924.3838 extension 234.***

Black History Program

Sunday, Feb 24

- Black History Celebration. 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Parish Center. Children hand out programs, help set and clean up the room.
- ***Please contact Dorette Paulin at dcpaulin@verizon.net for more information.***

First Communion Retreat

April 13

- We need 10+ students to help out with set up, taking the children around, and cleaning up for our First Communion retreat. This will be from 8:30am-1pm.
- ***Please contact Mary Beth DeLuzio at coordinator@mothersetonparish.org or call 301.924.3838 extension 234.***

COMMUNITY Opportunities

Corporal Works of Mercy Service Projects

Germantown Help

4th Weekend of Month

- Transport food donations from MSP for the monthly food drive to the HELP pantry located at Trinity Unity Methodist Church. Stock shelves and pack boxes at the pantry the 4th weekend of the month.
- **Contact Liza Oprandi at 301-924-3838 x204.**

Catholic Charities

Various Projects

- Catholic Charities is a good launching point to discover ways to serve in our area. One example: Coat Drive, donate coats and volunteer. Please email coats@catholiccharitiesdc.org or visit www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/coats for more information.
- **www.catholiccharitiesdc.org**

Other Service Resources

Montgomery County

- The Montgomery County Volunteer Center connects individuals and groups to ongoing service opportunities and one-time projects in our community.
- **Visit:** <http://www.montgomeryserves.org/>



*“Open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters;
Inspire in us words and actions to comfort those
who labor and are burdened. Make us serve them truly,
After the example of Christ and at his command.
And may your Church stand as a living witness
to trust and freedom, to peace and justice,
that all people may be raised up to a new hope.”*
-Eucharistic Prayer for Use in Masses for Various Needs IV



Corporal Works of Mercy Service Projects

Service Reflection

1. As Christians we are called to serve others. Your Service Project should reflect the mission of the Church in its care and concern for those in need based upon the seven Corporal Works of Mercy.

To feed the hungry
To give drink to the thirsty
To clothe the naked
To shelter the homeless
To visit the sick
To visit the imprisoned
To bury the dead

Example: Making a meal or casserole for S.O.M.E., sponsoring a neighborhood or school clothing drive, visiting the elderly, sponsoring a food drive, etc.

2. Please complete the following information and questions upon completion of each project. Turn in one form for each organization you serve.

Date of service _____ No. of hours of service _____

Organization or person you are serving: _____

Description of service provided: _____

Why did you choose this service project? _____

What was the easiest and hardest part of serving others? _____

Signature of responsible official _____

PRINTED: Candidate Name _____

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Family Mass Log

For Parents to Complete

Attending mass together is a powerful way that parents demonstrate to their children the importance that they place on obedience to Christ's commands. If a parent wants their teen to know the beauty of the Eucharist and the significance of participation in a community of faith, that behavior must be modeled in a sincere way.

Below you will find a Mass Log. Parents, please keep this log to keep track of your family's mass attendance. Work hard as a family this year to make mass a priority. In the time leading up to Sunday, plan for how to work around scheduling difficulties. After mass, discuss the readings and/or homily together. Make mass an intentional moment of worship in your family's week. Your teen will notice.

Your Candidate's Mass Attendance		
Weekend	Which Mass Was Attended	Who Was the Presiding Priest
Oct 13-14		
Oct 20-21		
Oct 27-28		
Nov 1	(All Saints Day)	
Nov 3-4		
Nov 10-11		
Nov 17-18		
Nov 24-25		
Dec 1-2		
Dec 8	(Solemnity of Immaculate Conception)	
Dec 8-9		
Dec 15-16		
Dec 22-23		
Dec 25	(Christmas)	
Dec 29-30		
Jan 1	(Solemnity of Mary)	
Jan 5-6		
Jan 12-13		
Jan 19-20		
Jan 26-27		
Feb 2-3		
Feb 9-10		
Feb 16-17		
Feb 23-24		

Mar 2-3		
Mar 9-10		
Mar 16-17		
Mar 23-24		
Mar 30-31		
Apr 6-7		
Apr 13-14		
Apr 20-21		
Apr 27-28		
May 4-5		
May 11-12		

“Take this and eat it, all of you”; communion (CCC 1384-1387)

1384 The Lord addresses an invitation to us, urging us to receive him in the sacrament of the Eucharist: "Truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." (Jn 6:53)

1385 To respond to this invitation we must prepare ourselves for so great and so holy a moment. St. Paul urges us to examine our conscience: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself." (1 Cor. 11:27-29) Anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before coming to communion.

The Sunday obligation (CCC 2180-2182)

2180 The precept of the Church specifies the law of the Lord more precisely: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass." ...

2181 The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.

2182 Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church. The faithful give witness by this to their communion in faith and charity. Together they testify to God's holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.