



Dear Incoming 7th Grade Parents:

The New Year ushers in the start of the Sacramental Prep for Confirmation for the 7th-grade youth of the parish. As a valued member of our school community, I want to welcome your family to Old St. Mary's Confirmation Prep Ministry. WELCOME!

I wanted to introduce myself. My name is Maryellen Harrington, and I am the Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation at Old St. Mary's Parish. I have the privilege of accompanying and supporting families to prepare their children for the sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Confirmation is often celebrated in the 8th grade. The Archdiocese requires a two-year prep for Confirmation. This allows time for extended learning, growing, and, most importantly, intentionally practicing what it means to be a disciple. As the parish is the sacramental home where sacraments are received, the parish directs the preparation, even if you attend a parish school such as Old St. Mary's School.

Enclosed you will find two things; an invite and an outline of eligibility for Confirmation.

Eligibility for Confirmation

1. **If you and your young person practice a different faith tradition (non-Catholic)**, you are welcome to participate in as little and as many preparation activities as your schedule allows. Confirmation preparation is a great way to reflect and share your faith journey with our community so we may each grow together in our respective faith traditions. You are always welcome at all prep session gatherings, but it is not required of you.
2. **If your young person is baptized in the Catholic faith** and now wishes to prepare and celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation at Old St. Mary's Church, you must complete the following;
 - Ensure you and your family are fully registered with the parish office. (Note: this is different than registering for our parish school). See the parish website "join" menu at www.oldstmarys.com for more information.
 - **Apply for Confirmation via the parish website.** Visit www.oldstmarys.com and select Sacraments, and select Confirmation from the dropdown list. **Complete the application, and both YOUTH AND PARENTS must complete the reflection.**

- Download the parish app. See the parish website “Parish App” Located at the bottom of the page.
3. **Young people who are unbaptized** and wish to join the Catholic faith will be welcomed into our parish children’s catechumenate, which takes place in addition to the school or parish faith formation and sacramental prep programming. There they will be prepared for full initiation, receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Parent participation is required.
- Ensure you and your family are fully registered parish members (Note: this is different than registering for our parish school.) See the parish website “join” menu at www.oldstmarys.com for more information.
 - Download the parish app. See the parish website “Download our parish app.”

If you have any questions or want more information about Confirmation prep for youth or adult sacramental prep opportunities, please email me at mharrington@oldstmarys.com. If you plan on having your 7th Grader receive Confirmation at an alternate parish where you are registered, contact that church to ensure your child is included in their sacramental preparation for the upcoming ministry year. If your child plans on celebrating sacraments at Old St. Mary’s this coming ministry year (*February 2023-2024*), be sure either your child’s baptismal certificate is submitted to me or contact me about the children’s catechumenate before February 10th.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. I would love for you to take a moment and introduce yourself to me after Mass this summer, as I look forward to getting to know and serving your family.

In Christ’s Peace,



Maryellen Harrington

Pastoral Associate / Director of Lifelong Faith Formation

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