

Our Lady of Grace Youth Ministry 2017-2018

Confirmation Formation Process

The Sacrament of Confirmation is one of the three initiation sacraments. It confirms a person's baptism and a person's desire to continue on their journey of faith. While all high school students are invited to be a part of the parish youth ministry program, those interested in completing their initiation must participate in youth ministry in addition to completing certain other steps.

The Confirmation formation process at Our Lady of Grace follows the Diocesan guidelines. In order to comply with these guidelines, our process takes a minimum of 2 school years.

THE FIRST YEAR(S) OF PARTICIPATION:

- **Attend Weekly Mass:** students will grow in full, conscious & active participation: singing, responding, listening, willingly finding ways to be involved.
- **Attend Youth Ministry Sessions (regularly for at least one year) and are:**
 - Able to share who Christ is and how he lives in them.
 - Able to pray (traditional prayers and in their own words), share Scripture and make connections between what we profess as Catholics and how we live and choose.
 - Able to relate to people from different backgrounds, schools, and experiences.
- **Attend Scheduled Retreats:**
 - Participate in at least one (1) retreat at OLG annually before final preparation year (scheduled during the regular sessions).
- **Service Opportunities**
 - Candidates will participate in AT LEAST two service opportunities each year of Youth Ministry. Youth Ministry Team will provide service opportunity suggestions, but students are not limited to these suggestions. A reflection paper is to be completed and returned to Evangelization Office for each service opportunity.

THE FINAL YEAR OF PREPARATION:

- **At least 2 Interviews** with a Priest and/or the Youth Ministry/Confirmation team.
 - **First Interview:** Beginning readiness—their present faith practice, their knowledge of the faith, and their commitment; also, to assess what the Team needs to do to adapt the process to help them on their faith journey. (This can be done anytime after beginning the Youth Ministry program.)
 - **Second interview:** To discern how they are doing in 'full, conscious and active participation' in their lives at home, school, and neighborhood, as well as how they

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are growing their faith by participating at Mass and in the formation process. (This is done beginning January of the second year of participation).

- **Confirmation Immediate Prep Gatherings**
 - Students must attend special gatherings designed for immediate Confirmation preparation. The gatherings will cover the Rite of Confirmation and how the sacrament works in our lives. These are held during the regular Sunday session time and a schedule will be provided. Students will continue to attend classes WEEKLY.

- **Service Opportunities**

Candidates will participate in AT LEAST two service opportunities. See previous page for more information.

- **Confirmation retreats:** These are designed to tap into the gifts and talents that our participants have, to show their spirituality and faith.
 - They must attend at least one weekend retreat during the final year (or beyond) **and** a final one-day retreat with their sponsor.

- **Meet with Sponsor**

Candidates will work with their sponsors on a variety of activities, geared toward building faith and relationships. Sponsors will receive a packet with information on activities and dates they will need to be at OLG or a particular event. Sponsors should live locally, in order to participate in the process and be available for on-site events and the retreat.

Additional information:

- A minimum of two years of participation in Youth Ministry is required. There is no set maximum time frame for completing steps.

- A checklist will be provided and the Evangelization Office will keep track of all papers turned in. Once a Candidate has completed all of the steps, they will be part of the next Confirmation celebration.

- **Completion of steps for Confirmation will be the responsibility of Candidates.**