



Confirmation 2025-2026

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian:

Thank you for your interest in Confirmation for your child and thank you for making your child's faith a priority. As you may have heard, the Archdiocese of Boston recently changed the normal age of Confirmation from the age of 16 (10th grade) to the age of 13-14 (8th grade). More information can be found here: <https://www.evangelizeboston.com/confirmation/>. The Beverly Catholic Collaborative will transition Confirmation preparation over the course of two years; in spring 2026 we will be confirming students in **grades 8 and above**.

We will offer our youth the individual attention and personal care they need as well as the gradual experience of sharing more deeply in the liturgical prayer life of our Christian community. We will call on the talents of all who are directly involved in the youth's faith formation: parents/guardians, sponsors, catechists, priests, and other community members.

Before your child can celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, the candidate needs to participate fully in the process by attending the candidate sessions, service opportunities for all candidates and retreat for candidates.

Parents, Sponsors and Ministers in Partnership:

PARENTS: We feel strongly that the primary role in the religious formation of children is the one that parents/guardians carry out simply by being Christian parents. Our process recognizes this truth and supports parents as partners in this ministry. We want this partnership of parents/guardians, sponsors and the parish community working together for the good of our youth as they prepare to encounter Christ and the Holy Spirit in our sacramental way of life.

SPONSORS: According to Canon law: a sponsor must be at least 16 years of age, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church and fully initiated (has completed the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). A Godparent of Baptism is a very appropriate sponsor. A sponsor may live locally or at a distance and should be in contact with the candidate throughout the process. The name of sponsor needs to be submitted to the office no later than January 1st.

CATECHISTS will work alongside parents/guardians and sponsors in preparing the candidates for the sacrament. They will be a part of the in-person sessions. Working together, we hope to offer the very best preparation for Confirmation. We are pleased to have the opportunity to work with your family.

Sessions: We will be hosting twice-monthly class sessions on Sundays from 1:00-2:30pm from October through March, in-person at St Mary Convent. Periodically throughout the year we will ask that an adult (parent, sponsor, grandparent, for example) join their candidate for joint adult-student sessions.

We will hold a parent orientation session Wednesday, October 1st at 7pm via Zoom. This session is for all families. Here is the link to the session:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6041547517?pwd=QTdMaFJFSSt5WC9jdIp3RW8yc1NuQT09>

VOLUNTEERING: We are in need of small group leaders for the Confirmation retreat held on March 22nd, 2025. At this time, the retreat will include 10:15am Mass at St Mary, welcome at St Mary Convent, lunch, Reconciliation, witness talks, and closing prayer. If parents or sponsors want to assist in this ministry, please contact the office as soon as possible. Materials and training will be provided.

Registration Materials: Families are asked to complete the enclosed registration form as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so.

Parish Confirmation Candidate (Grade 8 and above):

Please complete the registration form by October 1st and submit a baptismal certificate if not baptized in a Beverly parish. The sponsor form is due by January 1st, and Confirmation name form (if selecting a Confirmation name) is due by March 1st. Service hour reports and Bishop's letters are due by April 1st. Twice-monthly sessions will meet from **1 PM to 2:30 PM**.

Saints Academy Candidate (Grade 8):

If you are attending Saints Academy and are in Grade 8, Confirmation preparation will be included in the school's curriculum. Saints Academy students are expected to attend the Confirmation retreat in the spring. Please complete the registration form by October 1st and submit a baptismal certificate if not baptized in a Beverly parish. The sponsor form is due by January 1st, and Confirmation name form (if selecting a Confirmation name) is due by March 1st. Service hour reports and Bishop's letters are due by April 1st.

Please mail paperwork to Beverly Catholic Collaborative 552 Cabot St. Beverly, MA 01915, or you may return your forms by email to reled@beverlycatholic.com.

If your child was baptized at one of the Collaborative parishes, please provide us with the church name and approximate date of baptism so that we can locate the record. If your child was not baptized in one of Collaborative parishes, please be sure to supply us with a copy of the child's baptismal certificate. The Collaborative must have a copy of the baptismal certificate in order for the candidate to be confirmed and the church of baptism to be notified of Confirmation.

Missed Session:

Candidates are expected to attend all sessions with a parent, sponsor or another adult. However, there are times when someone needs to miss a session because of illness or travel. Missed sessions will be made up by supplemental readings and/or video links and questions to be completed at home. Responses to the questions can be emailed to the Confirmation Coordinator. Candidates will be asked to view and discuss the material with parent or sponsor.

Discernment:

Parents, I invite you to discuss with your child if you feel your child is ready to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We want this process to be a positive experience for all candidates and catechists. We expect that all will seek to build an atmosphere of respect for self, peers, volunteers and facilities. Young people with a real desire for the sacrament truly embrace the experience while those candidates who are made to do it can at times be disrespectful of peers and catechists. Please help your child discern if there is a true desire to prepare. Let's make this a rewarding experience for everyone involved. If a candidate would prefer to wait, the opportunity to prepare will be available the next year.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding the process or situations that arise as we prepare for the celebration of the sacrament. Let us know what we can do to assist you throughout the process. We look forward to working with your family. God bless.

Yours in Christ Jesus,



Sarah Coen
Confirmation Coordinator

Guide for Parents about the process for preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation

- The Beverly Catholic Collaborative follows the archdiocesan policy for the reception of sacraments. **The archdiocese requires that before a young person can be considered a candidate for sacraments, s/he must have completed at least the equivalent of one year of religious education just prior to immediate preparation for the sacrament, as well as being currently enrolled in a program. Religious Education can be done through the parish religious education program or Catholic school.**
- The primary role in the religious formation of young people is the one that parents/guardians carry out simply by being Christian parents. Our process recognizes this truth and supports parents as partners in ministry. Catechists will work alongside parents/guardians in preparing your child/ren for this sacrament. The parish will conduct special celebrations to introduce the young people to the experience of the sacrament. Working together, we hope to offer the very best preparation for Confirmation.
- We want to begin our parish process for the sacrament of Confirmation by offering our young people the individual attention and personal care they need as well as the gradual experience of sharing more deeply in the liturgical prayer of our Christian community. We will call on the talents of all who are directly involved in their faith formation: parents/guardians, catechists, priests, and other community members.
- Before a youth can celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation, the parents/guardians and the candidate need to participate fully in the process by attending the parent orientation session prior to the start of the process. We want a partnership of parents/guardians and the parish community working together for the good of our youth as they prepare to encounter Christ in our sacramental way of life. A calendar will be reviewed at the parent orientation session.
- We live in a world that has many demands upon us regarding our time, responsibilities, and taking care of those entrusted to our care. The Church teaches us that the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our lives. It is important for us to gather each week as a community to be strengthened to live our lives in the marketplace. St. Augustine teaches us, “See the Body of Christ. Eat the Body of Christ. Become what you eat.” With the reception of Jesus, we are empowered to live a life of discipleship. Families are expected to attend weekly Sunday Mass. Our young people learn best by doing and thus we help to create a hunger to experience Christ in Word and Sacrament. Together, we celebrate and become what we eat: the Body of Christ in the world.

Confirmation—Schedule

Schedule of Sessions, Service and Retreats

2025-2026

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
Wednesday, October 1 st , 2025	Parent Orientation	7:00pm	Zoom
Sundays October 5 th October 19 th November 2 nd November 16 th December 7 th December 21 st January 11 th January 25 th February 1 st February 8 th March 1 st March 15 th	Confirmation Sessions Grade 8 and Above – Twice-monthly sessions run from 1 PM to 2:30 PM	Sessions 1 PM – 2:30 PM	Locations St Mary Convent
Weekend Masses, Holy Day Masses throughout the year	Confirmation candidates are expected to fulfill their Catholic obligation to attend weekend Mass and Holy Days	<i>Weekend Mass Schedule</i> SATURDAY 4:00pm 5:30pm SUNDAY 7:30am 9:00am 10:15am 12:00pm (noon)	St John the Evangelist St Margaret of Scotland St Mary Star of the Sea St Margaret St Mary Star of the Sea St. John the Evangelist
Sunday, March 22 2026	HOLY SPIRIT Retreat	Sunday 10:15-4:00pm	St Mary Convent
Sunday, April 12, 2026	Rehearsal: <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday April 9, 2026 Ceremony: <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday April 12, 2026	5:30pm Rehearsal 2:00pm Liturgy	St Mary Star of the Sea Church St Mary Star of the Sea Church