



## Our Lady of the Assumption Youth Confirmation Handbook

We welcome you and thank you for choosing Our Lady of the Assumption's Confirmation process for your teen. We are excited to journey with your family and teen towards the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is truly a special time of spiritual formation for your teen, one that we hope will strengthen your entire family. During this journey together we depend on your help and we ask that you remain especially faithful in these areas:

- Submit all registration forms and certificates prior to the first confirmation session
- Pay confirmation fees prior to the first confirmation session
- Attend Sunday Liturgy and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Help your teen choose a qualified sponsor
- Support/tithe to the Church

### **OLA's Confirmation Process**

OLA has intentionally adopted a home group model to help teens prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This model allows for greater session flexibility, meets parents and teens where they are, allows for great intimacy and real sharing, empowers parents and volunteers to be witnesses of faith, and answers the call to take the faith outside of our own Church walls.

So, over the course of the 2 year process teens will meet in the home of a local parishioner/parent every other week from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Teens are assigned to their home group at the beginning of the year and get to pick the day of the week they would like to meet. In these sessions, we gather as a small group and open with prayer. We begin with an icebreaker or fun activity and then a speaker, Core member, or video series is used to present the teaching. After the teaching confirmation candidates break open the lesson through discussion and activities. We then conclude with announcements and closing prayer. Our sessions cover various topics approved and mandated by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

On a few occasions, we will gather all together as a large group or require either the Confirmation sponsor or parent to attend the session. Please see the official schedule for these dates.

### **Confirmation Sessions**

Candidates are required to attend all sessions listed on the schedule. However, we realize that family life and emergencies occur. As a courtesy, if a candidate will miss a session please email the Coordinator of Youth Ministry at [jrodriguez@olaclaremont.org](mailto:jrodriguez@olaclaremont.org) or the home group leader about the absence. Candidates are allowed 3 absences for the year in total. **Excessive absences will be reason for a candidate to return for an extra year of formation.**

If you have any questions please contact Jesus Rodriguez, Director of Youth Ministry [jrodriguez@olaclaremont.org](mailto:jrodriguez@olaclaremont.org)



### **Mass Attendance**

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith and as such Mass attendance is extremely important. It is the expectation of the Catholic Church and the Faith Formation Office that all families attend mass weekly. In addition to weekly Mass attendance all Holy Days of Obligation should be observed. Keeping the Sabbath holy within family life can be a challenge, but it is also a great joy! The joy comes from spending time with our family, praying together at mass, sharing a meal, and spending time at rest and in recreation. When you and your family are at Sunday Mass, you are sharing your holiness with others and contributing to the worship experience of the faith community.

Teens and their families are encouraged to attend the Sunday 5pm Mass which is considered our Youth Mass. Those who attend are invited to get involved as a lector, usher, singer, altar server, or Eucharistic minister. So please join us!

### **Youth Ministry Gatherings**

Candidates preparing for Confirmation are asked to participate in as many youth ministry gatherings as possible. Youth Ministry gatherings include The Heights gatherings on Sunday nights or special events like Inspiration LA, Youth Day or City of Saints. Youth Ministry is a way for youth to keep connected to the Church – during and after their confirmation. However, these gatherings are open to all high school teens and so their friends are more than welcome to attend with them. Each candidate is expected to attend The Heights a minimum of twice in a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. *Please reference the official calendar for dates and times.*

### **Service and Outreach**

It is a part of the Christian life to serve others with love and care so candidates are expected to accept their share of the responsibility to serve others. Candidates are required to complete a minimum of 15 hours of community service in both Year 1 and Year 2. While service projects will be calendared throughout the year candidates are encouraged to seek out opportunities where they can serve their community and others as well. Parents and sponsors are encouraged to work with their teens on these projects as a way of practicing Christian service together. Please keep in mind that for community service hours to count they must meet the following criteria.

1. Teens must not be paid for their service
2. The service they participate in must be for someone outside of their family

After a teen has completed a service project they must log it online via the parish website.

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### **Retreats and Conferences**

Retreats and conferences are such an important part of spiritual growth and development. This is why we offer Year 1 Candidates a one day retreat in the fall and Year 2 Candidates a full weekend retreat in the spring. The retreat costs are included in the registration fees. In addition to these retreats OLA Youth Ministry also attends other youth conferences and events. These events will always be included in the calendar and announced ahead of time.

If for some reason a candidate is unable to attend their retreat they must make arrangements with another parish to participate in their retreat. It is the responsibility of the candidate to then bring written notification from the retreat director to the OLA Youth Ministry Coordinator that they participated fully in the retreat. Please do not wait until just before a retreat to make these arrangements.

### **Sponsor Selection**

As a part of the Confirmation Rite all candidates must choose a sponsor to help journey with them in their walk of faith. A sponsor must be a practicing, confirmed Catholic, who is at least 17 years of age and sufficiently mature. He/she may not be the candidate's mother or father (Canon 874). A godparent is a good choice as it emphasizes the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation (Canon 893). The candidate is encouraged to choose someone close by in order to help foster a good relationship. The sponsor should be a person who is prayerful, open, dependable, loving, and is comfortable sharing his or her faith with young people. *Please reference the Sponsor Form for guidelines on who does and does not qualify to be a sponsor.*

Candidates will be given more information about choosing a confirmation sponsor in a confirmation session. Please note Sponsors will be required to attend one session with their Candidate per year. See the schedule for dates.

### **Saint Name**

Choosing a saint name is an essential part of Confirmation and it is an acknowledgment that the Holy Spirit will change you through the grace of this Sacrament. We see in scripture that God changed the name of some of his disciples to signify that their role had been changed and that they were becoming, in a sense, a new person. For example, Abram became Abraham (Genesis 17:5) and Simone become Peter (Matthew 16:18). When choosing a saint you should choose someone who exemplifies a quality that you wish to have, somebody whose life you want to emulate, or somebody you have something in common with. Once a candidate has chosen their saint name they will need to submit a form via the parish website detailing why they chose their particular saint.

Candidates will be given more information about choosing a confirmation saint name in a confirmation session.

If you have any questions please contact Jesus Rodriguez, Director of Youth Ministry [jrodriguez@olaclaremont.org](mailto:jrodriguez@olaclaremont.org)



## **Fees**

All fees are due no later than the first confirmation session. We accept cash or checks. Registered parishioners may also pay online if they would like. Please make all checks payable to Our Lady of the Assumption Church and in the memo of the check write your teen's name and "Year # Confirmation." Please keep in mind that once payment has been received, all fees are nonrefundable.

If you are in need of financial assistance please feel free to contact us because we will never allow money to be a reason a teen does not participate in the confirmation process. All Scholarship Applications will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Coordinator of Youth Ministry and Director of Faith Formation. We will notify you when a decision has been made.

- ❖ Year 1 Registration Fee = \$200/candidate
- ❖ Year 2 Registration Fee= \$150/candidate\*

*\*Please be aware that for 2019-20 this fee will increase to \$175.*

## **Baptism and First Holy Communion Certificates**

Copies of the candidates' Baptismal certificate and First Holy Communion certificate are due with registration forms. If you do not have a copy on hand, contact the parish of Baptism or First Holy Communion to get a copy. You must provide a copy of the candidates' Baptism and First Communion Certificates regardless of where they received their sacraments.

## **Parent Involvement**

We firmly believe that parents are the primary educators of the faith and that the role of the Faith Formation Office is to support parents in fulfilling their calling to pass on the faith. Thus, parents are expected to journey with their teen through the Confirmation Process. To help parents fulfill this role we require each family to help in at least one of the following ways;

- Open your home to a confirmation small group
- Facilitate a confirmation small group
- Both open your home and facilitate a confirmation small group
- Transport a group of teens to and from the retreat
- Chaperone the retreat of your teen

With that in mind, we ask that you consider where your talents and time can best be used to make Our Lady of the Assumption's Confirmation process the best!

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### **Confirmation Year 1 Checklist**

- Attend all confirmation sessions as scheduled (only allowed 3 absences for the year)
- Attend Mass on a weekly basis and observe all Holy Days of obligation
- Attend The Heights once in the Fall
- Attend The Heights once in the Spring
- Complete 15 hours of community service and log them via the parish website
- Attend the Year 1 Retreat
- Submit the Sponsor Form by the end of Year 1
- Pay the \$200 registration fee in full before confirmation sessions begin
- Submit a copy of Baptismal Certificate
- Submit a copy of First Communion Certificate
- Parent notifies Coordinator of Youth Ministry how they will help for the year

### **Confirmation Year 2 Checklist**

- Attend all confirmation sessions as scheduled (only allowed 3 absences for the year)
- Attend Mass on a weekly basis and observe all Holy Days of obligation
- Attend The Heights once in the Fall
- Attend The Heights once in the Spring
- Complete 15 hours of community service and log them via the parish website
- Attend the Year 2 Retreat
- Submit the Saint Name Form by December of Year 2
- Pay the \$150 registration fee in full before confirmation sessions begin
- Parent notifies Coordinator of Youth Ministry how they will help for the year