

Requirements for Completion of Confirmation Preparation

St. Margaret Mary, Moon Twp., PA

1. Class Attendance

Students are required to attend all of their classes. Missed lessons are to be done at home and turned into the teacher upon return to class. It is very important that students are ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is a serious duty of the parish to discern if a student is ready for Confirmation. Regular class attendance is necessary for a student to be adequately prepared.

2. Retreat

All students must attend the Confirmation retreat in the Spring as a part of their preparation. The dates of the retreat are **Saturday, April 2 or Sunday, April 3** (daytime). Parents may select the date of their choice beginning in January. Dates will be available on a first come first serve basis. More information will follow the Spring.

3. Community Service

Students will complete a total of 12 community service hours. The breakdown is as follows:

4 hours class community service
4 hours Middle School Ministry (GLOW) service events
+ 4 hours personal service project
12 total hours

Class community service: Students will participate in two different service activities with their classmates during the year: Stocking Service Project in the Fall and Lovewalk for the Poor in the Spring. (See calendar for dates.) Students will receive 2 hours of service for each class community service activity. If a student misses a class service activity, he/she is to make up 2 hours of service on their own. (Any unpaid service for non-family members is acceptable.)

Middle School Ministry (GLOW) service: To help students recognize their role in our parish, and to become integrated in our youth ministry program, students are to complete a total of 4 hours with GLOW (God Loves our World), the Middle School Ministry program at St. Margaret Mary. On the Confirmation calendar are various service-eligible events sponsored by GLOW throughout the year. Students may sign up for these events in the lobby of the Dompka prior to each activity. (*Note — those GLOW activities that are strictly for social or “fun” purposes do not count for service. Only the events that are service oriented will count.*)

Personal Service project: To help each student recognize that he/she has a gift to share, students will select one area to which they will devote four hours of service. The personal service project may be as informal as tutoring other students or helping younger kids learn a sport, or as formal as helping at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter. What is done is not as important as the meaningfulness to the student. The personal project, however, should be focused on one service area (not a collection of unrelated activities). The hours do not have to be completed all at once. At the end of the year, students will give an oral presentation on their project and include a visual display. The display can be a poster or any other visual representation which shows what they did. Whatever type of display a student chooses, all students must include photographs of their service, a reflection paper and the standard community service form signed by an adult validating the service. (Parents may not sign their own children’s service forms.) Service forms are in the student binder.

All service hours are due April 6. Presentations are due April 27.

4. Semester Tests

Each semester, students will be given a test. Students will receive a study guide and parents will also be emailed the study guide. Because the tests cover the most basic elements of our faith, those students who receive a D or lower will be asked to retake the test. While academic performance is not necessary for being received into Confirmation, failure may signify a problem that may need to be addressed by the administrator and pastor. Parents are asked to encourage their children to prepare for tests.

5. Sponsor

Students are to choose a sponsor by **September 30**, indicating who they have chosen by turning in the “Sponsor Information Form”. Sponsors must be active Catholics in good standing with the Church. (See attached sponsor information form for further details.) All sponsors must have a “certificate of eligibility” from their parishes to qualify. Those sponsors who are not members of St. Margaret Mary Parish must go to their own parish and request this form. Those sponsors who are from St. Margaret Mary Parish will have their forms automatically processed by the parish office upon the students’ turning in the Information Form to their teachers. Eligibility forms from outside parishes are due **December 16**.

6. Confirmation Name

It is a beautiful tradition in the Catholic faith that students take the name of a saint at their confirmation. The taking of a new name symbolizes the beginning of a new life in the service of God. Students at St. Margaret Mary may use their Baptism name, middle name or another name, provided the name they choose is also the name of a saint. Names are not due until **March 16** but students should begin thinking about names now. Students are required to be knowledgeable about their saint, as the bishop may ask them! *(Note: students are not permitted to change their name selection after March 16, as we begin printing our Confirmation programs once names are submitted.)*

7. Student Picture

Though not required, it is asked that each Confirmation student submit a picture of him/herself for a display of our Confirmation class that will be posted in the parish church on Pentecost Sunday. Student pictures are due **April 27**.