

Dear Confirmation Candidates, Parents and Sponsors,

I am excited for my first year of Confirmation as Youth Minister at OLL! Today's modern world of technology and busyness pulls at our attention. Young people in particular are subjected to many influences and dynamisms that squeeze on their focus and time. It is singularly important to remember that for us to be happy we must invest toward developing strong and real relationships, especially with God and within the Church. Our time and attention must be directed to conversation with God. We long for God, to be part of God's family, to thrive in our own respective family unit, as well as other real communities that contain familial elements. This is why I am excited for this opportunity to lead these teens in this discernment and formation for Confirmation, the gift of the Holy Spirit. We all have inside of us a need to be fed, to grow, and to contribute. Confirmation is about deciding, "yes this is my true family of faith and I want to learn, lead, and make my mark in the Church and in the world."

God's abundant blessings!

Aaron Myler

Director of Youth Ministry

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The purpose of parental involvement in this process is for spiritual guidance and for the growth of families at this Parish. This will enable your family to “figure this out together” and step back for a discussion of important topics regarding your lives, spiritual and otherwise. In order to do so the following is requested of the Confirmation Candidates’ parents:

- Ensure your student completes the guidelines in a timely matter.
- Participate in a four-week session led by a parent.
 - These sessions will feature “alpha” videos, an incredible program centered on Jesus, discussion topics, and spiritual reflection.
 - The four-week session will coincide with the planning meetings for the day retreat that your student will be hosting, Sunday afternoons from 3:30p-5pm.
 - The dates can be found on the confirmation calendar.
- The end goal of this exercise is to fulfill the Baptismal Promise to the students and write a spiritual letter that helps continue to guide their student. This letter will be presented at the day retreat.
- There will be a family closing session to the retreat in which parents and students will be able to discuss how they have grown during the process.
- Hopefully, these sessions will create a fellowship and accountability between the parents. We are ultimately one family, and we share the responsibility of supporting each other and our Church.

There are several activities that need to be completed in preparation for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. This will require the whole family to be engaged in the program. Some of these activities only happen once per calendar year. If you choose not to participate, you will need to wait until the following year to complete the program. Students must make Confirmation a priority in order to receive the sacrament from the Bishop on May 10th. I usually use email as the main mode of communication. So make sure your student has registered his or her email.

QUESTIONS? Contact the Director of Youth Ministry, Aaron Myer
AaronMyler@ollmlb.org or 321-723-3636 ext.18

P:_____ Stu:_____

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS 2018-2019

The purpose of these requirements is for the candidates to develop a deeper relationship with God and His Church. If these items are completed before the upcoming Confirmation, **May 10th, 2019** then the candidate will be confirmed. If not, they can be included in the following 2019-2020 program. Thank you for all your prayers and support for our Youth as they prepare to receive the seal and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

IMPORTANT DAYS & TIMES:(See Calendar for Specific Date/Day/Time)

- Confirmation Class: Sundays @ 12p - 1:30p
- Retreat team planning: Sundays @ 3:30p - 5p
- Lifeteen, High School Youth Group: Sundays @ 7 - 9p
- Confirmation Mass Rehearsal: May 9, 2019 (*Sponsor and Candidate Attendance Only*)
- Confirmation Mass: May 10, 2019

Confirmation Candidate Requirements Checklist:

- Attend Mass every Sunday with their family:
 - Holy Mass is the heart of the Catholic Faith and the essence of all of the Sacraments.*
- Attend all **8** sessions of Confirmation Class
- Attend **10** Youth Group sessions (Lifeteen) over the course of their Confirmation Preparation Year which meet Sundays from 7pm-9pm
 - Students must sign-in, participate, and sign-out of youth group to have their attendance accounted for.*
- Attend **1** Youth Group trip, or plan a youth event over the course of their preparation.
 - I.E.. planning, setting up, or cleaning for themed events, lock ins.*
- Attend **1** XLT night.
- Attend as Retreatant, a Confirmation Day-Retreat given by other students.
- Attend as Retreat Team Member and give a Confirmation Day-Retreat:
 - assist with the planning and attend planning meetings, participate as group leader, share witness, and participate in retreat day.*
- Attend **at least 1** service of Holy Week, although all of these are encouraged.
 - Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Easter Vigil*
- Assist and participate with the Stations of the cross during lent.
- Choose a Sponsor:** meeting all of the guidelines required of a Godparent:
 - An active Catholic at least sixteen year of age, Baptized, First Communion, Confirmed, if married, married in the Catholic Church.*
- Write a one page essay on a saint of their choice
 - To be turned in to the Director of Youth Ministry before your scheduled interview with Father Karl.*
- Be interviewed by Fr Karl during the preparation process
 - Student must Self-Schedule, Father scheduled times to meet with students in or after December.*
- Be willing of their own accord to be confirmed in the church.
- Complete 20 service hours.(Service Form can be found on parish website)

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SAINT ESSAY INFORMATION: WHY I CHOSE YOU

Why do we pick a Confirmation Saint?

The stories of saints are the stories of God bringing someone from one condition and transforming them into something remarkable. The saints chose to live extraordinary holy moments that we can draw inspiration from. Their stories are reminders of God's goodness. By their testimony we can do what they did, respond to God's grace to become closer in relationship with Christ. Also we can relate to the personality of the saint that we choose to learn more about, to their struggles, to their victories, and ask them to journey with us. God is inclusive and allows others to bring us closer to Him, whether in Heaven and on earth. This is why we choose a Confirmation saint, because they are relatable and point us to God.

- [Fr. Mike Schmitz, "Do Catholics Worship Saints?"](#)(YouTube)

Please choose a saint whose story touches your heart and inspires you.

- Write at least one typed page
- single spaced
- Times New Roman
- 12pt font
- Must have bibliography citing sources.
 - Sight your sources, do not plagiarize.
- Must be turned in by March 15th 2019 or before you interview with Fr. Karl depending on which semester you are enrolled in.

Directions: *Write a letter to your chosen saint of why you are wanting them to pray for you and help you through your Spiritual journey. Have fun and get to know your saint. Be personal and open up to them, they are our intercessors and will have your back for your adult life.*

Answer these but not limited to the following questions:

- Why you would like to have him or her as your confirmation saint?
- What are they the patron saint of?
- What is their conversion story?
- What miracles that happened?
- How does this saint's life relate to aspects of your own life?

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CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS GUIDELINES

Candidates must complete **20 service hours** during their confirmation year, which includes past service hours specifically for this Confirmation, up to April 1st 2019. The student is responsible for turning in Service Forms performed on an ongoing basis to the Director or Youth Ministry, Aaron Myler, to fulfill requirements before confirmation. Service Forms can be found on the parish website, print before attending your service project.

One of the most beautiful ways we can serve is by giving kindness to someone who is not expecting it. What are some service opportunities that present an exciting opportunity or a challenge to address the need of another person? Hunger, loneliness, not enough clothing or old clothes or shoes, desiring knowledge, are some disadvantages that could be ministered to. Service in a church ministry or at Mass is also strongly encouraged in hopes that the candidate will continue in this responsibility after they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Parent and Sponsor participation in the service hours is greatly encouraged to show the candidates that we as Catholics don't do this for 'credit', but instead as part of the mission Christ set before us. We hope that the Candidates choose something of interest to them that fits their strengths and continue serving after Confirmation.

Special opportunities to assist the church and the local community will be organized throughout the year. It will be the student's responsibility to find service opportunities to complete their 20 hour requirement. Check our 'Weekly Update' sent out in an email campaign to all of the candidates and parents for upcoming classes, service opportunities and youth events.

SERVICE OPTIONS:

The following Parish Service opportunities will count as **1 hr per/Mass** served:

- Altar Serving, Ushering, Serving in the Choir/Youth Band, and Lectoring

Other Parish ministries:

- Teaching Religious Education, Hospitality Ministry, Middle School Core Team, assisting in decorating and maintenance at OLL and Youth House.

Other Community Service

- Students may find service opportunities outside of parish events and ministries.

We(Parent & Student) understand ALL the confirmation program requirements and agree to the completion before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Print Parent Name:

Print Student Name:

Parent Signature:

Date:

_____ / / _____

Student Signature:

Date:

_____ / / _____

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