



CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK

Winter 2027

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Introduction to Confirmation Preparation

Archdiocesan Guidelines

Confirmation is a very exciting time in the faith journey of a Catholic. The Archdiocese of Atlanta guidelines are as follows:

The free-standing, parish-conducted Confirmation formation program must be distinguished from the ordinarily required two-year prerequisite foundational religious education program... the parish Confirmation formation program should occur independently from the on-going religious education program. The parish Confirmation formation program should also be of brief duration and intensely focused on the nature, effects, gifts, and fruits of the Sacrament of Confirmation as they are discussed in the Catechism.

*The candidate has the right to make the decision about readiness to receive this Sacrament... The Sacrament of Confirmation is sometimes called the Sacrament of Christian maturity, even though biological age is not necessarily an indicator of receptivity to the Sacrament, (Catechism no. 1308). **

Holy Spirit's Confirmation Preparation Program

In keeping with Archdiocesan guidelines, youth ordinarily should have attended a Catholic school or a parish faith formation program for at least two years before participation in the free-standing parish Confirmation formation program. At HSCC, as we are transitioning the Sacrament of Confirmation from 10th grade to middle school, we will now welcome rising 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students—who meet the preparation requirements—to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in Spring 2027.

Our program spans roughly three months and meets for six sessions once a week on Tuesday evenings. We also have a mandatory one-day retreat which is only available to those in the program.

**If a prospective Candidate does not wish to receive the sacrament, we encourage them to discuss it with their parents and with our Director of Evangelization & Faith Formation and/or Pastor.*

Foundation Preparation (7th, 8th and 9th Grade)

To participate in the Confirmation preparation program in the Winter of 2027, a candidate needs to have actively participated in two (2) consecutive years of religious formation by:

- Participation and completion of 80% of Religious Education/Youth Ministry sessions at HSCC prior to the spring of 2027.
- Participation and completion of 80% of another parish's faith formation program.
- Attendance at a Catholic school.

A combination of the two would also fulfill the requirements.

To clarify the specific Faith Formation requirements for each grade, please use the following model to ensure you meet the qualifications by March 2027:

- 10th grade candidates – Faith Formation should be completed in 9th and 10th grades.
- 9th grade candidates – Faith Formation should be completed in 8th and 9th grades.
- 8th grade candidates – Faith Formation should be completed in 7th and 8th grades.

Specific Confirmation Preparation

All candidates, regardless of where they attend middle or high school, are expected to complete all components of the Confirmation preparation program:

- Register for the Confirmation Preparation Program during the spring semester of their 7th, 8th, or 9th grade year, respectively. Part of the registration process requires verification of reception of Baptism and First Communion:
 - If one or both sacraments were received at a parish other than Holy Spirit, we MUST have a copy of the applicable sacrament certificate(s)
 - If one or both sacraments were celebrated at Holy Spirit, we will verify that information. We will contact you with any questions.
- Attend the Confirmation Candidate and Parent Orientation Meeting on **Tuesday, November 3, 2026**, at 7:00 PM in McDonough Hall.
- Completion and submission of Sponsor Form by **Tuesday, January 26, 2027**.
- Completion and submission of Saint Name Form by **Tuesday, January 26, 2027**.
- Completion of 3 hours of service between **November 3, 2026 and Tuesday, January 26, 2027**.
- Participation in all Confirmation Preparation sessions and the rehearsal.
- Participation in the one-day Confirmation Retreat, which will take place on campus at HSCC in McDonough Hall. **The Retreat is on Saturday February 27 OR Sunday February 28 from 1:00-6:30pm.**

We understand the secular demands placed on the youth and their families. To provide you with the opportunity to make these events a priority for you and your candidate we ask that you add the dates for the program to your family calendar now. *For the specific dates for the year, see Appendix 1 – This Year’s Calendar.*

Registration Information

Confirmation Preparation Registration is for rising 8th, 9th and 10th graders who have met the faith formation requirements. Registration is online only. Registration is not considered complete until all sacramental information is received in the office.

The Confirmation registration fee covers the cost of all supplies, meals, retreat, and other necessary items for the program. Registration is not completed until the registration form, the sacramental paperwork (if applicable) is received, and the registration fee is paid.

As a part of our registration form, you will be asked to complete three permission forms online for your child:

1. HSCC Annual Medical Release

The medical form allows adult leaders of HSCC to attain medical aid for your child in case of an emergency. It also provides emergency contact numbers for your child.

2. HSCC Annual Media Release Form

This form was developed by the Archdiocese to include consistent, specific language to cover all varieties of media, and has been reviewed by the Archdiocese of Atlanta's outside council. This allows HSCC to share pictures and videos from events in the bulletin, online, etc.

3. Archdiocese of Atlanta Permission to Contact Youth

This form is to be used for contacting youth via media. This gives employees and adult volunteers permission to add your child's email to the distribution list, respond to their emails, reply to comments on social media, etc. *Parents will always be provided with the same communications as their children, but it may come through different technology (for example: parents will receive an email, kids may receive a Remind notification).*

If you have any questions, please contact Aimee McDonald at amcdonald@hscatl.com.

General Confirmation Important Dates Overview

For the specific dates for the year, see Appendix 1 – This Year's Calendar, located at the end of the handbook.

- **Friday, May 29, 2026** – Last Day of General Registration
- **Tuesday, November 3, 2026** – Parent and Teen Orientation Meeting. Mandatory for all Confirmation candidates and at least 1 parent.
- **Tuesdays in the Winter (January 19th – March 2nd)**- Tuesday evening sessions from 7pm to 8:30pm (doors open/pizza served at 6:30pm)
- **Saturday February 27 OR Sunday February 28** – Confirmation Retreat at HSCC
- **Confirmation Rehearsal - Date will be announced in June 2026**
- **Confirmation Mass - Date will be announced in June 2026**

For each Tuesday session, there will be a pizza dinner at 6:30 PM. Please RSVP to the Julie Ravry at jravry@hscatl.com by 12 PM on Tuesday to make sure we order enough pizza. Cost for dinner is covered in our registration fee.

Attendance Policy

Since we have a condensed program, attendance at all sessions is **MANDATORY** to be confirmed. One excused absence may be allowed for each teen depending on the circumstance and must be approved by the Director of Evangelization & Faith Formation *at least 2 days in advance of the missed session*.

Your one excused absence cannot be used to miss our retreat. If you cannot attend our retreat, you must register for a retreat at another parish.

In the past, excused absences have been granted for regional or state level athletic competitions, funerals, and drama productions. ***Excused absences will not be given for practices, rehearsals, lots of homework, or to study for tests.*** Please be sure to put our dates on your calendar well in advance so that you can plan accordingly. If a teen has an unexcused absence, they will be required to complete makeup work at home to be turned in the following week.

Please do not send your child to Confirmation Prep if they are sick. We will work with you to ensure that illness does not put your teen at risk of not receiving the Sacrament.

Primary Communication

Communication from HSCC during the Confirmation Preparation Program will come via email from Aimee McDonald or Julie Ravry. Once sessions begin, there will be a weekly email that includes a recap of the meeting, upcoming service opportunities, resources, and announcements. Additional forms of communication may be used but will be announced via email.

Communications concerning the collection of Paperwork will also come from Aimee McDonald or Julie Ravry, particularly as it relates to any ***overdue*** items.

All forms and information for Confirmation families can be found on the Confirmation page of the HSCC website: hscatl.com/confirmation

Sponsor Information and Form

Role of the Parents and Sponsors

Parents and sponsors of the candidates should understand the history and liturgy of the sacrament of Confirmation and its meaning for Christian living. They are the most significant witnesses of “confirmed Catholicism” in the life of a candidate. They should be involved with the candidate in preparation for the sacrament. This may take the form of discussions about topics covered at Confirmation Prep, attending Mass together, praying together, and more.

There are many resources available for parents and sponsors. Please contact the Director of Evangelization & Faith Formation (Aimee McDonald amcdonald@hsccatl.com) if you would like a list of reliable sources for parents and sponsors.

What is a sponsor?

A Confirmand's sponsor should be someone with whom they share their faith. It should be someone who has guided, or will help guide them, in their faith journey - both in their words and in their actions.

- A sponsor at Confirmation witnesses the commitment to Christ which you are making
- Your sponsor presents you to the (Arch)bishop and stands with you as he anoints you with the chrism
- The baptismal sponsor (godparent) is recommended as this shows the unity between the two sacraments; choose your sponsor carefully

Sponsor Requirements

- Your sponsor must be a Baptized and Confirmed Catholic, at least 16 years old
- Your sponsor must be registered in a parish and actively participate in the life of the Church. This includes participation in Sunday Mass and giving witness to their faith by receiving Jesus in Holy Communion.
- If married, your sponsor's marriage must have been witnessed in the Catholic Church by a priest or deacon.
- The revised code of Canon Law states that parents cannot be sponsors; **however, if the sponsor is unable to travel to be at Mass, parents may stand in as a proxy so long as the parish is informed ahead of time.**

Sponsor Form

We require that your sponsor complete the Sponsor Form. Please pay careful attention to the following categories and make sure the form is appropriately completed:

If your sponsor is a parishioner at Holy Spirit:

The sponsor must fill out the form and sign it. They do not need the signature to be witnessed by a member of staff or receive the parish seal on the document. However, the form **MUST** have their signature. ***If your sponsor is an HSCC parishioner, you may scan and email the form to us.***

If your sponsor is NOT a parishioner at Holy Spirit:

The sponsor must fill out the form, and have it witnessed by a staff member of their parish – this requires the parish seal. This can take a while if the staff or pastor is out of town, so it is never too early to go ahead and get this done!!! ***We must have the original form; no electronic or scanned copies will be accepted since parish seals are typically not legible in this format. Please mail the form.***

Sponsor Verification Forms must be turned in by the published due date. They can be turned in at one of our sessions or mailed to the parish office (Attn: Julie Ravry | 4465 Northside Drive, NW | Atlanta, GA 30327). Please email Julie Ravry at jravry@hscatl.com if you have any questions.

Confirmation Saint

Confirmation Saint/Saint Name

When you stand before the (arch)bishop at your Confirmation, your sponsor will tell him the saint's name that you have chosen. He will then anoint you with the chrism and confirm you with your new name.

Choosing your Confirmation Saint name is a very important part of the Confirmation process. This Saint should be someone who inspires you, someone you identify with, and most importantly, someone who can be a role model for you in your Catholic faith.

The saints lived on this earth and experienced suffering, joy, pain, broken promises, peace, frustration, war, injury, heartbreak... in a way, they are not too different from us. What sets them apart, however, they know what it takes to be united with God here on this messy earth. They know what it takes to live well for Him. And they chose to love Him above anything else.

You should choose a canonized Catholic Saint as your Confirmation name. Choose someone who inspires you to live out your Catholic faith. Throughout the Confirmation program, you will be sharing about your saint and their story with your small group, so be prepared to learn more about your saint leading up to Confirmation!

Need some inspiration? First, pray about it and then check out the following links:

- <https://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>
- <http://catholicsaints.info/>

Also, check out this book that may help: <https://shop.lifeteen.com/products/100-saints-every-catholic-teen-should-know>

Saint Name Form

After you have chosen your Confirmation Saint, fill out the Saint Name Form! Please note that we do not use a physical form for this; we have an online form, which can be found at hscatl.com/confirmation.

On the form, you will be asked to include an identifying title for your chosen saint. *This is very important as some saint names are not specific enough (e.g. St. John—The Baptist? The Apostle? Newman?).*

Service Hours

Service hours are an important component of Confirmation preparation. This sacrament is about making the faith your own, and that includes going out into the world and living it.

We ask for three hours of service: it can be three one-hour projects or one three-hour project; however, you want to do this. You cannot use the same hours for school that you use for Confirmation. Confirmation only happens once in a lifetime, so we hope that you'll use this opportunity to give back to the community and to answer Jesus' call to serve others!

Any hours of service performed starting after November 3, 2026 will be accepted. The HSCC Service Hours Form must be completed and turned in by the published due date; please note that this is an online form as well, which can be found at hscatl.com/confirmation. *Please do not use service hour forms from other organizations or your school.*

Common FAQs About Confirmation

What if my sponsor cannot attend Mass?

We understand that many of our teens may choose sponsors who live out-of-state or even outside the United States. If a sponsor cannot attend Confirmation Mass, a parent may stand in as a "proxy". We simply ask that we are made aware of the situation well in advance via email. Please email Julie Ravry at jravry@hscatl.com.

Does my sponsor need to attend our sessions?

No. We understand that some sponsors will be coming in from out of town and it's not feasible for them to come each week. Others may not have Wednesday nights free. As such, our sessions are designed for teens and the leadership team.

Tuesday Nights are difficult for my teen's schedule. Can you offer a different time, or can they take an online course?

Due to the community that is built during our time together, online work cannot replace this. In addition, we unfortunately do not have the resources (volunteers, space, etc.) to offer this program at an additional time. If your child cannot make our program work, the Pastor would be more than happy to write a letter for them to attend another parish's program.

Why are parents required to attend two of the Tuesday Night sessions?

The Archbishop asks us to adopt a family-oriented Confirmation Program to foster the partnership between parents and the parish in their child's faith formation. These two sessions will allow us to include parents in the preparation of this once-in-a-lifetime sacrament.

Why is there a service requirement?

Service hours are a component of Confirmation preparation. This sacrament is about making the faith your own, and that includes going out into the world and living it.

We ask for three hours of service: it can be three one-hour projects, or one three-hour project, however you want to do this. You cannot use the same hours for school that you use for Confirmation. Confirmation only happens once in a lifetime, so we hope that you'll use this opportunity to give back to the community and to answer Jesus' call to serve others!

Any hours of service performed after November 3, 2026, will be accepted. The Service Hours Form must be completed and turned in by the published due date. Upcoming service opportunities are often included in the weekly email in the fall.

My Confirmation Sponsor lives in another country. Do I have to have an original Sponsor Form, or can I email it to HSCC?

Sorry, no electronic copies of the Sponsor Form will be accepted. We must have an original so be sure to get the form to your sponsor as soon as possible so they can have it filled out and mailed back! Questions about the form should be directed to Aimee McDonald at amcdonald@hscatl.com.

How will I receive information about Confirmation Preparation?

Once registration closes, we will create an email list and will communicate via parents and Confirmation candidates that way. Please make sure any email addresses listed on your registration are ones that are checked regularly.

I have a sports practice on Tuesday afternoon/evenings that my coach says is mandatory. What should I do?

Confirmation sessions are also mandatory. Since we have a condensed program that only meets once a week, Confirmation candidates need to be at all meetings. Please talk to your coach and explain the mandatory attendance policy. In the past, every school has been accommodating towards any of their students who want to receive the sacrament. If you need a note, the Director of Evangelization & Faith Formation or Pastor will be happy to provide one.

Contact Information

Any questions about Confirmation Registrations, Confirmation Paperwork, Confirmation Preparation sessions, Confirmation Mass, or retreat should be directed to:

Aimee McDonald
Director of Evangelization &
Faith Formation
amcdonald@hscatl.com
404-252-4513 ext.257

Julie Ravry
Admin. Assistant to Evangelization &
Faith Formation
jravry@hscatl.com
404-252-4513 ext.250

Appendix 1 – This Year’s Calendar

Confirmation Program 2027 Calendar

Date	Event
Tuesday, November 3, 2026	Parent and Teen Orientation, 7:00 PM, McDonough Hall <i>Every registered teen will need to attend with a parent.</i>
Tuesday, January 19 Tuesday, January 26* Tuesday, February 2 – Parents attend Tuesday, February 9 Tuesday, February 16 – Parents attend	Preparation Sessions, 7-8:30 PM in McDonough Hall <i>Pizza dinner served at 6:30 PM, Please RSVP before 12 PM the day of.</i>
Saturday, February 27*	Confirmation Retreat 1:00pm-6:00pm <i>The Confirmation Retreat will be held on the HSCC Campus in McDonough Hall. The Retreat will include us attending the 5:00pm Mass.</i>
Sunday, February 28*	Confirmation Retreat 1:30pm – 6:30 pm <i>The Confirmation Retreat will be held on the HSCC Campus in McDonough Hall. The Retreat will include us attending the 5:30pm Mass.</i>
Tuesday, March 2	Preparation Sessions, 7-8:30 PM in McDonough Hall <i>Pizza dinner served at 6:30 PM, Please RSVP before 12 PM the day of.</i>
Date will be announced in June 2026	Confirmation Mass Rehearsal, 6:30 PM Either the sponsor or a parent should attend with the Confirmation Candidate.
Date will be announced in June 2026	Confirmation Mass, 11 AM <i>Confirmation Candidates & Sponsors will need to arrive at 9:15 AM in McDonough Hall for a meeting beforehand.</i>

*Important Due Dates:

Sponsor Form – January 26th

Saint Name Form – January 26th

Service Hours – January 26th

*Choose one (1) of these two (2) dates