

Confirmation Prep Program

8th Grade Requirements Review

Confirmation Prep Registration – May 2 & 3, 2016; 4:30pm to 7:30pm

- Cost: Faith Formation Tuition + Confirmation Fee
- Confirmation Fee will be due in September and is determined based on costs such as retreats (approximately \$45).

Basic Catholic Faith Assessment – April 17, 18, 19, 2016

- Faith Basics Evaluation will be given during Faith Formation class.
- A Study Guide was emailed to all families on January 8 and given to candidates during class.
- The Catechists have been reviewing the material in Faith Formation class.

Confirmation Stewardship Hours

- The 7th Grade Confirmation Stewardship Booklet is **due May 4, 2016**
- 8th Grade - Complete the 20 service hours required for Confirmation.
 - Balance of 20 hours; can be all Parish Hours if desired
 - Corporal Act of Mercy – 1 hour
 - Spiritual Act of Mercy – 1 hour
 - **All service must be completed and Stewardship Booklets turned in by May 1, 2017.**
- **Important:** Do not ask anyone to sign a blank page in your Stewardship book. The date, event and number of hours must be filled out before you ask anyone for a signature.

Sponsor Certificate – see attached Sponsor criteria

- Certificates will be given out at registration on May 2 and 3.

Commitment to Excellence will be given out at registration on May 2 and 3.

- Due back at first class
- Must be signed by candidate and parents (and sponsor if possible) in order to proceed with the Confirmation Preparation program
- Please review details of the document with candidate. Do not sign the Commitment to Excellence without first reading it. By signing, parent and candidate are committing to the program requirements

8th Grade Class/Homework Requirements

- Confirmation Name Paper is due at the 2nd Prep Class in September
 - Worksheets will be given out at registration on May 2 and 3.
- Chastity/Abstinence Retreat – Date TBD – Fall 2016

- Favorite Psalm Paper will be due in Nov./Dec. 2016 – exact date TBD
 - In your **Catholic** bible read through the Book of Psalms and find your favorite psalm. Type up the psalm and then in a separate paragraph in 2 or 3 sentences tell why it is your favorite. How did it relate to you and your life? How did it move you or provoke a thought?
- Pay It Forward Project – Spring 2017 - details given in class
- Day of Reflection Retreat – Date TBD
 - The diocese requires that all candidates attend a retreat in order to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. If the OLL Retreat date does not work for you, you can call the Diocese of Metuchen and/or other parishes to find another retreat to attend. Most parishes in the area administer the sacrament of Confirmation in the spring so their retreats will be scheduled October through April.
 - Notify me asap if you will not be attending the OLL retreat.
- 8th Grade Confirmation Stewardship Booklet will be given at registration on May 2 and 3. It is due by **May 3, 2017**.
- Attend Sunday Mass with your Sponsor – The worksheet will be given at registration on May 2 and 3. It is due by **May 3, 2017**.
- Service Project w/Sponsor - The worksheet will be given at registration on May 2 and 3. It is due by **May 3, 2017**.

Confirmation Rehearsal w/Mass

- Date given at registration on May 2 and 3
- Mandatory for all candidates, sponsor (if possible) and/or parent

Confirmation Mass Date

- The desired dates submitted to diocese late 2016/early 2017. Fr. Len submits 3 dates/times for our Confirmation ceremony.
- Fr. Len usually chooses the first or second weekend in October.
- The diocese will let us know late May/early June of 2017 which date and time was assigned.
- Fr. Len may end up presiding over the ceremony if the bishop cannot attend.
- I will email you the moment I find out the date.

Confirmation Ceremony

- Candidates do not wear robes. Candidates and sponsors are asked to dress appropriately.
- Sponsors process in with the candidates and sit in the row behind their candidate.
- There will be limited seating for family and friends especially if the ceremony is held during a scheduled Sunday mass.
- The ceremony lasts about 1 hour 15 minutes; possibly longer if the bishop celebrates.

Important Notes

- Do not miss a deadline or meeting. Please put all dates for classes, retreats and assignments on your calendar. It is the candidate's responsibility to meet all deadlines and to be on time to all classes and retreats.
- Let me know of any issues before a due date.
- Do not turn in paperwork before the week it is due.
- Fill out Paperwork Completely - Any paperwork with missing information will be returned for completion.

Contact Info – Thank you for your understanding.

- Please contact me with any questions or concerns during work hours at my work phone or work email.
 - sacraments@ollwhs.org
 - 908-534-2319 (ext. 20)
- Please do not give me assignments or ask important questions outside work hours or church grounds.
- Please do not be offended if I ask you to email me at work if you approach me outside of my work hours with a question.
- Please respect my personal and family time by not discussing church business with me when I am outside my work hours.

Class Schedule Structure

- **Date/Time** – Monday and **possibly** Tuesday evenings for 2 hours from 6:00pm to 8:00pm; every 2 to 3 weeks
 - A Preliminary Class schedule will be given at registration on May 2 and 3. The schedule will be finalized early summer.
 - The calendar will be worked around the Readington Township School calendar.
 - Classes will run September through April/May.
 - 12 sessions plus 2 Retreats
 - If the school calendar changes, the Confirmation Prep schedule may be changed.
 - Classes will be rescheduled if there are snow days.
 - We will call on parents to sub if the need arises.

- **Reintroducing Tuesday Evening Class** – **only if the following is met by registration**
 - Need 3 to 4 catechists plus subs – Give serious consideration to volunteering
 - Curriculum is very easy to execute – show videos and have candidates discuss questions in the book
 - Catechists will rotate leading the class but all catechists must be present for all 12 sessions to help supervise the large class.
 - Class size must be close to evenly divided over both Monday and Tuesday evenings.
 - I will email you if and when the criteria are met and if we add a Tuesday night Confirmation Prep Class.

Choosing a Sponsor

Sponsor Certificate Sample

- Candidate, parent and sponsor are to read the front and back of the “*Certificate & Guidelines for Sponsors at Confirmation*” in its entirety.

Sponsor Criteria

- Must be at least 14 years old
- Must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation
- If married, must be married by a Catholic priest
- May be either male or female
- Cannot be a biological parent
- ***Must be a practicing Catholic* - attends weekly Sunday mass and Holy Day masses**

FYI

- If a sibling is away at college and attends mass while there have them get a note from the priest saying that they attend weekly mass regularly. Also ensure they attend mass when home for holidays and summer.
- Also siblings 23 yrs. or older can register as a separate parishioner of the OLL parish.

Sponsor Certificate Form

- Make sure all sponsor information is filled out including email address
- Make sure pastor of your Sponsor’s church places the parish seal over the pastor’s signature
- You will be receiving the official form at registration on May 2 and 3
- **Important Change:** Sponsor Certificates are due back by the first Confirmation Prep Class in mid-September 2016