



AVE MARIA CATHOLIC PARISH  
FAITH FORMATION  
9056 E. PARKER ROAD  
PARKER CO 80138  
303-841-3750

NANCY HARTSHORN, DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION  
ANGELLE SCHOTT, COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

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# Confirmation Handbook 2020/21

## Registration Deadline is November 1, 2020

### How do you register?

1. Read this handbook and submit a signed copy of the **Acknowledgment of Receipt** page at the end of this handbook.
2. Complete the **Sacrament Registration Form** – It is only online; no hard copies available; reach out if you need assistance

\*\*\*Visit [www.avemariacatholicparish.org](http://www.avemariacatholicparish.org) under Faith Formation, click the tab “Children’s and Youth Ministry” to access the Sacrament Registration Form

*"I wish not merely to be called Christian, but also to be Christian."  
—St. Ignatius of Antioch*

*"Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world on fire."  
—St. Catherine of Siena*

# Ave Maria Confirmation Requirements

## Definitions:

Confirmandi - a person who is preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Your child will be referred to as this throughout the upcoming year.

## Mass Response/Keeping the Sabbath Holy

Attendance in a Roman Catholic Church for Sunday Mass and Holy days of Obligation is required by Sacred Scripture (Deut. 5:12-15) and universal church law. It is one of the basic precepts of the Catholic faith.

### **Mass Responses will begin on Oct 31st/Nov 1st weekend**

Have you ever heard your teen/child/spouse/relative/friend ever say that Mass is boring?

It is unfortunate that we hear these statements because it means the Church is not reaching them with the true beauty of the Mass.

The truth is, Mass IS boring if we aren't engaged. Part of learning to be engaged is to write about the experience of the Mass. St Jerome said, "To read without writing is to sleep."

To use St. Jerome's guidance, we expect the confirmandi to write a response of how they will grow in relationship with Jesus Christ based on something that caught their attention during the Mass. This can be from the readings, music, architecture, or anything that moves you toward the Lord.

Not only is this a good practice and exercise for the confirmandi but for the entire family to participate in this exercise (we are only asking to see the confirmandi's responses)

- If you are out of town or watching Mass online, please email a copy of your teen's written Mass responses to [rcarpizo@avemariacatholicparish.org](mailto:rcarpizo@avemariacatholicparish.org)
- With COVID affecting much of what we normally do and for the safety of our parish families, the Bishops (at the time of this publication 10/10/2020) have given us a dispensation from the obligation of Mass on Sunday, however keeping the sabbath holy is still required of all of us.
- As long as we are receiving dispensation from Mass, the Mass Response may include ways in which you and your family are keeping the Sabbath holy and how you find yourself growing closer to the Lord.

## Attending Mass in person @ Ave Maria (Church and Brownstein Hall)

- Mass times for regular Sunday observance are:
  - Saturday: 4 and 6pm AND Sunday: 7, 9, and 11am, or 5pm
  - You will find a table with a box on it. See picture below:
  - This box and table are located in the back of the church toward the left when you walk into Mass inside (next to the 6<sup>th</sup> Station of the Cross). See picture below; box is circled:



- Next to the box will be the Mass Response cards to complete. See example below:

### Mass Response

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Who is presiding? \_\_\_\_\_

Fr. Nathaniel AND Fr. Erin are younger priests.

One has red hair - who is that? Fr. Erin.

What is one take away from Mass that will help you grow closer to God this week?

\_\_\_\_\_

- Place the completed Mass Response inside the box during/after the Mass you attend.
- If there are no forms available, you can use any paper – remember the date, name, and comment on something you learned in Mass.
- Brownstein Hall has a Mass response box that is located next to the offertory box
- If you have forgotten to turn in your Mass Response; please email Rossana @ [rcarpizo@avemariacatholicparish.org](mailto:rcarpizo@avemariacatholicparish.org)

## Attending Mass Virtually

- Mass is currently being live-streamed at 9am every Sunday; if there is a technical issue and our Mass is not streamed for Sunday, you may research other Masses that are available from another parish.

## Attending Mass on Holy Days of Obligation

- Follow same guidelines for Sunday Mass Responses
- **Holy Days of Obligation for 2020/21:**
  - All Sundays
  - August 15<sup>th</sup> – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
  - November 1<sup>st</sup> – All Saints Day
  - December 8<sup>th</sup> - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
  - December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas
  - January 1<sup>st</sup> – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

## **Attending Mass at another Roman Catholic Church**

- If you choose to attend Mass at another Roman Catholic Church, please use [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) to help you find a Catholic church near you. Check their website for Mass sign ups and procedures for that parish.
- Grab a bulletin and put your confirmandi's name on it with their Mass response attached, if no bulletin, then write your Mass responses on a piece of paper
- Please turn them in weekly or as soon as you can
- Submit a picture of the bulletin or Mass Response with your confirmand's name on it and email it to [rcarpizo@avemariacatholicparish.org](mailto:rcarpizo@avemariacatholicparish.org)
- The church must be Roman Catholic

## **Faith Formation Classes**

ALL confirmandi must be registered by October 25th in Faith Formation classes or be a student at Ave Maria Catholic School.

- This is crucial to making sure we have enough catechists and resources to teach.
- More than 3 absences in Faith Formation will need to be made up in a timely manner
- All seeking confirmation in the spring 2021 must be catechized to grade level.
- If your teen has not been participating in Faith Formation between 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade, please make an appointment with Angelle to discuss how we can help him/her prepare. Please email Angelle at [aschott@avemariacatholicparish.org](mailto:aschott@avemariacatholicparish.org) to set up an appointment.

**Faith Formation classes begin October 25th in Brownstein Hall/Dwyer Hall  
The Ave Maria School year began in August**

## **Parent Meetings**

Preferably both parents (but at least one parent) are required to attend both parent meetings. One is in the fall semester and one is in the spring semester.

**November 4, 2020 6:30-8:30 PM in the Church  
AND  
February 3, 2021 6:30-8:30 PM in the Church**

Goals of the parent sessions:

- Review their role as models in the faith development of their son/daughter;
- Deepen their own faith lives
- Strengthen their family relationships so all may grow in relationship with God.

## **Parent Responsibility**

- Parents are reminded in their child's Baptism that, "In asking for Baptism for your child(ren), you are undertaking the responsibility of raising him(her) in the faith, so that, keeping God's commandments, he(she) may love the Lord and his (her) neighbor as Christ has taught us." (Order of Baptism of Children)
- The Faith that parents promise to raise their child in includes:
  - Rejection of Satan, his works, and all his empty promises
  - Renouncing sin so that we may be free to live as children of God

- o Renounce the lure of evil so that sin may have no mastery over you
- o Affirming that you “believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth”
- o Affirming that you “believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father”
- o Affirming that you “believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.”
- Baptized with water - they are baptized, “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”
- Anointed with Chrism - they are “anointed with the Chrism of salvation, so that you may remain as a member of Christ, Priest, Prophet, and King, unto eternal life.”
- Clothed in white garment - They have “become a new creation and have clothed yourself in Christ. May this white garment be a sign to you of your Christian dignity.”
- Lighted candle - Receiving the light of Christ so they may “walk always as a child of the light and persevering in the faith, may run to meet the Lord when he comes with all the Saints in the heavenly court.”
- Parents are promising by their example, teach their children the Precepts of the Catholic Church:
  - o To assist at Mass on all Sundays and holy days of obligation.
  - o To confess your sins at least once a year.
  - o To receive Holy Communion during the Easter season.
  - o To keep holy the holy days of obligation.
  - o To fast and abstain on the days appointed.
  - o To contribute to the support of the Church.
- The choice you are asking your child to make is not whether or not to prepare but to:
  - o Have union with God
  - o Believe in the Creed
  - o Want to be Confirmed in the faith
  - o Practice their Catholic faith
  - o Submit (follow) to the magisterium

## **Confirmation Retreat**

All confirmandi are required to attend one retreat. Confirmation retreats begin Friday at 7pm and end on Sunday at 11:30 am. Attendance is required for the entire duration of the retreat. Transportation is on your own. They are held at Ponderosa Retreat and Conference Center in Larkspur.

The dates are as follows:

**November 13-15, 2020**

**OR**

**March 5-7, 2021**

\*\*\*We are working on contingency planning and alternatives for our vulnerable youth/families.

## Saint Report

During preparation, the candidates will be choosing a saint name which will be used at the Confirmation Mass. Confirmandi's are asked to research and choose a saint they want to emulate. Specific details will be provided at a later time. The google form can be found on the [avemariacatholicparish.org](http://avemariacatholicparish.org) website under Confirmation.

**Saint questions are to be answered no later than February 1, 2021**

## Sponsors

Candidates must choose a suitable sponsor who will accompany them and meet the following requirements:

- Have been chosen by the candidate personally and have a significant relationship with the candidate
  - Have attained the age of sixteen (16) unless special circumstances are approved by the clergy
  - Be a fully initiated, confirmed, practicing Catholic that participates in Sunday liturgy weekly, leads a life of strong moral character and faith and is not bound by any canonical penalty
  - Is not the mother or father of the candidate
- \*\*\*Canon law states that it is preferable that the Confirmation sponsor be the baptismal sponsor so the link between Baptism and Confirmation is clearly defined**

### **Expectations of Sponsors:**

- **Sponsor Form** – to be completed by the sponsor and signed by the sponsor's parish.  
\*\*If the sponsor is a parishioner at Ave Maria, please have a sponsor read and sign their portion and return to the youth office for parish signature.
- Pray for your confirmandi
- Meet with your confirmandi at a minimum once a month
- Utilize the Sponsor Packet as a guide for your meetings with confirmandi
- Attend Confirmation Rehearsal and the Confirmation Mass
- Adhere to the dress code policy set forth by the Bishop's office

## Sponsor/Confirmandi Meeting Dates

Sponsors will attend with confirmandi on the following two dates listed below. If the sponsor is out of town or cannot make these dates; a parent may take the place and provide materials to the sponsor.

**November 8, 2020, 6:30-7:30pm in the Church**

**AND**

**February 28, 2021, 6:30-7:30pm in the Church**

These meetings will take place in the church where we will provide the sponsors with a packet to aid in their responsibility as a sponsor.

Please be mindful of the sacred space and maintain reverence by keeping conversations to the gathering space, no drinks, snacks, gum, or hats in the church.

## **Priest, Deacon, and Youth Coordinator Interview**

Fr. Nathaniel, Fr. Erin, Deacons, and the Youth Coordinator would like to spend a few minutes with each confirmandi, in small group settings, to explore readiness for the sacrament of Confirmation. These will be scheduled in through the Youth office and completed in the spring 2021 (generally March/April timeframe).

## **Confirmation Date**

The sacrament of Confirmation is reserved for the Bishop and the dates will be announced at the beginning of 2021. Families will be invited to sign up for a date once all paperwork is completed and turned in.



# Acknowledgment of Receipt

By signing this Acknowledgement of Receipt, you are demonstrating your understanding and commitment to fulfilling the requirements as they are outlined in the Confirmation Handbook.

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Name of Confirmandi (Print)

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Parent Name (Print)

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Parent signature

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Date