

Confirmation Program

for Fall 2026

St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church

1420 Monte Sano Ave

Augusta, GA 30904

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Joan Purucker

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Confirmation

For it had not yet fallen on any them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.” (Act 8:14-17)

The Sacrament of Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal gifts. It unites us more firmly to Christ by the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost, giving us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ.

Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian’s soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once in one’s life. [CC 1317]

This special outpouring of the Holy Spirit not only completes the baptismal grace but also brings about a closer union with Christ. Through this deeper union, those confirmed share more perfectly in God’s life as his Children and are more perfectly united with the entire family of God, the Church. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are increased in Confirmation and through them we receive the power to “be not afraid” so that we can spread and defend the Christian faith. [Mt28:19; Acts 18:9; Heb13:6].

A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both with the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs. [CC 1319]

Confirmation Preparations

Students must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist prior to receiving Confirmation. Prior to beginning Confirmation preparation, he/she must have completed at least one year of religious study.

Confirmation preparation at St. Mary on the Hill usually takes place in the eighth grade. Religious studies in preparation for the sacraments may be completed either through the CCD program or St. Mary on the Hill School. Permission is required from Fr. Ross, in order to homeschool your child's religious studies in preparation for confirmation. Preparation includes retreats, service, Adoration, and parent/sponsor/student meetings.

Confirmation takes place in the Fall (usually in late October or early November) of the student's freshman year in high school. The sacrament is administered by Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah, Most Rev. Stephen Parkes.

Parents and students should be attending Sunday Mass on a weekly basis.

Parents and students should be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis.

During Holy Week all candidates and their families are encouraged to fully participate in the Tridium. The Liturgies celebrated during this most Holy Week encourage and allow us to be a part of Christ's Passion and Resurrection.

Starting in **the Fall of 2026 (September & October)**, students and sponsors and/or parents will meet in the Church on Sunday evenings for the final preparation sessions. The date of Confirmation and practice will be announced once we know the Bishop's schedule.

Attached is a confirmation checklist for your child. Please review this checklist to ensure the information is correct. Periodically, this checklist will be updated and sent to you. A copy of your child's baptismal certificate is required to ensure proper record keeping is maintained with your child's church of baptism. The attached checklist indicates whether or not your child's baptismal certificate is currently on file. If not, please submit a copy to the CCD or Church office by **October 31, 2025**.

Confirmation Preparation Schedule

2025-2026

September 2025 – May 2026	Religious Faith Formation Class (St. Mary on the Hill School or CCD or home school, if approved by Fr. Ross)
Friday, October 31, 2025	Baptismal Certificates Due
Saturday, November 1, 2025 8:30 am – 5:00 pm	Day Retreat – Camp Long, Aiken, SC
Saturday, March 28, 2026	Day Retreat – St. Mary on the Hill School
May 29, 2026	Sponsor Information (Name, address, sponsor's Church)
September – October 2026	Sunday evening classes after 5:30 pm Mass
October 2026	Confirmation Name
October/November 2026	Reconciliation/Practice/Confirmation Date to be announced

Retreats

Students are required to attend either the one day retreat on Saturday, November 1, 2025 **or** the one day retreat on Saturday, March 28, 2026. **Students are encouraged to attend both of the retreats.**

The retreat brings together the youth from St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Community and gives them an opportunity to get to know each other while sharing their faith.

The retreat at Camp Long, Saturday, November 1, 2025 gives the students an opportunity to meet the challenges of the ROPEs course. This is a low ROPEs course which is all about team work and working together to accomplish a goal. They also attend different workshops related to aspects of confirmation. The Camp Long Retreat is a one day retreat and there is no cost.

The retreat at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School, Saturday, March 28, 2026 will provide a wonderful opportunity for the youth to explore their faith by seeing the witness of adult team members from our parish share their Catholic faith.

These two retreats are very different and students are encouraged to attend both retreats.

Sponsors

When choosing a sponsor, please be sure that the person meets the canonical directives for sponsors (attached). In addition, the following directives from the Diocese are provided for guidance in selecting a Sponsor:

- The Sponsor must be a baptized and confirmed member of the Catholic Church who is active (registered), in good standing, and fully participating in the life of the Church. A non-Catholic or a baptized Catholic worshipping at another denomination or religion may not be a Sponsor.
- Parents should not act as Sponsors, and grandparents are highly discouraged from doing so.
- It is important the Sponsor be present at the Rite of Confirmation, but if it is not possible, a suitable proxy may be chosen. Parents and grandparents may serve as proxies.

After you have chosen a sponsor, please provide the name of the sponsor, sponsor's address, and the sponsor's Church, including the Church's address. **The sponsor information should be emailed to Joan Purucker or turned into the CCD Office or Church Office no later than May 29, 2026.**

If your child's confirmation sponsor is not a member of St. Mary on the Hill Parish, a sponsor certificate is required from the sponsor's church stating that he/she is a Catholic in good standing and is eligible to be a confirmation sponsor. The sponsor certificate is due to the CCD office by **May 29, 2026.**

Confirmation Name

You will choose a saint's name for your confirmation name. The saint's name will be the name the Bishop uses when he anoints you during Confirmation. The Confirmation name may be the Confirmand's original baptismal name (if it is a saint's name) or one chosen by the Confirmand. The name used must have Christian roots (i.e. a recognized Catholic saint) and chosen name should have personal significance to the Confirmand. Attention should be taken that the name used corresponds to the gender of the Confirmand.

"We choose a Confirmation saint (like we choose a Confirmation sponsor) not out of due diligence to the "rule," but rather because we realize how unfortunate it would be to travel alone. We recognize how important it is to know your Confirmation saint not only by name, but also by story. The saints have so much to teach us about this journey.

Pick a "Confirmation saint-buddy" (canonized or blessed) who speaks to you somehow. know their story. But, mostly know the power of their prayer. Ask for their intercession like you would ask for the prayers of your friends. Saying "yes" to a Confirmation saint is like saying "yes, you may always pray for my poor and weary soul." – excerpt from LifeTeen Website (lifeteen.com)

Confirmation Dress Attire

For Confirmation, clothes should be appropriate for attending church. Young men wear dress slacks, shirt, and tie (jacket is not required but would be appropriate). Young ladies wear a modest length dress (no dress above the knees) with at least cap sleeves (No spaghetti straps or sleeveless) and no plunging necklines. Everyone is asked to wear dress shoes.

Adoration

Adoration is a quiet time to spend with the Lord. The Adoration Chapel is located at 1220 Monte Sano Ave beside the school. The adoration chapel is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Quiet time in the Church outside of Mass is another way of spending time with the Lord.

Service

Part of our Catholic faith teaches us we are part of a community and are responsible to give back to the community. Service may be done individually or as a group.

Examples of individual service:

- Babysitting – without pay
- Yard work for a neighbor – without pay
- Volunteer work at hospital
- Visitation at nursing home

Examples of family service:

- Visitation at nursing home
- Master's Table Soup Kitchen
- Catholic Social Service Thrift Store

Service Opportunities

Many service opportunities are available through the ministries at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church, such as altar servers, church nursery, Golden Harvest Food Bank, Catholic Social Service Thrift Store, etc. Please see the ministry catalog for a complete list of ministries and the contact information. Watch the bulletin for service opportunities.

CONFIRMANDI _____

I am prepared to begin my preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. As parents or guardians of the above Confirmandi, it is our intention to actively participate in the preparation for Confirmation. As faithful Catholics, we, the Confirmandi and parents/guardians, understand and accept our responsibility to.....

- Attend Mass each week.
- Pray regularly, both as individuals and as a family
- Celebrate the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation on a regular basis
- Provide all necessary documentation as required and on time
- Participate in Adoration
- Participate in Service projects
- Attend a one day retreat
- Attend religious education classes
- Encourage and pray for each other
- Participate in the final preparation which is held in the Fall of 2026

_____ I will attend the one day retreat on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at Camp Long, Aiken, SC

_____ I will attend the one day retreat on Saturday, March 28, 2026 at St. Mary on the Hill School

_____ The information provided on the Confirmation Checklist is correct. If not, please provide the correct information in the comments section below.

Signature of Confirmandi

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Comments: _____