

September 2024

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 2024-2025 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 discuss questions like who is Jesus, how do we read the Bible, does prayer work, what is the church, why do we do Communion, and what does it mean to live as Christians in the world today? We hope it will also be an opportunity for our students to get a chance to know our clergy. This transformative year-long class 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, as well as several other opportunities, services, and events. Please see the calendar in this packet for a list of all of our events. St. George's Confirmation process for youth runs from September through May, concluding with the bishop's visit at the 8:45am service on May 4th. 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 the Confirmation Classroom during the Sunday School hour (from 10:05 to 11:00am). These classes are typically just attended by our 8th grade confirmands. If your child is older than 8th grade and would like to be confirmed, please reach out to our youth staff as we have a separate option for older students. Throughout this process, we encourage you, as a family, to make worship a priority! We encourage parents to find their own ways to participate more in their faith and the life of the church. Our worship and liturgy will be referenced often during class, so it is vitally important for confirmands to attend worship services 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 Legacy 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 Monday 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,

Phil Gaines
Associate Director of Youth Ministry
Phil.Gaines@stgeorgesnashville.org

The Rev. Sarah Puryear
Priest Associate of Family Ministries
Sarah.Puryear@stgeorgesnashville.org

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

Important Info for Confirmation 2024-2025

Registration and Forms: Find all Confirmation Information at <https://www.flowcode.com/page/confirmation>

- **Confirmation Registration:** If you have not yet registered your child for Confirmation, please scan the QR code below to do so.
- **Parent Permission Form:** All students participating in St. George's Youth Ministry are asked to have a parent fill out our yearly Parent Permission Form. Scan the QR code and fill out the form once for all your children for the whole year.
- **Mentor Registration:** 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: Phil Gaines, our Associate Youth Director, is handling the logistics and details for our youth confirmation class. Please contact him at phil.gaines@stgeorgesnashville.org with questions about class attendance, registration, choice of mentor, parent volunteer roles, class materials, etc. The Rev. Sarah Puryear is the clergy contact for Youth Confirmation. Please contact her at sarah.puryear@stgeorgesnashville.org with questions about class content, discernment about whether to seek confirmation, or pastoral care matters.

Age of Confirmands & Attendance: 8th 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, in which case they can meet with other confirmands of their grade level outside of our 8th Grade class. 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 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 Phil know about your absences via email.

Homework: Throughout the year we ask that confirmands complete several simple tasks and assignments. We will be reading a book called *Why Jesus?* by Nicky Gumbel as well as reading some other articles and watching occasional videos. The book will be given to the Confirmand at our opening class session. Confirmands will receive a handout and weekly email reminders on Mondays with required homework, upcoming events, and other pertinent information. You can find the full list of assignments below.

Confirmation Retreat at Camp Widjiwagan, 5pm Friday, November 1st – 11am Sunday, November 3rd: This *required* retreat is one of our Confirmands' favorite experiences. If the retreat dates don't work for your child, please contact Phil. To register and learn more, scan the QR code above!

Blessing of the Confirmands, Sunday, January 5th: We will have a brief commissioning during the announcements at the 8:45am service, where Rev. Malone Gilliam 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.

Special Service Attendance: All Confirmands are expected to attend the following services:

- Ash Wednesday (with Mentors) | March 5 | 12:00pm or 6:00pm
- Palm Sunday | April 13 | 8:45am, 9:00am or 11:00am
- Maundy Thursday (with Mentors) | April 17 | 7:30pm
- Good Friday | April 18 | 12:00pm or 6:00pm

Rehearsal Dinner: On Monday, April 28th, beginning at 5pm, we will have a rehearsal to walk through Confirmation Sunday. Immediately following the rehearsal, we will share a meal together with Bishop Bauerschmidt in the Bradford Gallery 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, April 27th. This is a wonderful and meaningful **surprise** for our Confirmands.

Confirmation Sunday: Confirmation Sunday will be held on Sunday, May 4th 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.

Confirmation Homework (2024-2025)

Fall

- **Read** pages 1-24 of *Why Jesus?* by Nicky Gumbel
- Watch the following **videos**:
 - “What is the Bible” by BibleProject
 - “The Satan and Demons” by BibleProject
 - “Holy Spirit” by BibleProject
- **Attend one St. George’s worship service other than Sunday morning** (Compline, Morning Eucharist, Evensong, etc.)
- **Complete Three Service Questionnaires** – Fill out the service questionnaire form (see below) for three Sunday services throughout the semester and turn them in to either Phil or your Sunday small group leader (There is always a stack of these in the Confirmation Room, so whenever you attend worship just run up and grab one and fill it out during the service).
- **Request mentor by the end of November** – Your mentor should be an adult member of St. George’s who will walk alongside you in the process of joining the church. We will help you if you’re not sure of who to ask!
- **Fall Mission Reflection** – Engage in some sort of missional activity, whether through St. George’s or some other ministry organization. Write a brief reflection answering what you did and what you thought about and learned from the experience.
- **Read** Mark 2:1-12
- **Recite one of the assigned Bible verses** to Phil or a small group leader by December 8th.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - Romans 1:16
 - Ephesians 2:8-9
 - Romans 5:6,8

Spring

- **Watch** the video “Church History in Ten Minutes” from TrueTube
- **Read** John 1:19-34 and John 14:25-27 about baptism
- **Read** “What is Confirmation” from Anglican Compass
- **Read from the Book of Common Prayer: *Presentation and Examination of the Candidates, The Baptismal Covenant, Prayers for the Candidates*** (pages 415-418)
- **Write down your own examples of prayers** of:
1. Adoration 2. Confession 3. Thanksgiving 4. Supplication (see page 23 in *Why Jesus?*); one of each on a notecard
- **Have your first conversation with your mentor** about their faith story. You can ask them how they became a Christian, how they got to St. George’s, why they apply their faith in their daily lives, and/or how they’ve seen God work throughout their lives.
- **Attend Ash Wednesday** service with your mentor on March 5th.
- **Choose** one Spiritual Discipline to practice for the week of Feb 24th.
- **Read** Luke 22:7-29
- **Memorize** the Apostles’ Creed
- **Attend Holy Week services:** Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday
- **Spring Mission Reflection** – (See notes for Fall Mission Reflection)
- **Complete 3 Service Questionnaires** – (See notes for Fall Service Questionnaires)
- **Final Confirmation Reflection Paper** – This is the very last assignment that the confirmand will complete. They must email a copy of it to Phil (phil.gaines@stgeorgesnashville.org) and share it with their mentor. The paper itself must include:
 - 400-500 words (about 1 page double-spaced 12 pt font)
 - 1 Bible verse
 - The paper must answer one of the three prompts below:
 - The catechism tells us that creeds are “statements of our basic beliefs about God.” Write your own personal creed. This doesn’t replace the historic creeds of the church like the Apostles and Nicene Creed, but this is an opportunity for you to express your belief in God and how he calls us to live as Christians. Usually creeds begin with “I believe...” Look at page 851 in the BCP to see more about the Creeds. You might also look at the Psalms, which tells us a lot about who God is.
 - Let’s say a friend of yours who doesn’t go to church asks you to tell them about why you go to church and what being a Christian is all about. How would you answer your friend? What are the essentials of our faith in Christ and the way we are called to live it out? You might look at the baptismal covenant for some clues (BCP, page 304).
 - The catechism tells us that confirmation is the time when 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.” Write about what being confirmed means to you. Why do you want to take on the promises that your parents made on your behalf at your baptism? (See BCP page 302-305 to review those promises).

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 on our website.**

Mentors are asked to attend the following events; if you are unable to attend an event, please let Phil know via email (phil.gaines@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 5th at the 8:45 service. Mentors will come forward with the Confirmands during announcements for a prayer and attend a **Mentor Orientation at 10:15am 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 5th, 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 **Maundy Thursday** service with your Confirmand
Mentors and Confirmands are asked to attend our Maundy Thursday service together on April 17th at 7:30pm.
5. Attend the **Rehearsal and Dinner with Bishop Bauerschmidt**, Monday, April 28th at 5:00pm
Confirmands & Mentors will meet in the Nave at 5:00pm for the rehearsal of the confirmation service and then have dinner in the Bradford Gallery with Bishop Bauerschmidt as our special guest and speaker.
6. Attend the **Confirmation service**, Sunday, May 4th at the 8:45am service
Confirmands and Mentors gather in Hampton Hall at 8:15am for final instructions before the 8:45am service. The Mentors will stand with their Confirmand as the bishop lays hands on them and prays for them. After the service we will have a reception in Hampton Hall.

CONFIRMATION FALL 2024

Date	Class Subject	Homework to Prepare for this Class Session
25-Aug	Youth & Family Orientation: 10:00am in Legacy Hall	
1-Sep	Labor Day Weekend: No Confirmation class, but please join us in Akers for Family Fellowship	
8-Sep	Welcome & Introduction Confirmation Orientation for Parents & Confirmands (11:15am in Johnson Hall)	
15-Sep	Baptism: Washed in Water	Read John 1:19-34 & John 14:25-27 and "Washed by Water: Baptism in the Early Church"
22-Sep	Confirmation: Why Get Confirmed?	Read "What is Confirmation?" from Anglican Compass
29-Sep	Life: Is This It?	Read <i>Why Jesus?</i> Pages 1-8
6-Oct	Jesus: Who is He?	Read <i>Why Jesus?</i> Pages 8-15
13-Oct	Cross: Why Did Jesus Die?	Read <i>Why Jesus?</i> Pages 15-21
20-Oct	Fall Break: No Confirmation class, but please join us in Akers for Family Fellowship	
27-Oct	Faith: How Can I Have Faith?	Read <i>Why Jesus?</i> Pages 22-24
3-Nov	Fall Confirmation Retreat at Camp Widjiwagan – November 1-3	
10-Nov	Bible: Why and How Do I Read the Bible?	Watch the YouTube Video "What is the Bible" by BibleProject
17-Nov	Evil: How Can I Resist Evil?	Watch the YouTube Video "The Satan and Demons" by BibleProject
24-Nov	Spirit: Who Is the Holy Spirit?	Watch the YouTube Video "Holy Spirit" by BibleProject
1-Dec	Thanksgiving Break: No Confirmation class, but please join us in Akers for Family Fellowship	
8-Dec	Christmas Party	By the end of the Fall semester all confirmands must have finished reading <i>Why Jesus?</i> , attended an additional worship service, recited their memory verse, and turned in their Fall Mission Reflection and three service questionnaires.
Merry Christmas! No Sunday School over Christmas Break; please join us for our Christmas services!		
Confirmation class resumes on January 12 th		

CONFIRMATION SPRING 2025		
Date	Class Subject	Homework to Prepare for this Class Session
5-Jan	No class today, but please be sure to attend the following: Blessing of the Confirmands – 8:45am Nave Mentor Orientation Meeting – 10:15am in Johnson Hall	
12-Jan	Church: What about the Church?	Watch “Church History in Ten Minutes” (TrueTube) on YouTube
19-Jan	MLK Weekend: No Confirmation Class, but join us in Akers for Family Fellowship	
26-Jan	Confirmation Promises: The Christian Life	Read pages 415-418 of the <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> , “Presentation and Examination of the Candidates, The Baptismal Covenant, and Prayers for the Candidates”
2-Feb	The Creeds: What We Believe	Have your first conversation with your mentor about their faith story if you haven’t already.
9-Feb	Spiritual Disciplines: How We Grow in Faith	
16-Feb	Presidents’ Day Break: No Confirmation Class today but join us in Akers for Family Fellowship	
23-Feb	Prayer: Why and How Do I Pray?	Choose one spiritual discipline to practice for the week.
2-Mar	The Book of Common Prayer	Make your own example of prayers of 1. Adoration 2. Confession 3. Thanksgiving 4. Supplication (page 23 in <i>Why Jesus?</i>); write one of each and turn them in to Phil or your small group leader.
5-Mar	Ash Wednesday: We will have a meeting for confirmands and mentors at 5:15pm in Johnson Hall and then will attend the 6:00pm Ash Wednesday service together.	
9-Mar	Spring Break: No Confirmation Class, but please join us in Akers for Family Fellowship	
16-Mar	Spring Break: No Confirmation Class, but please join us in Akers for a combined 7-12 th Sunday School	
23-Mar	The Last Supper, Passover, and the Eucharist	Read Luke 22:7-29
30-Mar	Telling Others: Why and How Should I Tell Others?	Have you finished your final Confirmation paper and shared it with your mentor?
6-Apr	New Life: How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of My Life?	Have you finished your final Confirmation paper and shared it with your mentor?
HOLY WEEK (4/13-4/20) Confirmands are expected to attend the following services throughout Holy Week: Palm Sunday April 13 8:45am, 9:00am, & 11:00am Maundy Thursday (with Mentors) April 17 7:30pm Good Friday April 18 12:00pm & 6:00pm Easter Sunday April 20 7:00am, 8:45am, 9:00am, 11:00am, & 5:00pm		
27-Apr	Jeopardy	By the end of the Spring semester all confirmands must have recited the Apostles’ Creed, attended an additional worship service, and turned in their Spring Mission Reflection and three service questionnaires.
28-Apr	Rehearsal & Dinner with the Bishop: Confirmands & mentors must meet in the nave at 5:00pm for our rehearsal and afterwards we will enjoy dinner and a word from the Bishop. Your final Confirmation paper is due to Phil by today.	
4-May	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY Confirmands and mentors will meet in Hampton Hall at 8:15am and will then process into the nave together. All are welcome to join us for a reception in Hampton Hall afterwards!	