

August 2018

Dear Parents of Confirmands,

We are excited to partner with your family as your children prepare to take this next step in their spiritual lives during our 2018-2019 youth confirmation class. The catechism describes confirmation as "the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop." At confirmation young people learn about the promises made on their behalf when they were baptized, and they are given the opportunity to take ownership and commit to those promises themselves. In Confirmation preparation, we learn about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in the world today and we discover how to receive, live, and share in the abundant life he has in store for us as children of God. We seek to empower and disciple our youth during class as we learn about church history, the Creeds, prayer, spiritual gifts and more. This transformative year is one of commitment and celebration. We joyfully partner with your children as they learn, grow, and commit their lives to Christ and his Kingdom.

We will be preparing for Confirmation through our Sunday morning classes, a Fall retreat at Dubose Conference Center, and special church services during Lent and Holy Week. Please see the calendar in this packet for a list of all of our events. St. George's Confirmation program for youth runs from September through May, concluding with the bishop's visit at the 8:45am service on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Please read through this information letter and the calendar to see if these dates will work for your family. We prefer that every student be present for all class sessions, but two absences for travel/sickness/sports each semester will be excused. If significantly more absences are necessary, please consider taking confirmation next year instead.

Our Sunday classes will be held upstairs in Dandridge B during and a few minutes past the Sunday School hour (from 10:05 until 11:15am). I encourage you, as a family, to make worship a priority during this season. We will be referring to our worship and liturgy often during class, and it is vitally important that Confirmands are in worship on a weekly basis. We depend on parents' commitment to corporate worship for this dimension of our program to be successful. We encourage you to attend the 8:45am service in the Nave or the 9:00am Table service in Johnson Hall prior to class each Sunday.

On the following pages you'll find important information about our class that will help you prepare for this process. Please read through them carefully so you'll know what to expect. We will email an update for Youth Confirmation every Tuesday to parents, Confirmands, and their Mentors, describing our class topic of the week, providing discussion questions to talk about as a family, and reminding you of upcoming events. We are praying for your child during this special season.

Peace,

Sadie Zoradi  
Director of Youth Ministry  
[sadie.zoradi@stgeorgesnashville.org](mailto:sadie.zoradi@stgeorgesnashville.org)

Rev. Clint Wilson  
Associate Rector at St. George's Church  
[clint.wilson@stgeorgesnashville.org](mailto:clint.wilson@stgeorgesnashville.org)

For info about youth confirmation, visit our website at <https://www.stgeorgesnashville.org/community/youth>

## Important Info for Confirmation 2019

**Registration and Forms:** <https://www.stgeorgesnashville.org/community/youth>

- Please visit our website to register your child for Confirmation
- Please help your Confirmand choose a Mentor and register them online by the end of November. Please note that **parents** are responsible to fill out this registration form on behalf of their child's Mentor. See the "Mentoring" Section below for more information on how to choose a Mentor.

**Contact Us:** Marshall Clark, St. George's Associate Youth Director, is handling the logistics and details for our youth confirmation class. Please contact him at [marshall.clark@stgeorgesnashville.org](mailto:marshall.clark@stgeorgesnashville.org) with questions about class attendance, registration, choice of mentor, parent volunteer roles, class materials, etc. The Rev. Clint Wilson is the clergy teacher for Youth Confirmation. Please contact him at [clint.wilson@stgeorgesnashville.org](mailto:clint.wilson@stgeorgesnashville.org) with questions about class content, discernment about whether to seek confirmation, or pastoral care matters.

**Age of Confirmands & Attendance:** 7<sup>th</sup> grade is the minimum age for confirmation at St. George's, but it is fine for students to be confirmed at an older age as well. When athletic schedules or family circumstances make it difficult for a Confirmand to participate fully in our class, we encourage families to consider waiting a year before entering this process. We prefer for every student to be present for all class sessions, but two absences for travel/sickness/sports each semester will be excused. If significantly more absences are necessary, please consider taking confirmation next year instead. Please let Marshall know about your absences via email.

**Homework:** We will be reading a book called *My Faith My Life: A Teen's Guide to the Episcopal Church*. The book will be given to the Confirmand at our opening class session. Confirmands will also receive a Book of Common Prayer during the rehearsal dinner as a gift from the church. Confirmands will receive a handout and weekly email reminders on Tuesdays with a list of all their homework for the entire course. Special assignments include memorizing the Apostles' Creed, participating in service opportunities, writing a final reflection paper to share with their Mentor and the youth staff, and more!

**Blessing of the Confirmands, Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>:** We will have a brief commissioning during the announcements at the 8:45AM service, where Fr. Leigh Spruill will pray for God's blessing on our Confirmands and commission us for our confirmation program. We ask that Confirmands, their families, and mentors sit towards the front of the church. Confirmands and Mentors will be invited forward during the announcement time.

**Confirmation Retreat at Dubose Conference Center:** The retreat is one of our Confirmands favorite experiences and is a required event from Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm until Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00am. If the retreat dates don't work for your child, please contact Sadie Zoradi immediately to discuss this.

**Rehearsal Dinner:** On May 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in the Nave we will have a rehearsal with the Bishop to go over all the logistics for Confirmation Sunday. Immediately following the rehearsal, we will share a meal together in Hampton Hall for a time for celebration. **We ask parents to collect cards and notes of encouragement for the Confirmand from family members, friends, and Mentors/sponsors to be handed out at the Rehearsal.** Please put all cards/letters in ONE large manila envelope marked with the Confirmand's full name and bring it to the church office by Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Our weekday office hours are 8:30am-4:30pm (4:00pm on Fridays). This is a wonderful and meaningful surprise for our Confirmands.

**Confirmation Sunday:** Confirmation Sunday will be held on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> during the 8:45AM service. You and your families are invited to a reception after the service in Hampton Hall.

**Guidelines for dress for Confirmation Sunday:**

Boys - Please wear a blazer and khakis or a suit.

Girls - Traditionally at St. George's, girls being confirmed have worn white. We recommend that you dress in clothes you will be comfortable wearing in front of the congregation; low cut dresses and short skirts are discouraged. Please cover bare shoulders or spaghetti straps with a white sweater during the service. Please do not wear flip-flops, as they tend to fall off when kneeling before the bishop; sandals with a heel strap are fine.

**Youth Assignment Checklist:****FALL 2018**

- Complete all reading assignments in *My Faith, My Life* (in the Fall we read Chapters 1 & 2)
- Attend the Fall Retreat on October 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> at Dubose Conference Center
- Participate in one mission experience and turn in a brief (100-200) word reflection
- Attend one worship service outside of Sunday Morning (ex: Choral Evensong, Compline, 5:00pm service or 7:00am Weekly Service)
- Memorize and recite their small groups Gospel Verse
- Turn in (at minimum) three Service Questionnaires throughout the semester

**SPRING 2019**

- Complete all reading assignments in *My Faith, My Life* (in the Spring we read Chapters 3-9)
- Memorize and recite the Apostle's Creed
- Participate in one mission experience and turn in a brief (100-200) word reflection
- Turn in remaining Service Questionnaires (should be eight total for the year or one per month) throughout the semester
- Turn in Final Reflection Paper on Confirmation (additional instructions will be provided)

## Mentors for Youth Confirmation

One of the most important parts of the confirmation process is the Confirmand's relationship with a sponsor, whom we refer to as their Mentor during this process. We encourage Confirmands to think of an adult member of St. George's (someone other than family members, clergy, or youth staff) whom he or she thinks would do a good job of listening to them and talking with them about life and the Christian faith. Parents may suggest names if the youth asks for their help in choosing a Mentor, but the final decision belongs to the Confirmand. If you're new to St. George's and/or unsure of who to ask, please contact the youth staff for suggestions. Please choose a Mentor by the end of November. **Parents, please share the following information and dates with your potential Mentor about their role before they commit. Once they have committed, please fill out the Mentor Registration Form at our website: <https://www.stgeorgesnashville.org/community/youth>**

Mentors are asked to attend the following events; if you are unable to attend an event, please let Marshall Clark know at [marshall.clark@stgeorgesnashville.org](mailto:marshall.clark@stgeorgesnashville.org) and ask one of your confirmand's parents to attend in your place:

1. Attend the **Blessing of the Confirmands** on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at the 8:45 service. Mentors will come forward with the Confirmands during announcements for a prayer and attend a Mentor Orientation at 11:15am in Johnson Hall.
2. Have **two 30-45 minute one-on-one conversations** with your Confirmand between February and Confirmation Sunday. You may schedule these conversations at whatever time and place works for both of you. The two conversations should occur with the Confirmand's parents nearby but out of hearing range.
  - The first conversation, held at some point in February, is dedicated to the Mentor and Confirmand getting to know each other, including the Mentor sharing some part of his or her "faith story" with the Confirmand. The Mentor will talk about how they came to know God and what impact their Christian faith has on their life.
  - The second conversation, held at some point in April, is dedicated to the Confirmand sharing their final reflection paper with the Mentor. The Confirmand will be working on this during our class and then sharing it with their Mentor. In response, we hope the Mentor and Confirmand can discuss how the Confirmand is thinking and feeling about being confirmed and why they are choosing to take this step.
3. Attend an **Ash Wednesday meeting and service** with your Confirmand  
On Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, Confirmands and Mentors will gather at 5:15PM in Johnson Hall for a meeting to discuss Lenten disciplines and attend the 6:00PM service at St. George's together.
4. Attend **Holy Week services** with your Confirmand  
Mentors and Confirmands attend the following services together: Maundy Thursday (April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM) and one of our Good Friday services (April 19<sup>th</sup> at noon or 6:00PM).
5. Attend the **Rehearsal and Dinner with Bishop Bauerschmidt**, Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:30PM-7:30PM  
Confirmands & Mentors will meet in the church at 5:30PM for the rehearsal of the confirmation service and then have dinner in Hampton Hall with Bishop Bauerschmidt as our special guest and speaker.
6. Attend the **Confirmation service**, Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at the 8:45AM service  
Confirmands and Mentors gather in Hampton Hall at 8:00AM for final instructions before the 8:45AM service. The Mentors will stand with the Confirmand as the bishop lays hands on them and prays for them. After the service we will have a reception in Hampton Hall.
7. **Safeguarding God's Children:** All adults who volunteer with youth at the church are required by the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee to take the online Safeguarding God's Children course, which takes about an hour. Please go to <https://stgeorgesnashville.wufoo.com/forms/zds6thr0me7lvq/> to register; staff member Katy Valesky will set you up with an online login to complete this course. Once completed it is valid for 5 years.

**CONFIRMATION FALL 2018**

Homework to Prepare for This Class Session	
Date	Class Subject
Sept 9th	Welcome & Introduction Class
	<b>Orientation Meeting for Parents and Confirmands (11:15am in Johnson Hall)</b>
Sept 16th	Baptism: Washed in the Water
Sept 23rd	Confirmation: Why do we Get Confirmed?
Sept 30th	Confirmation Promises: Living the Christian Life
Oct 7th	The Gospel in Four Circles
Oct 14th	<b>Fall Break: No confirmation class, but please join us in Akers for a combined Sunday School</b>
Oct 21st	<b>Fall Retreat at Dubose</b>
Oct 28th	Identity in Christ's Grace
Nov 4th	<b>All Saints' Sunday- No Sunday School Classes</b>
Nov 11th	The Bible: Knowing God's Story
Nov 18th	Thankfulness: A Grateful Heart
<b>Nov 25th</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break: No Confirmation class, but please join us in Akers for a special combined Sunday</b>
	<b>By the end of November: all Confirmands must turn in: a brief reflection of their mission experience, attend an additional worship service, and at minimum complete three service questionnaires.</b>
Dec 2nd	Last Day of Class- Group Presentations
<b>Dec 9th</b>	<b>Season of Advent- Please join us in Akers Hall for special combined Sunday School</b>
<b>Dec 16th</b>	<b>Merry Christmas! No Confirmation class.</b>
<b>Dec 23th</b>	<b>Merry Christmas! No Confirmation class. Please join us for our Christmas Services</b>
<b>Dec 30th</b>	<b>Happy New Year! No Confirmation class.</b>
<b>Classes Resume on January 6th, 2018</b>	

**CONFIRMATION SPRING 2019**

Date	Class Subject	Homework to Prepare for This Class Session
Jan 6th	Welcome Back! Confirmation Recap & Lectio Divina	MFML Ch. 1: Baptism and Confirmation; bring your Bible to class
Jan 13th	Church History & Structure Overview <b>Blessing of the Confirmands at 8:45am service</b> <b>Orientation Meeting for Mentors (11:15am in Johnson Hall)</b>	MFML Ch. 3: Knowing Our History
<b>Jan 20th</b>	<b>MLK weekend - no confirmation class</b>	
Jan 27th	Church History: The Saints	MFML Ch. 8: Navigating the Church
Feb 3rd	The Creeds: What We Believe	MFML Ch. 4: Faith
Feb 10th	The Creeds: Affirming Your Faith in Christ	Begin memorizing Apostles Creed
Feb 17th	<b>President's Weekend - No Confirmation class, but please join us in Akers for a special combined Sunday School</b>	
Feb 24th	Power in Prayer	MFML Ch. 7: Spirituality; begin working on your final reflection paper
March 3rd	The Book of Common Prayer	<b>1st Confirmand &amp; Mentor Conversation by the end of February!</b> MFML Ch. 5: Worship
<b>Wed March 6th</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Service/ Lent Meeting: Confirmands with Mentors meet at 5:15pm in Johnson Hall followed by 6:00pm service</b>	
March 10th	The Sacraments & The Eucharist as a Meal	MFML Ch. 6: Sacraments
<b>March 17th</b>	<b>Spring Break- no confirmation class. Please join us in Akers for a special combined Sunday School</b>	
March 24th	The Gospel in the Eucharist	Work on memorizing the Creed and writing your final reflection paper
March 31st	The Great Commission and Coming of the Holy Spirit	
April 7th	Spiritual Gifts: Inventory	MFML Ch. 9: The Mission of God; meet with your mentor for your 2nd meeting (share your paper)
<b>April 14th</b>	<b>Palm Sunday -no confirmation class or Sunday School. Please attend one of our morning services</b>	
<b>Thurs April 18th</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Please attend the service at 7:30pm - with Mentors</b>	
<b>Fri April 19th</b>	<b>Good Friday Please attend one of the services at 12pm or 6pm - with Mentors</b>	
<b>April 21st</b>	<b>Easter Sunday- no confirmation class. Please attend one of the Easter services at church to celebrate Jesus' resurrection!</b>	
April 28th	Spiritual Gifts: What's Your Gift?	Share your spiritual gifts inventory results with your parents/mentor
<b>By the end of April: Confirmands must memorize and recite the Apostles' Creed, have 2nd Confirmand and Mentor conversation, and turn in or email final reflection paper to Sadie Zoradi at <a href="mailto:sadie.zoradi@stgeorgesnashville.org">sadie.zoradi@stgeorgesnashville.org</a></b>		
May 5th	Vocation	
May 12th	Wrap Up & Jeopardy	By the last day of class all Confirmands must turn in: a brief reflection of their mission experience and the remainder of their service questionnaires (8 total for the year)
<b>Wed May 15th</b>	<b>Rehearsal &amp; Dinner with the Bishop- with Mentors</b>	
<b>May 19th</b>	<b>Confirmation Sunday!</b>	