



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

Institute for Evangelization
Office of Divine Worship

- TO:** Pastors, DREs and those involved in the formation of Candidates for Group Confirmation
- FROM:** Julie Grace Males, Director; Office of Divine Worship; Archdiocesan and Cathedral Music Ministry
- DATE:** August 1, 2023
- RE:** Registration Information for Group Confirmation on October 29, 2023 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Archbishop Lori will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on baptized Catholics on **October 29, 2023 at 3 p.m.** at the **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, 409 Cathedral St., Baltimore, MD 21201.

Online registration is now open for those baptized, practicing Catholics over the age of 18 who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation. In some cases, youths may be Confirmed at this liturgy. Such cases might include: a youth who has completed formation at their parish but is unable to attend the parish Confirmation, or a group from a smaller parish that did not hold Confirmation at their church. Please note that **candidates who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at an Archdiocesan celebration must register through a parish/pastorate office.**

Individuals who are not sponsored by a parish or pastorate of the Archdiocese of Baltimore may not register for Group Confirmation by themselves. We hope this will create an opportunity for parish staff and community to develop a relationship with those who are completing their sacraments of initiation during the process of registration and catechesis. We are optimistic that this will increase the likelihood of the newly confirmed becoming active in your community.

As part of completing the online registration form, we request the name of the pastor or an employee who verifies that the Confirmation Candidate is a baptized Catholic and that the parish has obtained a copy of the Baptismal Certificate.

We also assume that the parish/pastorate has provided appropriate catechesis for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation and verified that the sponsor is a fully-initiated, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. (***See requirements below under SECTION 4.***)

Hopefully, the online registration form is self-explanatory. However, an expanded explanation of the sections of the form is listed below.

SECTION 1: Information about the Parish Employee Completing Registration

In the event that we have questions about a registration, we will need to contact the pastor/employee who completed the online form. Please provide both a work and cell phone number. We need a cell number if there is an issue on the day of Confirmation.

SECTION 2: Information about the Confirmation Candidate

Please indicate the candidate's **legal** name as it will appear on the Confirmation Certificate. The selection of a saint's name for Confirmation is a long-standing tradition. It is customary, but not required. However, this field must be completed in order to submit the registration form. If the candidate does not select a saint's name, please list the name (first or middle name) that the Archbishop may use to address the candidate during the conferral of the sacrament.

SECTION 3: Information from the Candidate's Baptismal Certificate

This is necessary to keep sacramental records accurate. The record of Confirmation will be kept at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Shortly after the Confirmation Liturgy, 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.

SECTION 4: Information about the Confirmation Sponsor

This is also needed for the sacramental record. In addition, we assume the pastor or parish employee has ensured that the Confirmation sponsor has fulfilled the requirements below. **The Code of Canon Law [874.1] lists the following requirements for an individual to function as a Confirmation sponsor:**

- be designated by the candidate, their guardian or pastor and have the intention of fulfilling this function;
- be at least 16 years of age;
- be an active, fully-initiated Catholic (has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist);
- not be bound by any canonical penalty;
- **not be the father or mother of the one to be Confirmed.**

SECTION 5: Information about the individual (parish representative) accompanying the candidate(s) to the Basilica.

In the spirit of our Mission Priorities, Archbishop Lori asks that each pastorate or community designate a parishioner to accompany the candidate(s) to the Basilica on the day of Confirmation. This does not need to be an employee of the parish, but someone who is an active member of the parish community and shares in the joy of those being Confirmed—preferably someone involved with their formation process.

This representative will sign in on the day of Confirmation at the Registration Table. **Confirmation candidates DO NOT need to sign in.** A packet will be given to the representative that will include nametags, location of reserved seating for candidates and sponsors, as well as the Certificate(s) of Confirmation. This individual will distribute the Confirmation Certificates after the conferral of the sacrament—**when the liturgy is concluded.**

Online Registration for October 29, 2023 Confirmation is now open.

Go to: <https://archbalt.regfox.com/group-confirmation-october-29-2023>

To access the form from the Archdiocesan website:

- go to: www.archbalt.org
- under the **MINISTRIES** tab, select **DIVINE WORSHIP**
- scroll down to the boxes under the main picture
- click on: **FALL GROUP CONFIRMATION: October 29, 2023**