

Our Lady of Consolation Confirmation Preparation Overview

Through the sacrament of Confirmation, a person celebrates the full outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and is renewed in his/her commitment to their Catholic faith. **Confirmation is a deepening of our Christian identity, not the end of faith formation.** With this understanding of the sacrament, the following preparation guidelines are to be followed by the youth entering 8th grade or older:

1. A young person seeking to receive the sacrament of Confirmation must be baptized.
2. The candidate needs to regularly participate in the sacramental and liturgical life of the parish – with regular attendance at Sunday Mass.
3. The candidate must have an appropriate sponsor assisting him/her in the preparation of the sacrament. The sponsor will be asked to attend 2 “Youth/Sponsor Sessions” and a “Youth/Sponsor Day of Reflection” (starting in January 2012). It is critical for the sponsor to make all three of these sessions, so care must be taken in choosing a sponsor (see attached sheet). If a sponsor is unable to attend a particular session, a parent may serve as a proxy. The sponsor will also be asked to compose a “Sponsor Letter” near the end of the preparation process summarizing the readiness of the candidate to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.
4. Attendance at weekly Sunday Night Middle School Urgency **or** Wednesday Night Edge is **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**. Participation in these events is seen as a sign of the willingness of the teen to participate in the life of the parish. It also indicates a commitment to lifelong formation in our Catholic faith.
5. All candidates will record various entries in their “Confirmation Notebook” and review with their sponsor. These notebooks will be distributed at the initial meeting in January.
6. During the summer break, candidates will be asked to spend time in discussion with their sponsor and read together the “Confirmation Sponsor Handbook”.
7. Candidates will complete an act of service of their choosing with their sponsor. Watch the bulletin, or contact Julie Buehler for upcoming opportunities. Also, the Middle School Faith Formation program offers a monthly service opportunity, which you can pre-register for.
8. Candidates will participate in some prayer experience (outside Mass) with their sponsor. Suggestions include Adoration, a seasonal Penance Service, Stations of the Cross, praying the rosary with a group, participating in a Catholic Vigil for the Deceased, or some other liturgy offered in parish life.
9. Candidates will participate in one of the three retreat options offered at OLC during their preparation (see preparation calendar for options).
10. ***Confirmation is a great gift from God! Like all gifts, the giver can only wrap and present it. It is up to the person receiving the gift to open the gift and to accept it. The “opening” of this gift of confirmation includes following these guidelines. The young person, their parents and sponsor must prayerfully consider if they will be able to complete all the above guidelines. If not, then the teen is encouraged to join again the following year.***