



# MARY, QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY CONFIRMATION INFORMATION PACKET 2022-2023

“On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.” Acts 19:6

**DEADLINE:** Sunday, September 4, 2022.

**REGISTRATION:** Confirmation is open to anyone entering the 8th grade and older who has completed First Reconciliation and First Communion. Registration is online at [MQHR Confirmation](#)

[Confirmation 101](#)

## WHAT IS IT:

- \*Accepting a mission from God (Just the BEGINNING of a life long relationship with God!)
- \*Rooted in the *Bible* (See verse from Acts 19:6 above)
- \*An increasing and deepening of our baptismal graces
- \*Full initiation into the Catholic faith and a gift freely given out of love from God

## WHAT IT IS NOT:

- \*Graduation from church and religious formation!!! 😊 (Please come back!)
- \*Made up by the Catholic Church
- \*The Bishop just pouring oil on your head to see how greasy he can make your hair
- \*Something we can earn through good works, classes, attendance or service hours

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO CONFIRMATION PREPARATION:

- Registered member of Mary Queen Parish
- A history of religious education including First Reconciliation and First Communion
- Attends weekly Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation
- Baptismal Certificate submitted – Certificates can be dropped off at the office, faxed directly to MQHR at 859-278-2453 or emailed to Beth O'Sullivan at [blosullivan@cdlex.org](mailto:blosullivan@cdlex.org) (Photo of the certificate is fine)  
If your child was baptized at MQHR, you do not have to submit a copy.

## CLASS INFORMATION:

Classes will be held Sundays 9:15-10:30AM in the school. 1 class will be bilingual. See the Confirmation Calendar for a specific schedule. MQHR school students will prepare for Confirmation during their religion class time.

We will be using the Decision Point program: [Decision Point Program](#)

## **CLASS EXPECTATIONS:**

- It is expected that students arrive ON TIME to class.
- *If an absence occurs*, it is expected that the young person will make up the session at home to keep current with the class. If the young person misses more than 2 classes, he/she will need to meet with Beth O'Sullivan to determine how sufficient preparation can be made up.
- Cell phones will be left in a basket at the classroom door. No earbuds, airpods, or headphones please. No hoods worn over the head. Students are expected to bring their book and *Bible* to class each week.

## **MANDATORY DATES:**

- Weekly Confirmation Classes (See Confirmation Calendar)
- Sunday, Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11 – 5:30PM Youth & Young Adult Mass
- Saturday, Oct. 8 – Confirmation Retreat (10AM-6PM)
- Friday, Oct. 14 – Saturday, Oct. 15 – MQHR Fall Festival (2 hour volunteer shift)
- Tuesday, Jan. 17 – Confirmation Practice (6-7PM)
- Saturday, Jan. 21 – Confirmation Mass (8:30AM)

\*If a candidate is unable to meet any of these requirements, he/she will need to contact Beth O'Sullivan for an alternative option at [blosullivan@cdlex.org](mailto:blosullivan@cdlex.org)

## **DUE DATES:**

- Sunday, Oct. 16- Sponsor Covenant & Baptism Certificate (only needed if not baptized at MQHR)
- Sunday, Dec. 4- Letter to the Bishop
- Sunday, Jan. 8- Service Hours & Reflection

\*All of these may be emailed directly to Beth O'Sullivan: [blosullivan@cdlex.org](mailto:blosullivan@cdlex.org)

## **SPONSORS (Covenant Due October 16, 2022):**

Prayerfully consider who would make a good sponsor. The requirements for sponsors are:

- At least 16 years old
- Confirmed Catholic
- Attends Weekly Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation
- If married, is married within the Catholic Church

The sponsor should be one who provides spiritual help and prayer to the candidate and behaves as a true witness of Christ. (See Canon Law 892 and 874) It is desirable to choose as sponsor the Godparent(s) at Baptism (Canon Law 893 ^2). If this is not possible, (i.e. they are no longer living or no longer a practicing Catholic) another acceptable sponsor can be chosen. Parents or stepparents cannot be their child's sponsor.

Each sponsor is required to complete the Sponsor Covenant (at the end of this packet). The sponsor will present their candidate to the Bishop during the Confirmation Rite. IF THE SPONSOR IS NOT THE SAME PERSON AS THE GODPARENT OR DOESN'T ATTEND MQHR, the Parish Verification at the bottom of the Sponsor Covenant MUST be completed prior to October 16. This will ensure that they are a practicing Catholic in good standing, which is required to be a sponsor. (See Canon Law 893 and 874) If your sponsor cannot be present for the celebration of the sacrament, a proxy may be chosen. This proxy must meet the same requirements as a sponsor. Both the sponsor and proxy will be recorded in the sacramental records.

## SERVICE HOURS & REFLECTION (Due January 8, 2023):

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and then you will be my witnesses...to the farthest ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

There are 8 service hours and Service Reflection required. 2 of the hours will be a required volunteer shift at the MQHR Fall Festival Oct. 14-15. The additional 6 hours should come from another activity. When completed, the candidate will complete the Service Reflection (at the end of this packet) and email it to Beth O'Sullivan at [blosullivan@cdlex.org](mailto:blosullivan@cdlex.org) by January 8, 2023.

An emphasis on service to family and community is an effort to reinforce our youth to help others. The service hour component of the Confirmation program allows families to broaden their experiences – learning new things about our community and recognizing Christ around us.

Helping with our MQHR Youth Phoenix Park Ministry to make and serve food to the local homeless is highly encouraged. The upcoming dates are:

Wednesday, Oct. 12 (5:30-7:30PM)

Wednesday, Nov. 2 (5:30-7:30PM)

Wednesday, Dec. 7 (5:30-7:30PM)

Wednesday, Jan. 4 (5:30-7:30PM)

Service for school or scouts can be applied to Confirmation. Activities done during the summer months are also accepted. On the service hour form, an adult WITNESS signature is needed. You do not have to get the signature of the leader of the service activity. A parent or sponsor may also email Beth O'Sullivan to verify that service hours were performed.

If you have any questions about whether a service would be acceptable, please ask Beth O'Sullivan at [blosullivan@cdlex.org](mailto:blosullivan@cdlex.org)

### Service Ideas:

<i>Within the Parish:</i>	<i>Outside the Parish:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*Helping with the Fall Festival (More info to come later)</li><li>*Art and Environment – Decorating the church and caring for the plants and flowers. Contact: Jennie Hayes <a href="mailto:jennielhayes@gmail.com">jennielhayes@gmail.com</a></li><li>*Greeting and Ushering for Mass (training required) Contact: Jenna Canning <a href="mailto:jennacanning3@gmail.com">jennacanning3@gmail.com</a></li><li>*Altar Serving (training required) Contact: Deacon John Becerra <a href="mailto:jbecerra@cdlex.org">jbecerra@cdlex.org</a></li><li>*Choir for Mass Contact: Adam Beeken <a href="mailto:abeeken@cdlex.org">abeeken@cdlex.org</a></li><li>*Making cards for shut-ins, homeless, and those in hospitals. These can be turned into the parish office to the attention of: Beth O'Sullivan.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*MQHR Youth Phoenix Park Ministry – Serving food to the homeless downtown (Wed. 5:30-7:30PM) Contact: Beth O'Sullivan <a href="mailto:blosullivan@cdlex.org">blosullivan@cdlex.org</a></li><li>*Making and delivering food for the Catholic Action Center (1055 Industry Road Lexington)</li><li>*Helping neighbors with yard work (unpaid)</li><li>*Babysitting for friends or the family (unpaid)</li><li>*Caring for animals at an Animal Shelter Contact: Lexington Humane Society 859-233-0044</li><li>*Healing Blankets – Making blankets, donating fabric, making prayer cards Contact: Margo Beavin 859-223-7704</li><li>*Arbor Youth Services - Providing items to help homeless and domestic violence victim children, donating cleaning supplies and doing basic yard work for the group home Contact: 859-254-2501 <a href="mailto:ays@arborky.org">ays@arborky.org</a></li><li>*Boys and Girls Club Contact: Fr. Norman <a href="mailto:nfischer@cdlex.org">nfischer@cdlex.org</a></li></ul>

## **CONFIRMATION/SAINT NAMES:**

During the Confirmation Rite, the sponsor will present the candidate to the Bishop using both their baptismal name and saint name if one is chosen. The Confirmation candidate will indicate their choice of name and the reason for this choice in a letter to the Bishop. Candidates may choose to use their baptismal name to show Confirmation's close connection with Baptism! However, there is value in choosing to use a different name.

A change in name represents a change in status. For example, the Pope takes a new name upon his election; Members of royalty often change names once they assume the throne. Likewise, Confirmation marks a change in the status of the candidate who becomes a fully initiated Catholic Christian.

The candidate also establishes a relationship with the saint whose name he/she takes. They learn about the life of a saint. This saint becomes an intercessor before God for the candidate.

## **LETTER TO THE BISHOP (Due December 4, 2022):**

### Guideline for Letters to the Bishop

Writing a letter to Bishop John Stowe is a practice that is required for several reasons. Primarily, it encourages the candidates to reflect on why they want to receive the sacrament. By articulating the reasons for wanting to receive the sacrament, candidates can gain a deeper understanding of their own faith life and can develop a greater sense of ownership/participation in what is about to take place. The Bishop also enjoys this practice and gains valuable insight into the personalities and thought-processes of the candidates. This adds a sense of familiarity to the celebration of the sacrament and builds a relationship with the Bishop.

Letters to the Bishop should reflect the individual character and style of each candidate. While honoring the letters as unique expressions, the following three topics should be worked into the letter's body:

1. Biographical Information – The candidate should introduce themselves to the Bishop. Who are they? How old are they? What grade are they in? What parish do they belong to? How big is their family? What are some of their favorite things?
2. Description of Preparation – The candidate needs to communicate to the Bishop how he/she has prepared for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. They may want to mention their weekly Confirmation classes, their teacher, the retreat, going to Reconciliation, and about their personal prayer life.
3. Personal Meaning – The candidate should reflect on what the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation means to them.
4. Name- The candidate should indicate their choice of name and the reason for this choice.

Things to keep in mind:

Legibility- The letters should be typed! In the event the letter is handwritten, parents or catechists should check them for legibility.

Do not plead for the Sacrament – Candidates should be encouraged to reflect on what the sacrament means to them and their life rather than viewing the letter as a “plea” for the sacrament. They do not need to convince the Bishop to confer the sacrament or make a case why they “deserve” it.

Candidates should submit their letter to their teacher or to Beth O'Sullivan no later than Sunday, December 4, 2022. They can be emailed ([blosullivan@cdlex.org](mailto:blosullivan@cdlex.org)) and we will print them out if that is preferred.

**RETREAT:**

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” James 4:8

We will have a mandatory Confirmation retreat on Saturday, October 8 from 10AM-6PM. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the young people to grow in their faith, encounter Jesus, and share in fellowship with one another. Our retreat this year will be hosted by NET Ministries. You can read more about them here: <https://netusa.org/> If a candidate is unable to make the retreat, he/she will need to contact Beth O’Sullivan for an alternative option. This is a crucial component of the formation process!

**MASSES:**

There are four 5:30PM Masses required to attend during the Confirmation preparation. The dates are:

Sun., Sept. 25 5:30PM Mass

Sun., Oct. 23 5:30PM Mass

Sun., Nov. 13 5:30PM Mass

Sun., Dec. 11 5:30PM Mass

**RECONCILIATION:**

It is important that candidates and sponsors receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation a few weeks before Confirmation. Reconciliation is offered every Saturday afternoon from 2:30-3:30PM, every Sunday 12:00-12:45PM, and by appointment by calling the parish office at 859-278-7432. There will also be an opportunity to receive Reconciliation during our Confirmation Retreat on Saturday, 10/8 and during class on Sunday, 11/20.

**DAY OF CONFIRMATION (Saturday, January 21):**

- Arrive at 8:30AM
- No gum chewing please! 😊
- Girls: no strapless or spaghetti strap tops, a modest neckline and hemline, no jeans or tennis shoes
- Boys: no jeans or tennis shoes, wear a dress shirt with tie (jacket is optional)
- Red is traditionally the symbolic color for Confirmation. Any color is acceptable to wear.
- Certificates will be available immediately following the Mass in the gathering area.
- We will have a small reception after Mass to celebrate!

**YOUTH GROUP:**

Come check it out! Middle school meets Thursdays from 6-8PM. High school meets Sundays from 6:30-8:30PM. We begin Sun., Sept. 11, 2022! Friendship with other Catholics their age is vital to strengthening and sustaining their faith life. Studies have shown that those young adults who never left the Church during their late teens and early 20s said that participation in Youth Group was a main reason. To register contact Beth O’Sullivan at [blosullivan@cdlex.org](mailto:blosullivan@cdlex.org)

**PARENT & FAMILY INVOLVEMENT**

The *Catechism* states “Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children.” (2223) As the primary educator of your young person, we are simply here to assist! Suggestions to help your child include:

- Intentionally praying for your son/daughter during this time of preparation
- Attending weekly Sunday Mass & Holy Days of Obligation
- Sharing your own faith journey
- Prioritizing attendance at Confirmation classes and making sure the candidate’s schedule is free of other commitments during this time
- Regularly receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a family
- Encouraging your young person to come to Youth Group

“Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world on fire.” -St. Catherine of Siena



**MARY, QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY CHURCH**

601 Hill N Dale Road

Lexington, KY 40503

(859) 278-7432 Fax: (859) 278-2453

Beth O'Sullivan: blosullivan@cdlex.org

**"On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied." Acts 19:6**

**CONFIRMATION SPONSOR COVENANT - DUE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022**

**CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSOR INFORMATION**

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Relationship to Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

As you now prepare to sponsor a candidate for Confirmation, you are called to enter into a covenant relationship. As a sign of your serious commitment to fulfill your role as a sponsor, sign your name at the bottom of the covenant. If you are not the Confirmation Candidate's Godparent at baptism and /or a member of Mary Queen church, please have your parish pastor verify that you are a confirmed, practicing Catholic and a registered member in good standing at the bottom of this form.

As a Confirmation sponsor, I pledge...

- to intentionally pray for my candidate and provide spiritual help
- to behave as a true witness of Christ for my candidate
- to discuss on a regular basis what my candidate is learning during preparation,
- to reflect with my candidate on the meaning of Confirmation in the life of a Catholic,
- to participate in candidate / sponsor events and prayer experiences,
- to be open to growing in my own faith as I journey.

I ask the help of the Holy Spirit as I begin this preparation process with my candidate. I pray that the Holy Spirit guide me as I dedicate myself to living covenant I make:

Sponsor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE SEE BACK SIDE)

***PARISH VERIFICATION FORM***

If the sponsor is NOT the same person as the Godparent at Baptism or does not attend Mary Queen, this Parish Verification must be completed.

***CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE NAME:*** \_\_\_\_\_

I verify that

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Sponsor)

is a Confirmed, practicing Catholic and a registered member of

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Parish)

in good standing.

Pastor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Letter to the Bishop- Due Sunday, December 4, 2022

Bishop John loves hearing from the Confirmation candidates! He will personally read each letter and sometimes even refers to specific ones at Confirmation! You will write a letter to Bishop John Stowe and include the following information. Email this to Beth O'Sullivan at [blosullivan@cdlex.org](mailto:blosullivan@cdlex.org) when finished!

Dear Bishop Stowe,

1. Biographical Information – Introduce yourself to the Bishop. Who are you? How old are you? What grade are you in? What parish do you belong to? Where do you go to school? How big is your family? What are some of your favorite things? Sports? Interests? Hobbies?
2. Description of Preparation – Communicate how you have been prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation. You may want to mention your weekly Confirmation classes, your service hours, the retreat, going to Reconciliation, and about your prayer life.
3. Personal Meaning – Reflect on what receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation will mean to you.
4. Name- Tell the Bishop your choice of name and the reason for this choice.

Sincerely,  
Your Name

### Things to keep in mind:

\*Legibility- The letters should be typed! Also, please check for typos!

\*Do not beg for the Sacrament – You do not need to convince the Bishop or make a case why you “deserve” it.

\*Be yourself!

“Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world on fire.” -St. Catherine of Siena



## Service Hours Reflection- Due Sunday, January 8, 2023

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and then you will be my witnesses...to the farthest ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Service to others is an important part of the mission of the Catholic Church. In preparing to become fully initiated, you will complete 8 hours of volunteer service. See the Confirmation information packet for ideas. 2 of these hours must be at the MQHR Fall Festival during a volunteer shift on Friday, Oct. 14 or Saturday, Oct. 15. The remaining 6 can be from another activity.

After you’ve completed your 8 hours of service for Confirmation, email Beth O’Sullivan with your thoughts to these questions at [blosullivan@cdlex.org](mailto:blosullivan@cdlex.org)

1. Where and what did you do for your 8 service hours?
2. What service experience are you most grateful for?
3. What surprised or challenged you in your service, and why?
4. How do you think service can impact or help our faith lives?
5. Where could you see yourself serving in the community after Confirmation?
6. What gifts and talents has God given you that you can use to help others?

### **Confirmation Calendar 2022 - 2023**

SAT, 8/20 – 9:00-10:30AM Catechist Orientation in church and livestream

SUN, 9/4 – Last day to register

SUN, 9/11 – 9:15-10:30AM First Day of Class – Hand out books/icebreakers

SUN, 9/18 – 9:15-10:30AM Class - Session 1

SUN, 9/25 – 9:15-10:30AM Class - Session 2 (Beth conducts Confirmation Interviews),  
5:30PM Youth & Young Adult Mass

MON, 9/26 – 6PM English Parent/Sponsor Orientation in church and livestream

TUES, 9/27 – 6PM Spanish Parent/Sponsor Orientation in church and livestream

SUN, 10/2 – NO CLASS - Fall Break

SAT, 10/8 - 10AM-6PM Retreat **\*\*Mandatory**. If candidate is unable to make the retreat, he/she will need to contact Beth O'Sullivan for an alternative option.

SUN, 10/9 – NO CLASS

WED, 10/12 - 5:30-7:30PM Phoenix Park Ministry

FRI, 10/14 – SAT, 10/15 **MQHR Fall Festival **\*\*Mandatory 2 hour shift for service hours.****

SUN, 10/16 – 9:15-10:30AM Class – Session 3, **\*\*Sponsor Covenant & Baptism Certificate Due**

SUN, 10/23 – 9:15-10:30AM Class – Session 4 (Beth conducts Confirmation Interviews),  
5:30PM Youth & Young Adult Mass

SUN, 10/30 - 9:15-10:30AM Class– Session 5 (Beth conducts Confirmation Interviews)

TUES, 11/1 – 5:30PM All Saints' Day Mass & Pizza Party

WED, 11/2 - 5:30-7:30PM Phoenix Park Ministry

SUN, 11/6 – 9:15-10:30AM Class – Session 6, Daylight Savings (Beth conducts Confirmation Interviews)

SUN, 11/13 – 9:15-10:30AM Class - Session 7 (Beth conducts Confirmation Interviews),  
5:30PM Youth & Young Adult Mass

SUN, 11/20 – 9:15-10:30AM Class – Session 8, Write letters to Bishop during class, Reconciliation

SUN, 11/27 - NO CLASS - Thanksgiving weekend

SUN, 12/4 - 9:15-10:30AM Class – Session 9, **\*\*Letter to Bishop Due** Write letter Advent Letter to MQHR  
School Students, (Beth conducts Confirmation Interviews)

WED, 12/7 - 5:30-7:30PM Phoenix Park Ministry

THURS, 12/8 - 5:30PM Immaculate Conception Mass & Pizza Party

SUN, 12/11 – 9:15-10:30AM Class, 10:10AM Christmas Sing Along – Session 10, OLOG Feast,  
5:30PM Youth & Young Adult Mass

SUN, 12/18 - NO CLASS - Christmas break

SUN, 12/25 - NO CLASS - Christmas break

SUN, 1/1 - NO CLASS - New Year's Day

WED, 1/4 - 5:30 – 7:30 PM Phoenix Park Ministry

SUN, 1/8 - 9:15-10:30AM Class – Session 11, **\*\*8 Service Hours & Reflection Due**

SUN, 1/15 - 9:15-10:30AM Class – Session 12, Last Class

TUES, 1/17- 6PM-7PM Confirmation Practice and livestream (bilingual)

SAT, 1/21- Confirmation Mass (Students arrive at 8:30AM)

\*If weather closures occur, virtual assignments will replace the session missed.