**Our Lady of the Lake**

**Catholic Church**



**2019-2020** **High School Confirmation Guide**

**“In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.” St. Paul**

**501 W. State Street, Mahomet, IL**

**217-586-5153, Ext 104**

**About the Sacrament of Confirmation**

“Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the ‘sacrament of Christian initiation,’ whose unity must be safeguarded…the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For, “By the sacrament of Confirmation, (the baptized) are more perfectly bound to the Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1285)

Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation.  Like Baptism, it marks us yet again as children of God, yet it recognizes the changing nature of our connection to our Holy Father.  As newly baptized members of the faith, our experience is a bit more focused on self, on our own private connection to God.  The sacrament of Confirmation is the acknowledgement that we have GROWN in that same faith.  We have grown to the point of maturity, and with that adult understanding and acceptance of truth we are ready and willing to live out our faith in *community*.  We take our faith, in other words, into the world, just as the apostles did so many years ago.  We are, after all, people of an "apostolic" faith.  As such, we are called to go forth with God's Word on our minds, on our hearts, and on our lips.

Confirmation preparation at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church emphasizes a more intimate relationship with Christ and a livelier familiarity with the Holy Spirit. It involves the Confirmation catechist, parents, sponsors, and the entire parish community, and it prepares candidates for their call to full participation and active discipleship in the church.

**An Overview for Confirmation**

An overview of the preparation for Confirmation includes the following, which the candidate is expected to perform:

1. Attend all **classes** being held for Confirmation preparation.
2. Attend all Sunday Masses and all Holy Day Masses.
3. Attend 3 weekday **Masses.**
4. Attend a **Confirmation** **retreat** both Year 1 and Year II.
5. Participate in **Adoration** at least once each year. It is offered at our parish on Thursday evenings from 7-8pm.
6. Participate in **Reconciliation** at least once each year.
7. Actively giving **service** to others by completing the required service hours.
8. Complete and return all forms by the required dates in order to be properly prepared and presented for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation at this time.
9. Attend the **rehearsal** on Sunday, April 19th, 11am Mass, with your sponsor and/or a parent.

**One Program- Three Areas of Focus**

At OLOL, we are committed to presenting a variety of meaningful opportunities to our teens participating in preparation to receive this amazing sacrament.   We understand the demands of time on the modern family, and have developed a flexible yet powerful variety of faith-building opportunities for our youth throughout their preparation.  Our program feeds three different areas of importance that are essential toward a mature practice of the Catholic faith: **knowledge, spirituality, and apostolic action.**

1. **Knowledge - Participation in Class**

A mature understanding of the faith is absolutely essential.   Our Year I and Year II catechists continue to build that understanding as we engage the next generation in religious education. Confirmation features a two-year program, taking place on Wednesday nights.

**Class Times**

Confirmation Year I & Year II class time will be on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. (See Schedule for dates.)

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance will be taken at every class. Candidates are expected to be at all classes and all required events unless illness or a family emergency arises. If a candidate is going to be absent, it is the candidate and parent’s responsibility to contact by telephone or email the RE Coordinator or catechist about the absence. The catechist or coordinator will then prepare make-up homework for the student. All make-up work will need to be completed for EACH session missed regardless of reason.

Students should not miss more than 3 classes in a year. After the third absence, the candidate, a parent or guardian, and the RE Coordinator will need to meet to discuss which course of action is to take place concerning make-up work or continued participation in the program.

**Inclement Weather / Cancellation of Classes**

Wednesday Evening Religious Education Classes at OLOL Catholic Church are automatically cancelled if Mahomet-Seymour classes are cancelled that day due to inclement weather. Wednesday after school activities are cancelled due to inclement weather, Religious Education classes are cancelled. If you are unsure of cancellations, please feel free to contact the parish at (217) 586-5153.

**Registration and Fees**

Registration Paperwork, Confirmation Data Form and required will need to be turned into the RE Coordinator by October 2nd to be considered a registered confirmation candidate. If the candidate was not baptized and/or received First Communion at Our Lady of the Lake, a copy of their certificates is required. The Confirmation student’s registration fee is $50.

**Behavior Policy**

We are very proud of the behavior of the young people who have gone through previous programs. However, we wish to remind candidates that proper behavior and conduct is expected at all activities.

Any behavior or conduct problems will be addressed directly with the RE Coordinator. Behavior problems or inattentiveness will be handled based on the following “three strike” system. The catechist will speak to the candidate directly as to the problem and what must be done in order to correct the situation. (STRIKE 1) If the situation continues, the catechist will notify the RE Coordinator who will meet with the candidate, her or his parent or guardian, and the catechist (if possible) to discuss what must be done in order to resolve the situation and evaluate his/her readiness to continue in the program. (STRIKE 2) If the situation continues, the catechist will notify the RE Coordinator, who in turn will notify the pastor and request that the candidate be removed from the program. (STRIKE 3) Readmission will be done only after a consultation meeting of the Pastor, the RE Coordinator, the parents and student, and a written contract of acceptable behavior and consequences is issued.

1. **Spirituality - Participation in Mass**

Not only is the Mass beautiful, it is a privilege and an obligation. The Confirmation candidate and his/her parents should have a sincere intention of **participating in Mass every week** as well as Holy Days.  We also ask that during the 2-year program that you participate in **3 weekday Masses**.

All candidates will be required to sign-in before or after Mass at Our Lady of the Lake. There will be a binder in the back of the Church with the candidates’ names. If you aren’t able to attend Mass at Our Lady of the Lake, you should bring a bulletin from the other church to show attendance elsewhere. These bulletins can be placed in the binder with the student’s name written on it. If a student exceeds the limit of three absences, he/she and his/her parents will need to meet with the RE Coordinator in order to continue in the program.

We also would like all Confirmation students to attend **Eucharistic Adoration** and **Reconciliation** each year in the program. Please keep track of all of these extra dates.

1. **Apostolic Action - Volunteer Hours**

"Faith without works is dead..." James 2:14-26 The Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens us through the power of the Holy Spirit who gives us, the spiritual gifts of wisdom, understanding, right judgment, knowledge, courage, reverence, wonder, and awe. We, as Catholics, are expected to use these gifts to help guide us so we can go out and spread the faith and do God’s will.

**Why?** It is not enough to simply know details about your faith. You must put your faith into practice. Service to God and neighbor is not optional for those who follow the Gospel and claim the name Christian. It is integral to the message of Christianity.  At OLOL, we provide many opportunities for our youth to act on their faith, and show Christ's love to others in need.

**How?** Think about what some of your God-given talents are and then list ways that those talents can help in the church, community, and family. Ask God for guidance. He won’t let you down. Open your heart and your mind to His help. Remember your service hours need to be special and not something already being done as a part of your daily routine. Serving others and following the path of Jesus is not always easy. Sometimes you might want to hang out with your friends on a day you committed yourself to doing service hours. Respecting your responsibility is a huge part of becoming a mature Christian. Have fun and use this as an opportunity to explore your community and try different things.

**What?** Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance. Talk to your parents and sponsor to discuss volunteering ideas. Find out the needs of people in your family, neighborhood, parish, school or community. Make phone calls and ask what you can do to help. Schedule yourself to help. Prepare yourself for the service project by praying and asking for God’s help. We are meant to live joyfully, courageously, humbly, and with love in our heart.

**Documenting Volunteer Hours**

Year I and Year II candidates will be asked to complete **20 community service hours**, **20 parish service hours** and **10 family service hours** for a total of **50 Service Hours** over the 2 years. If you are having difficulty getting your volunteer hours in please talk with the RE Coordinator to brainstorm.

Note: You need to complete at least 1 activity with your sponsor.

**Community Service Hour Suggestions (20 Hours)**

* Service eligible all year around
* School Events – volunteering at school events
* Community Events – volunteering for Special Olympics, pet shelters, hospital, nursing homes, food banks, soup kitchens, street fairs, library, organization fundraising events, collections for those in need
* Tutoring, coaching, volunteering at sporting events
* Volunteering through Catholic Heart Workcamp
* Helping with the Summer Lunch program or Give Me Five

**Parish Service Hour Suggestions (20 Hours)**

* Service eligible all year around
* Participating in Mass as an alter server, member of the choir/cantor, greeter, etc.
* Helping at the Rectory or Church (ex. raking leaves, stuffing bulletins, office help, church decorating, food drives, etc.)
* Assisting with Liturgy of the Word for Children (on Sundays during Masses)
* Assisting in a Religious Education Classroom (on Sundays between Masses)
* Assisting at EPIC Youth Group (Wednesday nights)
* Assisting with Totus Tuus (Summer Program)
* Assist with childcare during various parish programs
* Assist with Art & Environment (putting up seasonal decorations)
* Assist with the Snow Team
* Assist with Parish Clean-Up Days or Garden Days
* Assist with the Parish Picnic (September)
* Assist with OLOL Feast Day / Saint Celebration

**Family Service Hours (10 Hours)**

* Doing chores around the house, taking care of a family member, babysitting,

**Examples of things that do NOT apply for service hours:**

* Being in a club or play, being on a sports team, being on an academic or robotics, team, etc.

**Retreats/Other Events**

At OLOL, we encourage our high schoolers to experience our Lord through many different avenues.  We arrange for retreats, we attend youth rallies, we help our Confirmation candidates to deepen their perception of prayer and relationship with God to a new level. We challenge them to view “church” in a new way, as a faith community, that exists beyond any one building. All of these events are meant to bring the candidate closer to Christ and we hope you will take advantage of all of the events you can attend.

**Required retreats**

Year I and Year II Candidates: Sunday, February 16 – High School Retreat 11am – 11pm. Games, trivia w/multiple categories, prayer, reflection, fellowship & food. (This retreat is **mandatory** for all Year I **and** Year II Candidates.)

You are also **required to attend one of our week/end long events** over the 2 years: Totus Tuus (Summer), Catholic Heart Workcamp (June/July) , Teens Encounter Christ (January-Men’s & July-Women’s), Abide in Me (November), Emmaus Days (Summer)

**Journey of Faith**

As detailed above, developing a mature understanding and expression of our faith depends on growth in three areas.  As such, we strongly encourage our teens to take part in opportunities presented throughout the year in each of these areas: **knowledge, spirituality**and**apostolic action.**

The goal is for each candidate to approach the end of the two-year preparation with a "resume" of sorts, one that features faith-building experiences from each of these three areas.  It will be helpful to keep a record of activities and events your teen participates in throughout the process. There will be a form provided.

**Important Reminder**

The Sacrament of Confirmation is not conferred on demand. A student must prepare well and ask for the sacrament in humility, but someone else must grant the request. The Confirmation team has authority in the name of Christ to recommend any student to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Keep in mind that each student’s personal commitment, attendance and participation, will be the deciding factor. With your help and support, we will accomplish great things in Christ.

**Readiness of the Candidate**

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “Every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Since Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist form a unity, it follows that the faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time, for without Confirmation and Eucharist, Baptism is certainly valid and efficacious, but Christian initiation remains incomplete.” (CCC 1306)

To receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, a candidate must:

* Be baptized (Canon 889.1) and provide a copy of the Baptismal Certificate
* Be a registered parishioner of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church
* Be of high school age; each candidate must be a minimum of a freshman in HS
* Have the intention and request to receive the sacrament (Canon 885.1)
* Attended catechetical classes prior to and including the 8th grade year
* Be suitably instructed, properly disposed, and able to renew baptismal promises (Canon 889.2)
* Be in a state of grace (CCC 1310) – have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Confirmation
* Be prepared to assume the role of disciple by being a witness to Christ and to profess the faith.

**Parent Roles and Responsibilities**

As the primary educators of your children, you, along with your candidate’s sponsor, are to be involved in catechesis for Confirmation. This will help you renew and strengthen your own faith, while enabling you to set a better example for your children. Your participation is an important element in helping your child in their preparation for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation. The following guidelines should be considered by parents and all family members:

* Serve as models of Gospel values for their children.
* Worship and pray with their families on a regular basis.
* Nurture their child in the faith.
* Encourage their child to reflect on and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
* Attend the Parent Information Meeting and other events to help their child prepare for Confirmation.
* Assist their child with the immediate preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study and service work.
* Emphasize the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation.
* Stress the initiation aspect of the sacrament by encouraging their children to continue learning more about their faith.
* Help their child in understanding that the acts of service they perform should be a beginning to a life committed to Christian service.
* Assist in obtaining baptismal information if necessary.
* Be able to provide food and clean-up when scheduled.
* Pray for the candidates and the success of the program.

**Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor**

Each candidate preparing for Confirmation is required to choose a sponsor. During Year I a sponsor must be chosen and then a Sponsor Eligibility Form must be filled out by their pastor and **turned in by November 6th** to the Catechist or the RE Coordinators office. One of the candidate’s godparents is an ideal choice. Choosing the same person as sponsor for both Baptism and Confirmation helps emphasize the connection between the two sacraments. A Confirmation sponsor is to guide the one confirmed to act as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfill the duties of the sacrament.

To become a sponsor, a person should:

* Be at least 17 years old and sufficiently mature in his/her faith commitment.
* Be an active registered member of the Catholic Church and have received the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. If married, must be married in the Catholic Church.
* Live according to the Catholic faith and know the fundamental truths of our faith.
* Must not be the mother or father of the one to be confirmed.
* Need not to be the same gender as the candidate.
* Be committed to praying for the candidate regularly.
* Be able to assist and be a companion for the candidate on their faith journey.
* Be able to meet several times with the candidate over the 2-year program.
* Be able to do a service project with the candidate.
* Be able to attest to the candidate’s practice of the Catholic faith to the Bishop and the church community
* Attend both the rehearsal and Confirmation Mass and proclaim that the candidate is ready to receive the sacrament and become a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church.

**Candidate Letter to the Pastor**

Each Year II candidate will write a letter to Father Joe, communicating his or her desire to be Confirmed and his/her willingness to make this commitment.

**Confirmation Interview**

Candidates will be interviewed by Fr. Joe toward the end of Year Two. The point of the interview is to allow the students to express, in a more personal way, their desire to be confirmed as Roman Catholics and to clearly understand their own motivation for wanting to do so.

Also, the students should be ready to demonstrate that they understand the meaning of the sacrament as well as the basic prayers and elements of Faith and Christian living.

The interview will also help to ensure candidates have met all requirements and are ready to be confirmed. Each candidate should prepare their Confirmation paperwork (service and other requirements) and be ready to discuss and leave with Father at the interview.

**Confirmation Ceremony**

**April 19th - Rehearsal/Celebration Mass at OLOL during the 11am Mass. A reception in the Parish Center to follow.**

Year II candidates are to arrive at 10:30 to receive sashes and instructions for the Rehearsal/Celebration Mass. Year I candidates and their families are responsible for hosting the reception following Mass.

**April 26th - Confirmation at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Peoria at 3:30pm.**

**Arriving at the Cathedral**:  The Cathedral is open one hour before the beginning of any event.  Please do not plan to arrive earlier, as the doors may be locked or there may be another event prior to the Confirmation liturgy.  Parking is available in the Cathedral parking lots on the corner of Madison and Hancock Streets and the corner of Monroe and Hancock Streets.  Once at the Cathedral the confirmands should come to the Franz Center (the building directly behind the Boy Scout Building on Green St.) to prepare for their interview with Bishop Jenky.  Parents, family, and sponsors should make their way to the Cathedral.

**Seating in the Cathedral:**  The ONLY reserved seating in the Cathedral is for the confirmands and their sponsors.  Sponsors should check in with the Pontifical Ushers when they arrive.  An usher will direct the sponsors to the appropriate seats. It is recommended that other family members, drop your confirmand off and then get a seat right away in the Cathedral.

**Dress:**  The confirmands should be suitably and modestly dressed.  Short skirts, sleeveless or strapless dresses, tennis shoes, and flip flops are not appropriate.   OLOL will be wearing red sashes with nametags for the Confirmation and will be handed out before the Mass by the RE Coordinator.

**Group Photograph:**  The opportunity for a group photo is available in the Franz Center (the building directly behind the Boy Scout Building on Green St.) immediately before the Bishop’s interview with the students.  Considering the limited time and space, we recommend to the teachers that they designate one or two volunteers from each parish to serve as the “official” photographer.  It is impractical to permit every parent to take group photos.  Please let the RE Coordinator know if you have a good quality camera and would be willing to be our “official” photographer.

**Interview with Bishop Jenky:** The Bishop meets with the confirmands 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass.  The interview will take place in the Franz Center (the building directly behind the Boy Scout Building on Green St.).  The Bishop meets with the confirmands without the pastor or teachers present.

**Photographs during the Liturgy:** Flash photography is permitted during the Confirmation.  However, photographers may not block the aisles.

**Individual Photographs with Bishop Jenky**:  Optional individual photographs may be taken immediately after the Confirmation.  After the closing hymn, the Bishop will return to the Sanctuary.  Please remain in your seats following the closing song and await instructions from the pulpit.

**The Parish Confirmation team contact info:**

Father Joe Hogan, Pastor, Tel: 217-586-5153; Email: OLOLOffice@mchsi.com

Jennifer McCoy, Coordinator of Religious Education Tel: 217-586-5153 EXT 104 or 217-778-5509; Email: jlmccoy.olol@gmail.com

Mike Burge, Catechist (9th Grade) Email: [Mdb.burge977@gmail.com](mailto:Mdb.burge977@gmail.com) or 217-530-3095

Mickey Nickrent, Catechist (10th Grade) Email: [micnic1@gmail.com](mailto:micnic1@gmail.com) or 217-202-8480

Deacon Tony Nickrent, Catechist (10th Grade) Email: tony@cbi-gc.com

**CONFIRMATION CALENDAR 2019-2020**

Our schedule may be found online at: [www.OLOLyouthMAHOMET.weebly.com](http://www.OLOLyouthMAHOMET.weebly.com)

**Wednesday Evening Classes 6:30-8pm**

September 4, 11, 18

October 2, 9, 16, 30

November 6, 13, 20

December 4, 11

January 8, 15, 22, 29

February 5, 12, 19

March 4, 11, 25

April 1, 15, 22, 29

Underlined dates: Mass at 6:30 then Class

**Special Dates**

September 4 - Parent/Student Welcome and Information Night 6:30-8pm. All freshmen/sophomores and their parents will attend a meeting at 6:30pm and then conclude in their individual classrooms. This is a mandatory meeting- if you miss this you must arrange a time for you and your student to meet with the Coordinator of Religious Education.

September 28 - Year I Confirmation Retreat at St. John’s Newman Center, Champaign, 12pm-6pm Please join the candidates for mass at 5pm. Note: **This retreat is optional this year.**

November 1-3 – Abide in Me High School Retreat at Corpus Christi Catholic School in Bloomington Illinois. Registration Details to come soon.

February 12 - Year II/Sophomore Parent Information Night at 7:15pm in the Parish Center.

February 16 – High School Retreat 11am – 11pm. Games, trivia w/multiple categories, prayer, reflection, fellowship & food. (This retreat is **mandatory** for all Year I **and** Year II Candidates.)

March 14 - Youth Rally in Peoria, 12-8pm. Join hundreds of teens from all over central Illinois as we enjoy amazing speakers, dynamic discussion, praise & worship. Cost: $30.

April 19 - Confirmation Rehearsal/Celebration at OLOL, 11am Mass followed by Reception. Please arrive at 10:30.

April 26 - Confirmation at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Peoria at 3:30pm.

April 29 - Year-end cookout at OLOL.

**Prayers to have Memorized before Confirmation**

Freshman Year:

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Confession Prayer

Fatima Prayer

Apostles Creed

Act of Faith

Act of Hope

Act of Charity

Morning Offering

The Mysteries of the Rosary

Sophomore Year:

Angelus

Anima Christi

Regina Caeli

Come, Holy Spirit

Prayer to St. Francis

Memorare

St. Michaels Prayer

Guardian Angel Prayer