

## **Dear Confirmation Candidates, Parents and Sponsors,**

I am excited for my second 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 along with our other commitments. To be happiest we are called to respond in worship, in other words, to give Him worth before anything else. We long for God, to be part of God's family, to thrive in our own respective family unit, as well as other community families like our sports teams and clubs. This Confirmation group is an opportunity to grow and become another form of family. I am excited to pray for these teens in this discernment and formation for Confirmation, the gift of the Holy Spirit. 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. The Family is the Smallest Church where we grow a lot in our faith and prayer lives. This is the plan that God reveals to us.

- Ensure your student completes the guidelines in a timely matter.
- Participate in a four-week session with guest speakers.
  - These sessions will feature an alpha video, a talk centered on Jesus, discussion topics for tools to help your children, and spiritual reflection.
  - The four-week session will coincide with the Retream Team meetings for the day retreat that your student will be hosting, Sunday afternoons from 1:45-3:15pm. You will only do this one of the two semesters, specifically the semester your child is on their 2nd retreat.
  - The dates can be found on the confirmation calendar.

There are several activities that need to be completed in preparation for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. 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 29th. Facebook, Instagram, and email are good forms of communications that I hope to use with parents. My cell is 734-474-5854 if you ever need anything. You may have to leave a voicemail if calling for the first time as I often receive spam calls.

## **CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS 2019-2020**

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 29th, 2019** then the candidate will be confirmed. If not, they can be included in the following 2020-2021 program. This is the last Sacrament of Initiation that sets up the rest of the entirety of the young person's life. For the sake of the Confirmation Candidates, this will not need to be rushed to completion. 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- Parish Hall
- Retreat team planning: Sundays @ 1:45p - 3:15p Parish Office 1626 Oak St
- Lifeteen, High School Youth Group: Sundays @ 4 - 5:45p Youth House 1808 Hickory St
- Confirmation Mass Rehearsal: May 27, 2020  
(Sponsor and Candidate Attendance Only)
- Confirmation Mass: May 29, 2020

### **Confirmation Candidate Requirements Checklist:**

**QUESTIONS? Contact the Director of Youth Ministry, Aaron Myer**  
**[AaronMyler@ollmlb.org](mailto:AaronMyler@ollmlb.org) or 321-723-3636 ext.18**

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- ❑ Attend Mass every Sunday with their family:
  - ❑ *Holy Mass is the heart of the Catholic Faith and a weekly minimum prescribed by the Church to maintain our relationship with God and give Him what he is due as a response and commemoration for His Son who gave His life for us.*
- ❑ 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 4pm-5:45pm
  - ❑ *Students must sign-in, and participate. Youth Group is a valuable and fun time and there is much to learn about our faith!*
- ❑ Attend **1** XLT night. To be scheduled during Youth Group and other times during the year. This is a time of Adoration with a talk and music.
- ❑ 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.*
- ❑ **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 March 15 2020.*
- ❑ Be willing of their own accord to be confirmed in the church.
- ❑ Complete 20 service hours.(Service Form can be found on parish website)

## **SAINT ESSAY INFORMATION: WHY I CHOSE YOU**

*Why do we pick a Confirmation Saint?*

The stories of saints are the stories of God taking an ordinary person like your or me 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 seeing their witness we can try to 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, and to their struggles, to their victories, and we should ask them to journey with us. God is inclusive in His mission of Salvation, allowing us to bring others close to Him through prayer and witness. The saints who have already made it to Heaven can do the same, as "God is God of the living." This is why we choose a Confirmation saint, because they are relatable and point us to God and can help us get to Him.

- [Fr. Mike Schmitz, "Do Catholics Worship Saints?"\(YouTube\)](#)  
(The answer is no we do not worship saints)

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

- Write at least one typed page

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- 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 2020

**Directions:** Write a letter to or about 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 entire 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?

## **CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS GUIDELINES**

Candidates must complete **20 service hours** during their confirmation year, which includes past service hours after June 1st 2020. 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 you? Hunger, loneliness, not enough clothing in the form of old clothes or shoes, lack of 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 participation of service when they find meaning and enjoyment in it.

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 Facebook and Instagram as we send events for youth group, service opportunities, and reminders.

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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:

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Parent Signature:

Date:

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Print Student Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_ / / \_\_\_\_\_

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