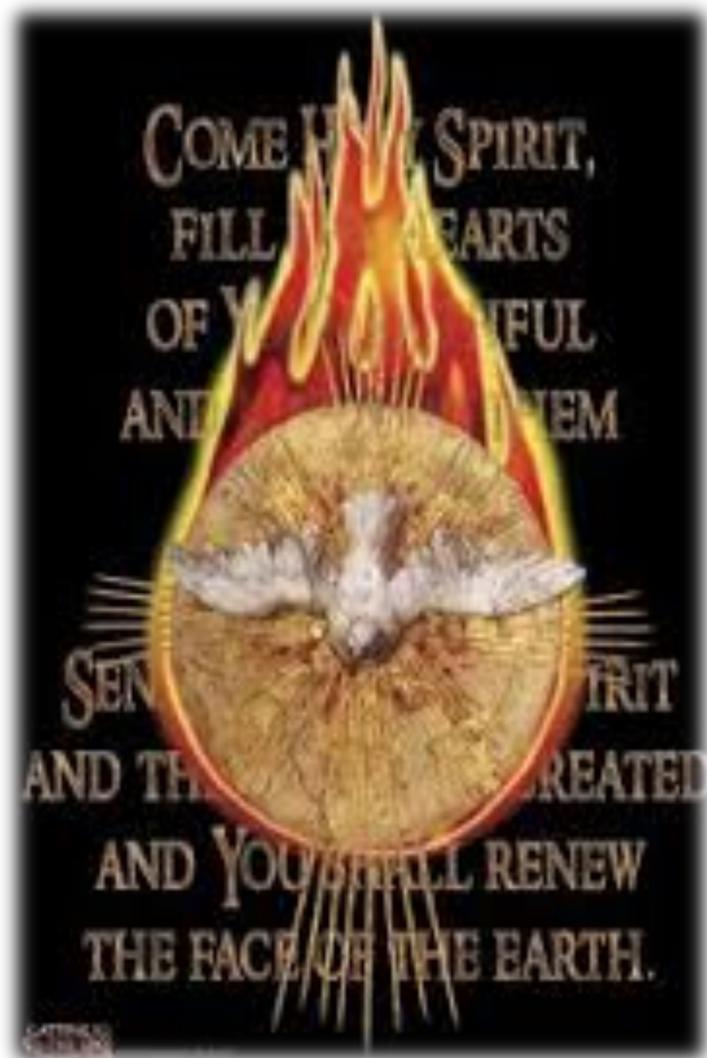


OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, ORA PRO NOBIS

CONFIRMATION
YEAR I AND II



PARENT AND CANDIDATE
HANDBOOK

2018/19

J+M+J



Our Lady Star of the Sea • Solomons, Maryland

A Parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese
of Washington D.C.

Dear Parents and Candidates for Confirmation,

On behalf of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, we welcome your family to the Confirmation program and pray that you and your son or daughter will find this process of preparation for Confirmation a powerful time of faith, hope and love. Our staff, parent/adult volunteers and catechists are committed to supporting you every step of the way.

The preparation process for Confirmation begins at home, in the Domestic Church. The larger Church then builds upon that at the parish level through catechesis, formational meetings, and retreat experiences. It is through this “community effort” that the candidate becomes truly prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation completes the process of initiation into the Church making us fully members, and brings the gifts of the Holy Spirit alive in us so that we can take all that we have learned through our family, school, Mass attendance and Catechism classes up to this day, and apply it **in action**. As Bishop Dorsonville said “Our Youth are the Church **now**”.

Many have asked why has Confirmation gone to a two year program. Confirmation at OLSS has always been two years, and the sacrament itself has always been received in ninth grade. Per the directive of the Archdiocese of Washington D.C., Msgr. Antonicelli, “Parish catechetical programs should be ongoing, and systematical. Confirmation preparation should include proper instruction, retreats, formation in prayer and service opportunities”. OLSS is dedicated in providing a strong Confirmation program. Our Parish Religious Education Office, staff and Confirmation team are ready to assist you and your son/daughter in any way we can.

Sincerely in Christ,

Msgr. Michael Wilson

Joanne Pensenstadler

TEACHINGS WE SHOULD KNOW:

The Seven (7) Sacraments

What is the definition of a Sacrament? A Sacrament is a visible sign, instituted by Christ, to give grace.

The Seven Sacraments

Sacraments of Initiation Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist □
The Sacrament of Healing : Penance & Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick

The Sacraments of Service are: Matrimony and Holy Orders

Who instituted the Mass and when? Jesus Christ at the Last Supper

What sacrifice is “re-presented” at each Mass? Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross is made present

What are we actually receiving in the Holy Eucharist? The Body and Blood of Christ.

Why do Catholics believe this? Because this is what Jesus taught us in the Gospels.

What three conditions must be met for a person to receive Communion worthily?

- † A person must be a member of the Catholic Church
- † Be living in a state of grace that is free from mortal sin
- † Must fast for one hour before receiving the Eucharist

Prophet Isaias writes about the **7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit**.

- 1) Wisdom. This enables us to know God and esteem divine things above worldly things.
- 2) Understanding. Helps us to understand our Catholic Faith, the Bible and Saints.
- 3) Counsel. This is the knowledge necessary to guide ourselves and others to do God's will. It helps us help others get through spiritual and temporal problems.
- 4) Fortitude. This is the strength we need to endure and have courage. It helps us suffer persecution and adversities for the sake of good.
- 5) Knowledge. This helps us to know God, ourselves and others as God knows.
- 6) Piety. This gift infuses us with love for serving God and see Him in all events through a holy life of prayer.
- 7) Fear of the Lord. "The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." We fear his just punishment of our sins for ever, but we more so fear even displeasing or offending Him.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to enter the Confirmation preparation program, a candidate must be baptized and meet the following:

- Be Registered Parishioner of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church.
- The candidate's family must be registered parishioners of the parish in order to enter the program. This may be taken care of at the reception desk of the Church Office.
- Has Completed the Proper Religious Education: Each candidate must have completed a minimum of two years in a Catholic religious education program prior to the start of Confirmation Preparation. Students who have not completed such and wish to enter the program must first meet with the Director of Religious Education.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Unfortunately a growing number of people in the Church see Confirmation as a hurdle, graduation or the end of their religious education. Confirmation strengthens and seals us as we continue our journey towards Christ. For those who are eligible, Confirmation begins in eighth grade (Year I) and is completed in ninth grade (Year II).

Our Lady Star of the Sea is using an exciting program called *Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation*. The goal of the program is to offer youth a powerful, life-changing experience as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. For our candidates to receive and comprehend the material, *Chosen* has been spread into a two year program. It is our hope that *Chosen* will not only offer youth a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith, but will also win over their hearts at this critical time in their lives.

The program has been carefully designed to address and answer fundamental questions about life, and to challenge teens to embrace a life of faith. Year I students will follow their 8th grade Course curriculum using *Faith and Life* by Ignatius Press with *Chosen* integrated into the curriculum. Year II students will continue and complete the *Chosen* Confirmation series.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Confirmation Year I and II class schedule can be found on the OLSS Youth website: www.olssyouth.org

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND ON-LINE DISCUSSION

Confirmation Year I and II have their own individual On-line Web page. This invites both parents and sponsors a snapshot of what their child is learning. Candidates will find homework assignments, required video's and on-line quizzes at catechists preference.

ATTENDANCE

For candidates in Parish Religious Education / Confirmation Year I, to include all candidates in Year II, there are 23 *teachable* classes through the entire year. Candidates who miss more than 3 classes will be asked to meet with the Director of Religious Education and/or Fr. Mike.

ARRIVAL

Out of respect for the Catechist who volunteers their time, their peers, short class time and missed material, students are expected to be in class on-time. Class begins at 9:15 a.m.

RESTROOM USE

When arriving, please make sure your child uses the restroom prior to the beginning of class. Restrooms are available, however, limited class time is meant for learning about our faith and we simply do not have the volunteers to escort the children back and forth to class.

PRAYER FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord; And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen

SUNDAY MASS / HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Parents/Guardians pass on their faith to their children by words and action. Attendance at Mass as a family on weekends is expect to our Catholic Faith. We honor the Lord's Day by celebrating Mass together, coming to Faith Formation classes, and carving out time for leisure time together.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION*

January 1	Mary, Mother of God
7 th Sunday of Easter	Ascension of Our Lord
August 15	<i>Assumption of Mother Mary to Heaven</i>
November 1	All Saints Day
December 8	Immaculate Conception of Mother Mary
December 25	Nativity of Our Lord

*On Holy Days of **Obligation**, the Church asks to attend Mass *If the Holy Days of January 1, August 15 and November 1 fall on a Saturday or a Monday, there is no obligation to attend Mass, but all Catholics are encouraged to do so.

THE LITURGICAL YEAR AT A GLANCE

Advent Season (PURPLE)...Four Sundays preceding Christmas Day
Christmas Season (WHITE/GOLD)..... Christmas Day until Sunday after Epiphany
Ordinary Time (GREEN)..... Time between high holy seasons
Lenten Season (PURPLE) Ash Wednesday until Holy Thursday
Holy Week Triduum (RED).... Holy Thursday through Easter Vigil
Easter Season (WHITE/GOLD)..... Easter Sunday until Pentecost Sunday
Ordinary Time (GREEN)..... Continues time between high holy seasons

Honor and celebrate the liturgical seasons of the year in the home, following the guidelines of the church and the directives of the parish.

FAMILY RESOURCES

WEBSITES:

WWW.OLSSYOUTH.ORG
WWW.NEWADVENT.ORG
SCBORROMEO.ORG/CCC.HTM
CATHOLIC.COM
OLSSFAITHFORMATION.WEEBLY.COM
EWTN.ORG
HTTP://WWW.DISCERNINGHEARTS.COM/
HTTP://BULLDOGCATHOLIC.ORG/

APPS - FREE & SAFE - FOR TEENS (AND ADULTS)

Laudate
iBreviary
POPE
Divine Mercy
Catholic Mega App
Decision Point
POPE - see his tweets!
Chaplet of Divine Mercy—a fast effective Novena
You Cat (Note: This is NOT the actual YouCat book)

BOOKS

The Bible - Make sure it's a *Catholic* Bible
Catechism of the Catholic Church
Did Adam and Eve have a Belly Button- Pinto
Rediscover Catholicism- Matthew Kelly
100 Things Every Catholic Teen Should Know- Mark Hart

OLSS PARISH OFFERS: Adult Faith Formation, Special Needs and Youth Group for Middle School and High School.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Confirmation Year I and II class requirements are available on the website. Requirements include: Baptismal Certificate, Saint Report(s), Service hours (reflection and log sheet) Bishop Letter, etc

SERVICE HOURS

It is not enough for Candidates (those eligible and preparing for Confirmation) to sit back and learn the faith from the words of a catechist or from a book. They must go out and see for themselves how the Holy Spirit is at work in the community inside and outside of the Church. Confirmation preparation is the chance for them to find how the gifts of the Holy Spirit are at work everyday. This also helps the Candidate to be open to receiving these spiritual gifts in a special way at their Confirmation

Your child is choosing to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church, all Church service hours are to be completed in the Catholic Church (VBS, Summer Camps, etc). Your child is strongly encourage to complete hours or attend events at OLSS to foster a closer peer community. Service hours that are **not completed** will be rolled over as required hours to Year II.

Confirmation Year I
5 Church and 5 Community

Confirmation Year II
15 Church and 15 Community

Please visit the Confirmation website for suggested service hours as well as due dates at WWW.OLSSYOUTH.ORG/CONFIRMATION

SAINT REPORT - HERE IS WHY

As we candidates journey through sacramental preparation for Confirmation, they are asked to choose a saint. This saint is a person we want to be like, as well as someone who will pray for us from heaven. Historically kids are quickly choosing saints and do not know much about them. Since we are all called to be saints, we should learn more about their lives, so we too can imitate them.

Candidates are required to do a Year I saint report and in Year II report. Year II must be a different saint than Year I and be the saint they choose for Confirmation. Due dates can be found on Confirmation Year I / Year II website.

WHY CATHOLIC STUDENTS?

Sacrament programs are intended to form candidates to live life in union with Christ. **The parish** has responsibility for this formation. While the Catholic school provides excellent academic formation, the sacrament preparation program provides the opportunity for the candidate to put their faith in practice in the parish and in the wider community.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION SHEET

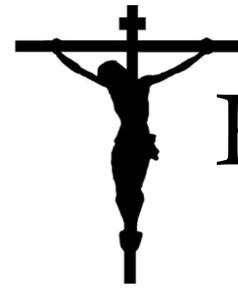
In Confirmation Year II, candidates will receive a Confirmation Information Sheet. This form is different from registration and allows various administrative duties, to include sacramental registry to be completed. Failure to fully complete the forms doesn't give Saint, sponsor or baptismal information needed to complete administrative tasks. Please make sure ALL information is filled out and turned in by due date.

COMMUNICATION YEAR I & YEAR II

Candidates will receive a "Check List", should the check list be misplaced, All requirements and dates posted on the website. Reminders to parents will be emailed out once.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Candidates have a tendency to open up and share their faith with their peers during small group talks and especially on retreat. **All** personal stories shared must be kept confidential. We do not want any information to become a subject of gossip.



PRAYERS

The Glory Be

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

The Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy Will be done, on earth as it is
in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into
temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of
death. Amen.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that
anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine
intercession was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my
mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O
Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy
hear and answer me. Amen.

Morning Offering

O Jesus,
through the Immaculate Heart of
Mary,
I offer You my prayers, works,
joys and sufferings
of this day for all the intentions
of Your Sacred Heart,
in union with the Holy Sacrifice
of the Mass
throughout the world,
in reparation for my sins,
for the intentions of all my rela-
tives and friends,
and in particular
for the intentions of the
Holy Father. Amen.

CLASSROOM POLICY

Our Lady Star of the Sea Religious Education Conduct Policy Confirmation

This policy will be strictly enforced so that the Religious Education Program may be an enjoyable and safe experience for those students and volunteers who participate in the program. Please read this policy and have your student read the policy.

1. This is a Catholic Religious Education program. Proper dress shows reverence to our Lord and respect to everyone else around us.
2. No student will be allowed to participate in the program if they are an interruption to class, rude or disrespectful to teachers, other students, guests, or staff. This includes inappropriate gestures, words, or actions.
3. Students are not permitted to wear hats or any other kind of head. Please leave these items at home.
4. No outside food or beverage will be allowed in class at any time.
5. Gum chewing is not permitted.
6. NO Cell phones. If your student is unable to keep the cell phone at home for any reason, their Catechist will collect it at the beginning of class and return it at the end of class. Students who bring cell phones and are caught with it during the duration of the class, it will be collect by the Religious Education Teacher and turned in to the Office until the end of class.

CONFIRMAITON MASS ATIRE

Confirmation Mass Attire Reception of Confirmation calls for the candidates to be “properly disposed” (Canon 889). The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains that “to receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the Sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit...” (no. 1310). Teens will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation wearing robes and should wear dress shoes, not tennis shoes.

CHOOSING A SPONSOR

The role of the Confirmation Sponsor should involve much more than simply standing behind the Candidate as the bishop confirms. It is the beginning or the continuation of a lasting relationship of mentoring and guidance. Your selected sponsor should continue prayers and be able to support you through your preparation. Part the sponsors role for Confirmation is to help the Confirmation Candidate live his or her baptismal promises both before and after Confirmation. Please do not have a sponsor selected last minute.

SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS

To serve as a Sponsor for Confirmation within the Catholic Church: the individual must:

- be at least 16 years old.
- He or she must have received the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- If he or she is married, the marriage should have taken place in the Catholic Church.
- The person must have the intention, the ability, and adequate time to be a Sponsor.
- The Sponsor should live according to the Catholic Faith: attend Mass every weekend and receive the sacraments of the Church regularly, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist. (A Catholic is required to receive Reconciliation and Eucharist once each year.)
- The Sponsor should practice the Faith within a Catholic parish community, and live a moral life.
- PARENTS CAN NOT BE SPONSORS. The role of parents begins at conception, continues with the promise made at their Baptism and leading by example living out the Catholic Faith.

SPONSOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Eligibility forms are required for ALL sponsors, to include OLSS Parishioners. The sponsor is responsible for contacting their parish requesting an eligibility form, not the parents and not the candidate.

PARENTS & SPONSORS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

What is a Parent's role? What is a Sponsor's role?

“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children” (CCC 2223) Parents evangelize and catechize their children by how they live their faith! You can help your child by:

1. Bringing them to Mass!
2. Praying for them.
3. Sharing your faith
4. Helping them to be accountable to their Confirmation Obligations
5. Both parents and sponsors will receive a Confirmation book that assists in your child's preparation journey. This book not only gives insight to what your child will be learning, but allows tips on discussion points with your child. In addition, we hope to add a class once a month for parents and sponsors that allows open discussion, a time to share your faith and bring up any questions regarding your journey of the Catholic faith as well as your child's journey in preparation.

MANY ARE CALLED
BUT FEW ARE
CHOSEN!

RETREATS / KICK OFF

Retreats are provided to give the student the opportunity to withdraw and reflect upon personal faith and commitment to the Lord and His Church. Retreats are offered, each in varied styles. Candidates in Year II are required to attend our OLSS Confirmation retreat. If the Confirmation candidate cannot make the date of the retreat at OLSS, please contact the Director of Religious Education for options well in advance.

Catholic school retreats are not designed to be Confirmation retreats, which is why you are asked to attend the one offered by the parish.

Retreats offer experiences are reflection, prayer and an experience of shared faith in community (This builds on the education focus to encompass the whole person).

Parents and Guardians of Candidates will receive an email on Retreat Date and rules. Please make sure your child adheres to the rules, especially with cell phones.

Candidates in Year I and II are required to attend the kick-off. This fosters a deeper relationship with their peers and community.

PERMISSION TO PHOTOGRAPH

Photographs are sometimes taken during class sessions and events. They are displayed publically; e.g., parish website, in the Religious Education newspaper, on bulletin boards, etc. to keep the community aware and informed of parish events and activities. If you do not want images taken and used as described, **please send a written notice to that effect** to the parish Director of Religious Education.