



OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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We invite you and your family—along with all 8th- and 9th-grade youth of our parish—to participate in the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation during the upcoming school year.

As shared and discussed last year, Archbishop Lori has set the vision for all parishes in the Archdiocese of Baltimore: **Family- and Mass-Centered Faith Formation and Sacrament Preparation**. In addition, the age for preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation will be gradually lowered to age nine. In keeping with this vision, we, together with the Pastoral Team of Our Lady of the Mountains Parish, are presenting the following plan for the 2027 Confirmation cohort.

Because this new approach to Confirmation preparation includes several changes, **parents will play an essential role in the formation process**. Parents will be asked to **participate in three formation sessions this year**. Since the purpose of Confirmation—as with every sacrament—is to deepen our relationship with Christ, the primary catechist of our faith, the most fitting place to encounter Him is in the Sacraments of the Word and the Holy Eucharist. For this reason, we are placing a strong emphasis on **family participation at Mass**. Understanding the demands of family schedules, we are offering **two options** for sacramental preparation this year.

We, along with the Pastoral Team, firmly believe that preparing for and receiving any sacrament is a serious commitment. It should be approached with the same dedication given to other important responsibilities. This is a special time for both the young person and the family to encounter the Lord and to receive the graces needed for living out the Catholic faith at home.

Before entering into this preparation, we ask that your family read the enclosed **Family Pledge** and prayerfully discern what this commitment will mean for you. Once you have done so and are ready to sign the Pledge, please review the preparation schedule options, listed on the back of this letter, and choose the one that best fits your family's needs.

Finally, our priests and deacon would like the opportunity to get to know you and your family better. Dates and times will be forthcoming for setting up a meeting with them. At this meeting, you will bring the signed pledge with your session option written on the back of it.

May God bless you and your family throughout the summer months.

Sincerely,

Fr. Steve, Monica Beck, Jamie Imes, and the Pastoral Team

*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring glad tidings,
announcing peace, bearing good news." Isaiah 52:7*