

2019-2021 Confirmation Formation Process

7th and 8th Grade Parish Youth

Purpose:

To provide a process whereby youth from this faith community can make a commitment to the Catholic Christian life and complete their initiation in the Catholic Church when considering or requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Rite of Confirmation clearly states that appropriate formation and good catechesis should precede the sacrament. Participation in the Confirmation process will prepare youth to express their commitment to the church and the Christian life through prayer, sacrament, service, and outreach. The formation process will also assist in helping youth become aware of the Holy Spirit at work in their lives, and to prepare them for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The formation process also provides opportunities for parents, sponsors, and the OLGC faith community to become involved as mentors, teachers, and witnesses of the Catholic Christian life. The formation process specifics are described below.

Formation Process for 7th-8th Grade Students

Catechesis (Small and Large Group Sessions) Fall 2019 - Spring 2021

Youth must participate in 7th and 8th grade catechesis (Junior High CCF or Catholic School religion classes). Catechesis regarding morality, the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, and understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation, discipleship, Catholic tradition and Christian values are taught during the 7th and 8th grade year and are a necessary part of Confirmation Formation.

All 7th-graders are required to attend a total of 3 large-group sessions on Monday evenings from 6:45 to 8:00pm. (Schedule is attached.) Please note that these large-group sessions will be in lieu of the regular 7th-grade CCF sessions for that week.

As 8th-graders in Fall 2020/ Spring of 2021, Confirmandi will be required to attend another 3 large-group sessions. Please note that when a Monday large-group session is scheduled, 8th grade CCF will not meet on Sunday evening.

Confirmation Retreat – July 23, 2020

All rising 8th-graders are required to participate in a Confirmation Retreat. OLGC will host the Confirmation retreat on July 23, 2020 at Adventure Links in Clifton, VA to provide an opportunity for prayer, reflection, and activities for the Confirmandi to think more deeply about and to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. A makeup day will be provided. If both dates conflict, Confirmandi will need to find another Catholic Church for a Confirmation retreat. Proof of Attendance is required in order to be able to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation with OLGC in the Fall of 2020.

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Liturgical Participation, Prayer and Parish Devotions – Ongoing

As emerging young adults in the Church, youth and their families are expected to attend Mass every weekend. Mass and other forms of prayer are essential to growing in faith and in relationship with Jesus Christ, the Church and one another. Part of the Confirmandi's formation includes service at weekend liturgies in a variety of ministries. To sign up for a Liturgical Ministry, please contact Gerard Hall at liturgy@olgcvva.org.

Confirmation Formation Checklist– Winter 2020 to Spring 2021

As you can see, there are a variety of activities to participate in as the Confirmandi prepare for Confirmation. On the checklist sheet in your folder, you will find all of the activities required as part of the formation. These activities include parish community events, spirituality experiences, and service (30 hours of individual service divided into 3 categories). We encourage you to accomplish this checklist with your families and/or friends. Please record the dates that you accomplish each of the requirements. Please bring your checklist with you to your faith sharing interview so that we can see your progress (you should have the majority of your checklist completed by this time). All requirements must be completed by the Spring of 2021 and we will collect your checklist at that time.

Social and Service Events – Throughout the Year

The Parish and Youth Ministry will offer opportunities for social events and service for middle schoolers and their families. Please keep your eye on email for more details. For more information about Junior High Youth Ministry activities, please contact Derek Rogers at (703)896-7409 or youth@olgcvva.org.

Confirmation Faith Sharing Interview – Fall 2020

Youth will participate in a faith sharing interview prior to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The interview is intended to affirm the youth's discernment and decision regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation, and to encourage the youth to continue his/her commitment to the Christian life. Also, the interviewer will review the youth's participation in Confirmation formation. The interviewers will be members of the Pastoral Team.

The Role of Parents and Sponsors

As parents and sponsors, Confirmandi will be looking up to you for guidance on how to be an adult in the Catholic Faith. It is important to model to them lifelong faith formation, including prayer, participation in the sacraments, and implementation of Christian values into everyday life.

Opportunities for adult spirituality and faith formation are offered throughout the year for parents and sponsors. Please keep an eye out for these opportunities. Parents will be asked to give support by volunteering throughout the Confirmation preparation.

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