

2025-2026 LEVEL 8 CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK



St. William the Abbot

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION
stwilliam.org/faith-formation



The Office of Faith Formation

Located in the Convent Center Building (on the corner of Jackson Avenue and Maple Street), we're here to help with anything you and your family may need on your journey within our parish. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us!

Office Hours:

Monday – Wednesday: 10am – 4pm
Thursday: 10am – 3pm

Contact Information:

516-783-2528
faithformation@stwilliam.org
stwilliam.org/faith-formation
2020 Jackson Avenue; Seaford, NY 11783

Our Team:

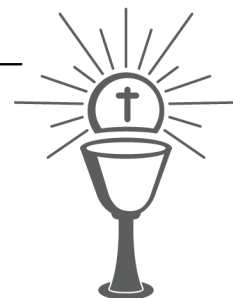
Rev. Joseph H. Fitzgerald – Pastor
Mrs. Laura Walsh – Director of Religious Education
Ms. Carly Spadafora – Confirmation Coordinator
Mrs. Maria Paguaga – Office Assistant

Mass Attendance

Our Faith Formation programs are centered on building a life-long relationship with Jesus Christ. We encourage you to read the scriptures, practice devotionals, and to become a faithful Catholic disciples as a family. As such, weekly Mass attendance is required for all students enrolled in our program. After each weekend Mass, QR codes will be displayed in the church. Once you scan them, you will need to enter the primary email address for your family (the one used for registration) or use “The Mass” app for instant recording.

If you attend Mass at another parish, you can record your attendance in the app or fill out the form on our website (stwilliam.org/faith-formation). A copy of the bulletin from the parish you attended will be required.

Students in all levels must attend at least 75% of weekend Masses. Attendance by QR code will begin the weekend of September 20th/21st and go through Palm Sunday weekend. Mass attendance will impact your child’s success in the program, ability to advance to their next class level, and their readiness to receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation.



The Sacrament of Confirmation

We are looking forward to celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation with you and your families this year! In its plainest definition, Confirmation fully initiates us into the Catholic church while bestowing on us the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is often symbolized by images of a dove, fire, and the color red. Throughout this period, you may be referred to as "Confirmation candidates" or "Confirmandi", which simply means you are preparing to receive the sacrament.



As you get ready to receive Confirmation this spring, you will be asked to select a saint's name to be used as a Confirmation name. We chose a saint because they have qualities we should all admire and aspire to, and you can research and choose one that has a special meaning or connection to you. If you prefer, you can also use the name given to you by your parents at baptism (as long as it is a saint's name). This is also special as it symbolizes the renewal and strengthening of the baptismal promises.

You will also need to select a sponsor. Your sponsor should be someone who can act as a spiritual mentor as you prepare for Confirmation and beyond. The person you choose must be at least 16 years old, has already been Confirmed themselves, regularly receives the Eucharist, and who practices our Roman Catholic faith. Keeping in mind the connection between baptism and Confirmation, you may want to select one of your godparents, but your sponsor cannot be your mom or dad. More information on who can serve as a sponsor is included in this handbook.

In order to ensure a smooth year as you prepare, please make note of the following timeline for tasks and assignments:

- Register for Confirmation by November 5, 2025
- Essay on the saint whose name you have chosen due by November 19, 2025
- Confirmation Interview takes place on January 21, 2026 during class times
- Confirmandi Letter to Pastor due by January 21, 2026
- Sponsor Form must be received by January 31, 2026
(please note these forms must be certified by the parish your sponsor is registered at)
- Apostolic Service Essay, Log, and Journal must be turned in by February 4, 2026
- Confirmandi must attend Retreat on either February 26 *or* 27, 2026 from 6pm to 8:30pm

The date of Confirmation and the times of services will be announced in the new year and is based on the Diocese of Rockville Centre calendars



St. William the Abbot RC Church
CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE REGISTRATION

Student/Candidate's Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Date of Birth: ____/____/____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____

Parents' Information

Father's First Name: _____ Father's Last Name: _____
Mother's First Name: _____ Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Confirmation Name

Confirmation Name: _____
Confirmation names must be chosen from a saint's name. Confirmation candidates may also use their baptismal name as long as it is also a saint's name. Candidates must prepare a written report on the saint from whom their name derives from (due 11/19/25).

Sponsor Information

Sponsors must meet all eligibility as outlined on the St. William the Abbot designated sponsor forms. The form must be filled out by the sponsor and certified by the parish in which they are registered at. Forms are available at the end of this handbook, at the Office of Faith Formation, and on our website: stwilliam.org/forms. A godparent or grandparent may serve as a Confirmation sponsor, but a parent may not. Sponsor forms must be submitted to the Office of Faith Formation by 1/31/26.

Sponsor's First Name: _____ Sponsor's Last Name: _____
Parish the sponsor is registered at: _____
Address of sponsor's parish: _____

Gown Measurement

All Confirmandi will wear a red gown on the day of Confirmation. These are typically one-size except for the length. Please indicate the Confirmation candidate's height: ____' ____"

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent Name: _____

Completed forms can be returned to faithformation@stwilliam.org or to the Office of Faith Formation by November 5, 2025

Researching Your Saint's Name

One of the traditional practices at the time of Confirmation is the opportunity to choose a name or reaffirm your baptismal name in honor of a saint. You may have a saint in mind already, but to help in your research, please visit www.catholic.org.

As you read through the biographies of these holy people and prayerfully consider what name to choose, think about the type of Christian you want to be.

All Confirmation candidates are expected to write a paper on your namesake saint. Your final paper is due by November 19, 2025. Please follow the outline below and be sure to include your first and last name on the paper. It should be 2-3 pages, double spaced.

Introduction: What name and saint did you pick. (Or, if you are going to use your baptismal name, that your parents' picked.)

Saint's Biography: Tell us about the saint.

Why: Tell us why you chose the name and this saint.

CONFIRMATION REVIEW

Confirmation candidates will use this sheet to prepare for their interview on January 21, 2026.



WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?

A sacrament is an outward sign of grace (God's wisdom and strength that assists us towards holiness) given to us by Christ and points to an internal change or conversion.

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is where we confirm our baptismal promises to be committed to Christ and the Church. It is also where we become more aware of the gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit and how to use them to live as a disciple in the world.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION?

Those who were baptized as babies were committed to God and the Church by their parents and godparents.

Confirmation candidates become aware of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and reaffirm their commitment and responsibility to God and the Church for themselves

WHY DO WE CHOOSE A CONFIRMATION NAME?

The name you choose is connected to a saint, who has qualities you can admire and aspire to. This saint can act as a role model for you, and you can pray to them as you prepare for Confirmation and beyond. In the Scriptures, God appoints new names to individuals at the time of transition on their faith journey (ie, Simon/Peter, Abram/Abraham).

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Gifts to help us *know* God's will:

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Right Judgement
- Knowledge

Gifts to help us *do* God's will:

- Courage
- Reverence
- Wonder & Awe



WHAT SYMBOL DOES THE BISHOP TRACE ON YOUR FOREHEAD WITH CHRISM?

To represent the love that Christ showed for us by dying on the cross and the type of unselfish love we should show others, the Bishop will trace a cross on your forehead when you receive Confirmation.

Letter Requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation

All Confirmation candidates write to their Pastor or Bishop stating their personal desire to receive the sacrament. This shows our free will as young adults within the church (as opposed to when our parents requested the sacrament of baptism).

Below is a simple outline you may follow, but please understand that this is a personal letter and should come from your heart. This is due to the Office of Faith Formation no later than January 21, 2026. Please type your letter and include your current school photo.

Greeting:

Start your letter with "Dear Fr. Joe;"

Body of the Letter:

Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself by writing about you, your family, and your background.

Paragraph 2: Give the personal reasons why you would like to be confirmed.

Paragraph 3: Explain how you are preparing for the sacrament. You can write about your personal prayer life, your celebration of other sacraments, and your service to the Church and to others.

Paragraph 4: Explain how you will continue to nurture your faith and carry out your service to God and others through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion:

Print or type your name and include your signature.

Sponsor Forms

The completed designated sponsor form is required by January 31, 2026. Your sponsor will have to have their form signed and certified by the parish in which they are registered in. There are 2 forms on our website – one for parishioners of St. William's, and one for parishioners of other parishes. Sometimes other parishes may have their own forms too, in that case, please turn in both.

To be a sponsor, there are certain guidelines a person must meet. We are unable to make exceptions to these criteria, so please read them carefully and reach out to the Office of Faith Formation if you have any questions or concerns.

In order to serve as a Sponsor, a person must be:

- *Someone who has received all three sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation*
- *Someone who believes and professes what the Catholic Church teaches, believes, and proclaims to be revealed by God*
- *Someone who is in full Communion with the Roman Pontiff and Bishop*
- *Someone who is not under excommunication, interdict, or publicly forbidden from receiving Holy Communion*
- *Someone who attends Mass on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation*
- *Someone who, if married, was not married outside of the Church (or has since has their marriage convalidated)*
- *Someone who has been a registered parishioner of their parish for at least the last 3 months*
- *Someone who is at least 16 years old*

Sponsor forms can be found by visiting stwilliam.org/forms
or by using the QR codes below:



For sponsors registered as
parishioners of St. William's



For sponsors registered at
another parish

Apostolic Service Hours

Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation makes you a fully initiated member of the Church, and the Church, at its core, is a community. In that spirit, we expect all candidates to complete twenty (20) hours of apostolic service by February 4th. Jesus often spoke about the need for all of us to help others, especially the less fortunate, and by serving our shared community, you will be able to live and love as Christ did.

Your apostolic service hours may be completed here at the parish, within your school, or within the greater community in which we live. All of these hours must be under the supervision of an adult and must be unpaid. We encourage you to always serve others, but for the purposes of this assignment, if you are unsure whether something counts towards your apostolic service hours, please contact the Office of Faith Formation.

The service log, signed service sheets, and reflection essay are due by February 4, 2026.

Apostolic Service Reflection Essay

After you have completed your service hours, we ask you to reflect on one of the projects you worked on. Using the questions below as a guide, please prepare a 2-3 page (double-spaced) essay, due to the Office of Faith Formation by February 4th along with your service log and service sheets.

1. Think about one of your service projects. What social needs or organization did you try to help?
2. What did you accomplish during your service?
3. What did you learn about the people or organization you helped during your service?
4. After completing your project, what did you learn about yourself? How did helping make you feel?
5. "Jesus said, 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Mt 22:39). What do you really think He meant now that you have completed your community service?

**ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT
OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION
APOSTOLIC SERVICE HOURS LOG**

First & Last Name: _____

Complete a service hours sheet for each of your projects. Use this log to track your hours. Both must be turned in along with your reflection essay by February 4, 2026.

Date	Project	Number of Hours
Total Number of Apostolic Service Hours Completed		

**ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT
OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION
APOSTOLIC SERVICE HOURS SHEET**

First & Last Name: _____

Use a separate sheet for each project/day you complete service hours. Keep track of all of your hours using the service hours log. Your service hours sheets, log, and reflection essay all need to be turned in to the Office of Faith Formation by February 4, 2026.

Project/Activity Name: _____

Organization Name: _____

Type of Hours: ☐ St. William's ☐ School ☐ Community

Date Hours Completed: ____/____/____

Total Hours Completed on This Date: _____

Supervisor's Name: _____

Supervisor's Signature: _____

Description of Apostolic Service:

**ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT
OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION
LEVEL 8 DATES**

OCTOBER

1 - First Class
8 - Parent/Child Session (Students must attend with parent, guardian, or sponsor)
22 - Class

NOVEMBER

5 - Class + Confirmation Registration Due
19 - Saint Essay Due

DECEMBER

10 - Parent/Child Session (Students must attend with parent, guardian, or sponsor)
24 - No Class (Christmas Break)

JANUARY

7 - Class
21 - Class/Confirmation Interviews + Letter to Fr. Joe Due
31 - Class + Sponsor Form Due

FEBRUARY

4 - Class + Apostolic Service Essay, Log, and Journal Due
11 - Parent/Child Session (Students must attend with parent, guardian, or sponsor)
26 or 27 - Confirmation Retreat (choose one day; both are from 6pm to 8:30pm)

MARCH

11 - Final Class

Dates and times for Confirmation will be distributed after Christmas Break