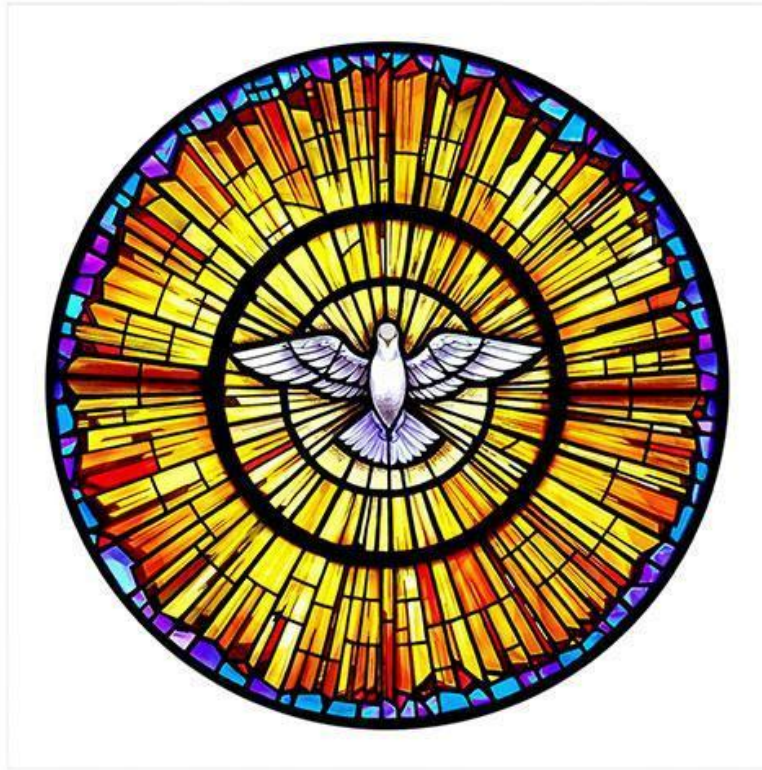


St. Martin of Tours

Fort Lee Catholic Community



Confirmation

Sacramental Preparation

2026/2027

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Welcome Letter

1 September 2026

From: Fr. Eugene Savarimuthu

To: Parents preparing their children for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Dear Parents

Welcome to the Fort Lee Catholic Community Confirmation Preparation. On behalf of the Catechists, I am delighted to welcome you and your child as we look forward to accompanying your family on this significant stage of your child's faith journey.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is an important sacrament for your child, for all your family, for our Church, and for the whole Catholic Community to which we belong. We wish you every blessing as we embark on this journey together.

If you need any further information now or as the sacrament develops, please contact your Catechists or me.

We want your child to enjoy this preparation time and ask you to look on it as an opportunity for your family to grow in faith, knowledge, and love of God, together.

I do ask you and your child for all your support and cooperation to help make this preparation time a blessing for us all.

With all God's Blessing,

Fr. Eugene



Confirmation Requirements

1. Baptism Certificate
 - a. Any person receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation (outside of the OCIA program) must have been previously Baptized in the Catholic faith. Please provide a copy of your official Baptism Certificate with sacramental notations to the Coordinator (not the Catechist), dated within 6 months of the Sacrament.
2. Attendance
 - a. Class and Group Celebrations
 - i. It is important that students attend all sessions (classes and group celebrations). You and your child are asked to plan ahead to ensure that this happens. If your child is unwell or there is a valid reason why you cannot attend, please let your catechist know in advance of the session. Your support and encouragement during this process are vital to your child's faith development. Sports events, parties, and other such competing attractions must come second to Confirmation preparation. In the event that your child misses two sessions, you and your child will be advised to meet with our Priest.
 - b. Sacramental Retreats
 - i. The Confirmation Retreat is mandatory and a fundamental component of your child's faith formation. Sponsors and parents will be expected to participate in portions of the retreat.
3. Prayers, Practices, and Sacramentals
 - a. The presiding Bishop will hold a meeting with the Confirmand prior to the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Bishop may ask the Confirmand to recite any of the following items.
 - i. Memorize the Lord's Prayer
 - ii. Memorize the Hail Mary
 - iii. Memorize the Nicene Creed
 - iv. Memorize the Ten Commandments
 - v. Memorize the Precepts of the Church
 - vi. Memorize the Prayer to St. Michael
 - vii. Demonstrate respect for God's presence in the Eucharist by genuflecting or bowing
 - viii. Demonstrate Mass responses
 - ix. Demonstrate how to pray the rosary
 - x. Identify the Tabernacle
 - xi. Identify the Seven Sacraments
 - xii. Identify the Twelve Apostles Chosen by Christ
 - xiii. Identify the Beatitudes
 - xiv. Identify the Holy Days of Obligation in the United States
 - xv. Identify the Gifts and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit
 - xvi. Identify key themes and personages of the bible
 - xvii. Identify the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
 - xviii. Understand the Doctrine of the Communion of Saints



Roles and Responsibilities

1. Fort Lee Catholic Community
 - a. Your Catechists, Priest, and Church Community recognize that you are the primary teachers of your children in their faith, and it is our sincere pleasure to work alongside you and your child to prepare for Confirmation, which is an important faith step in the life of your child.
 - i. Catechist
 1. Catechists will provide sacramental preparation classes, prayer, and every attention your child needs or wants as they prepare for Confirmation.
 2. All the resources you and your child need will be provided. It is essential that each child bring their Bible and workbook to every session.
 - ii. Priest, Coordinator & Church Community
 1. Our Priest will provide prayer and Sacramental guidance IAW the Archdiocese for the Military Services.
 2. The Catholic Community will be asked to support your child through prayer and a Catholic lifestyle.
2. Parent
 - a. As parents, you are your children's primary educators of the faith. In the Sacrament of Baptism, you promised to be your child's "first teachers in the ways of the faith" and to be "the best of teachers." The Fort Lee Catholic Community, our Priest, and your child's Catechists are there to help and support you in this important task.
 - i. Accompany your child to Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation
 - ii. Pray for and with your child and our Catholic Community
 - iii. Witness to your faith by your family lifestyle and conversation
 - iv. Support all sacramental program requirements
3. Sponsor
 - a. The Sponsor's role is very important. A sponsor must be a person who knows the candidate, who is willing to share his/her own faith, and can be of help to the candidate on this spiritual journey to Confirmation.
 - b. According to Canon Law, the following must be true of a Confirmation Sponsor: may not be a parent or step-parent, must have completed their 16th year of age, be a Catholic who is confirmed and has received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the role to be undertaken, be in good standing with the Catholic Church (not bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared) and must provide a signed Letter of Good Standing attesting to such.
 - c. Remain in regular contact with the Confirmand during the Confirmation preparation process and throughout their life. Those who live nearby can take a more active role in the sacramental preparation. With the help of technology, even sponsors who live far away can share the value and meaning of the Catholic faith in their lives.
 - d. A letter of prayer and support for your child will be asked of their Sponsors.
4. Child
 - a. Complete all assigned homework, including the mandatory volunteer service hours
 - b. Memorize, demonstrate, and identify prayers, practices, and sacramentals
 - c. Attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation
 - d. Attend an interview with the Priest and Catechist
 - e. Choose a Confirmation Saint and complete a Confirmation Saint report



Important Dates to Remember

1. September
 - a. CRE Meeting
 - i. 20 September
 - b. CRE Sessions
 - i. 27 September
2. October
 - a. CRE Sessions
 - i. 4, 18, 25 October
 - ii. No CRE on 11 October
3. November
 - a. CRE Sessions
 - i. 1, 15, 22 November
 - ii. No CRE on 8, 29 November
4. December
 - a. CRE Sessions
 - i. 6, 13 December
 - ii. No CRE on 20, 27 December
5. January
 - a. CRE Sessions
 - i. 3, 10, 24, 31 January
 - ii. No CRE on 17 January
6. February
 - a. CRE Sessions
 - i. 7, 21, 28 February
 - ii. No CRE on 14 February
 - b. Sacramental Program
 - i. Confirmation Retreat: Date TBD
 - ii. Confirmation Rehearsal: 12 February
 - iii. Confirmation: 12 February
7. March
 - a. CRE Sessions
 - i. 7, 14, 21 March
 - ii. No CRE on 28 March
8. April
 - a. CRE Sessions
 - i. 11, 18, 25 April
 - ii. No CRE on 4 April
9. May
 - a. CRE Sessions
 - i. 16, 23 May
 - ii. No CRE on 2, 9 May



The Sacrament of Confirmation 12 February 2027

Confirmation is the sacrament through which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to join us more closely to Jesus and His Church and to seal and strengthen us as Christ's witnesses. Through Confirmation, we are accepted as fully initiated members of the Church and are expected to take up the challenge of becoming mature Disciples of Christ. We view Confirmation as a sealing of our Baptism. It is an opportunity for us to say "Yes" to the vows taken for us by our parents and godparents in the sacrament of Baptism and to live as a charismatic witness of Christ, proclaiming, defending, and spreading our faith whenever possible.

Reconciliation, like Baptism, must be received before a student can receive their Confirmation. Reconciliation can be received multiple times throughout a person's life. As Catholics, we are required to receive the Sacrament at least once per year. However, it is recommended that Catholics receive Reconciliation once per month. All Confirmands will be expected to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the Confirmation rehearsal, and Catechists, parents, and volunteers will be highly encouraged to participate.

On 12 February 2027, all Confirmands and Sponsors should arrive NLT 1630 for dinner with Bishop Caggianelli. During dinner, Bishop Caggianelli will meet with all Confirmands to test their knowledge. We will then have a short rehearsal with the Sponsors and their families and celebrate the Confirmation Mass.

On 12 February 2027, all Confirmands should be seated NLT 1815. All Confirmands and Sponsors will have designated seating in the ambo-side pews. Parents will have reserved seating toward the front of the choir-side pews. A dedicated photographer will be provided. Please do not leave pews to take photos. We are hosting a reception immediately after Mass in the Family Life Center.

It is in this spirit of fostering respect for each other and for the sanctity of the Sacrament of Confirmation that we set forth a code of dress consistent with the Church's view of modesty for the solemn beauty of this occasion. While the Church greatly respects the uniqueness and individuality of each of its members, modesty is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, and "Teaching modesty to children and adolescents means awakening in them respect for the human person." (Catechism of the Catholic Church 25234). It is important that ALL Confirmands AND their Sponsors adhere to the following dress code. If you are not certain whether your clothing meets these guidelines, *please ask prior to the day of Confirmation*.

Ladies: Dressing in good taste is requested and should be appropriate for important life occasions (Church, banquets, and special occasions). Shoulders must be covered. No plunging or revealing necklines. No bare midriffs. Skirts and dresses should fall in length below the knee and not be tight or suggestive. Pant suits or full-length pants with an appropriate top are acceptable. Please no shorts or capris. Shoes should be appropriate for the outfit and church (no flip-flops or tennis shoes).

Gentlemen: Dressing in good taste is requested and should be appropriate for important life occasions (Church, banquets, and special occasions). Dress shirt with collar and tie (sports coat or suit jacket optional). Shirts should be tucked in, and pants should be fitted at the waist with a belt. Shoes should be appropriate for the outfit and church (no flip-flops or tennis shoes).



Class Session Information

1. Attendance
 - a. In accordance with the AMS and Garrison safety procedures, attendance will be taken at each session. If your child misses two sessions, you and your child will be advised to meet with our Priest. Thirty hours of minimum instruction are required for sacramental validity.
2. Preparation
 - a. All students will come to class prepared with their Bible, workbook, and completed assigned homework. Sessions will begin on time. We ask that everyone be punctual for all sessions in consideration of others in the class.
3. Homework
 - a. All follow-up home activities should be completed, as this is a vital part of the process – giving you and your child an opportunity for quiet time with each other and God.
4. Rehearsals
 - a. We will walk through the Sacrament of Confirmation to teach the practical aspects of receiving the Holy Spirit and to alleviate any anxiety students may feel.
5. Contact Information
 - a. Fort Lee Priest: Fr. Eugene Savarimuthu, eugene.k.savarimuthu.mil@army.mil
 - b. Catholic Pastoral and CRE Coordinator: Ms. Patti Ramos, saintmartin.coordinator@gmail.com
 - c. Confirmation Catechists:
 - i. Mr. Jam Artemio and Mr. Richard Ramos
 - ii. saintmartin.confirmation@gmail.com

