



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

About Group Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Baltimore

1. Must I register online?

It is helpful to us if you register online. This keeps us from re-entering information and introducing errors. If you are unable to register online, please contact Kathi Schissler, ODW Administrative Assistant, at kathi.schissler@archbalt.org or call 410-547-5403 for assistance.

2. What is the deadline for registration for the October 20, 2024 Confirmation at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary?

Please submit your registration online by Friday, October 11, 2024.

3. Is the Archdiocese offering a catechetical session for Confirmation?

The Archdiocese is not offering a formation program for adult candidates for Confirmation, because we hope that by providing catechesis to candidates from your parish/pastorate, you will develop stronger relationships and increase the likelihood that the individual will become an active member of your faith community.

4. How and where will sacramental records be retained?

Confirmation Certificates will be handed to the newly Confirmed after the liturgy. A record of the conferral of the sacrament will be logged in the Sacramental Registry of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore. The Office of Divine Worship will send an official sacramental record to the parish/pastorate that registered the candidate, so that they can forward it to the *Parish of Baptism*.

5. Is it necessary to submit candidates' Baptismal Certificates to the Archdiocese?

No, it is not. We request that the pastor or a parish employee verify that the Baptismal Certificate has been presented at the parish office. This information will be listed on the Online Registration Form under **Section 3: Information from Candidate's Baptismal Certificate**.

6. What if the candidate was baptized in another country?

It generally requires more time to obtain a copy of the Baptismal Certificate from a foreign country. If you receive a copy of a Baptismal Certificate that is not in English, please do your best to consult with someone who knows the language in which the certificate is issued to make sure the information is entered correctly on the registration form. In most cases, an individual cannot be Confirmed unless they have a copy of the Baptismal Certificate. Baptismal Certificates are necessary for compliance with Archdiocesan guidelines and Canon Law.

7. What if an individual says they have been baptized, but cannot obtain a copy of the Baptismal Certificate?

If the individual has a family member or friend who was present at the Baptism, they may complete an **affidavit** testifying to the circumstances and form of the baptism. If possible, the information should include the name of the baptismal minister, the witness' relationship with the baptized person, the date and location of the sacrament, and whether the appropriate matter and form were used: water and the Trinitarian formula (*I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*). If there are no witnesses to the Baptism, and the candidate cannot remember or produce evidence that their Baptism occurred, but feel certain that it did, the pastor/priest may perform a "Conditional Baptism". A Conditional Baptism might also be appropriate if there is a question of the "matter and form" used at the original Baptism, e.g., the use of "water and the Trinitarian formula". (See Canon 869 for additional guidance or call the Chancellor's Office at 410-547-5446.)

8. May a non-Catholic Christian serve as a Confirmation Sponsor?

No. A non-Catholic is not allowed to be a Confirmation Sponsor according to Canon Law.

9. Can the sponsor send a proxy for the candidate in case he or she is unable to attend the celebration?

Yes. However, the proxy for a Confirmation Sponsor must be a Catholic. According to Archdiocesan guidelines, a proxy sponsor must meet all requirements of a sponsor as listed in Canon 874.

10. Is the liturgy bi-lingual (English and Spanish)?

In order to be welcoming and respectful of all communities and cultural perspectives within the Archdiocese, parts of the Mass are proclaimed in a language other than English. Typically, the second language is Spanish due to the large Hispanic population that is Confirmed every year.

11. Will seating be reserved?

Pews will be reserved for the parish representative, Confirmation candidates and their sponsors. Family members and friends may sit anywhere in the remainder of the church.

12. Questions?

Please contact:
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