

Our Lady of the Magnificat Confirmation Program Parent/Candidate Handbook



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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

Parents are the primary educators of their children in the ways of faith and set the example for their children. At the baptism of your child, you were reminded of this and vowed to raise your children in the faith. The Confirmation Program at OLM was built **to partner with you** to help educate your children in the Catholic Faith and build a strong foundation as together we model the Christian life for our candidates. Your commitment, as well as theirs, to our Confirmation program is very important at this time in their lives. We thank you for allowing us to share in their continuing faith journey.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM SUMMARY

We believe that each of us is on a faith journey and that Christianity is a part of everyday life. Therefore, one of the goals of our program is to help the candidates develop and mature as a whole person and enable them to contribute to our Church community. We provide them with a review of some of the fundamental truths of our faith and hope to lead them to the realization that as they live out their lives each day, they do so in response to the call of God's love.

We will provide opportunities for prayer, education and service to assist our candidates as they continue on their personal faith journey during the 2-year process of the OLM Confirmation program.

Candidate and Family Roles

You and your candidate are being challenged to take the faith journey to Confirmation seriously. The expectations of all involved are as follows:

Parents & Guardians

1. Be models of commitment to personal prayer, community worship, and ministry as expected of mature Christians. Please make sure that you and the candidate attend Mass each Sunday. Our faith is made stronger when we worship together.
2. Assume responsibility to assist the candidate in meeting the program's attendance and service requirements.
3. Help the candidate understand the Confirmation process by entering into dialogues with the candidate on current religious issues, pray for them, pray with them, and be willing to share your own faith story with them.
4. Agree to step in for the sponsor at any time the sponsor is unable to fulfill his or her commitment.

Role of the Sponsor

1. Be a model to the candidate of a person of prayer, commitment to community worship and ministry as expected of mature Christians.
2. Agree to journey with the candidate during the different aspects of the parish preparation program
3. Be willing to share your story of faith with the candidate and be open to dialogue with them
4. Be a friend and companion to the candidate, helping the candidate integrate the teachings of Jesus into his/her daily living
5. Minister to the candidate even after the actual celebration of the sacrament. The Candidate-Sponsor relationship is a life-long one!
6. Complete the [Sponsor Form](#) and return to the Confirmation Office

TO BE A SPONSOR YOU MUST:

- Be at least 16 years of age
- Be a practicing Catholic who is registered member of a parish and attends mass weekly
- Have completed the Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
- Not be a parent of the Candidate

Role and Expectation of the Candidate

1. Enter the journey with a willing heart and an open mind
2. Commit to personal prayer throughout the journey
3. Attend all scheduled sessions
4. Willingly engage in community service
5. Participate in all the Confirmation retreats
6. Make the commitment to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days. Attend mass minimally twice a month and show documentation that you attended
7. Volunteer to do church service.
8. Support and encourage other candidates' who are on this journey with you.
9. Develop an open and honest relationship with your sponsor and catechist.
10. Live out each day in the love of God and in respect for your neighbor.
11. Select a Sponsor who is special to you, under the [guidelines](#) listed above, with whom you can easily share your faith.
12. Select a confirmation name that is the name of a saint. It is important to remember that as members of the Church, we are never alone! As St. Paul said: "We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses". These witnesses are the saints who continually intercede for us; in choosing a confirmation saint, we are choosing a special friend to intercede for us in heaven and after whom we can model our lives while here on earth.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

In order to provide a well-rounded, educational program for our candidates, there are various components that allow each young person to enhance their personal faith life.

Preparation Sessions

Confirmation sessions are held approximately twice a month during the school year from September through May.

- Each candidate must attend all of the Confirmation sessions. Candidate is responsible for make up work if not in attendance
- Sessions are scheduled as follows:
 - 6 PM Mass on Sunday in the main Church
 - 7 PM Class session on Sunday
 - Pick up at 8:30 at the school building
 - Attend the Living Stations in the spring
- The program we use is called 'Decision Point' which was created by Dynamic Catholic. Candidates should download the app to their phone or visit <https://dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation> to view the program yourself.

Mass Attendance

Each candidate is expected to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Attend mass minimally twice a month and show documentation that you attended. If attending the 6 PM mass on days of class, sign-in sheet is located in the narthex/lobby of the church.

Retreat

Candidates are expected to attend the retreats each year.

- Sports or extra-curricular are not excused absents for retreats.
- Candidates and Sponsors will attend a Sponsor-Candidate retreat each year.

Service

- Candidates must complete 20 hours of community service.
- At least five (5) of these 20 hours must be completed within one of our parish ministries.
- Use the Service Log to keep track of your service hours.
- Hand in Service Log on time.
- If any candidate fails to complete the required service hours, they will need to postpone their confirmation to another year.

Dialogues

Candidates will be invited to opportunities for dialogues with our parish staff.

The purpose of the 1st year dialogues are to:

- Give an opportunity for the candidate to get acquainted with the priests and staff and vice versa
- Review the requirements of the confirmation program and let the candidates ask questions

The purpose of the 2nd year dialogues are to:

- For the priests & religious education staff to evaluate the candidate's readiness for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation
- To allow the candidates to ask any questions that they may have about being confirmed.

- For the priests and religious education staff to reinforce the candidate's decision to be confirmed and to promote continued service within the parish community

Basic Catholic Beliefs

The Bishop has asked all parishes in the Diocese of Paterson to ensure that each candidate for confirmation knows, understands and memorizes some basic prayers and facts of our faith. The lists of facts (in Q&A format) along with 7 prayers are at the [end of this document](#).

Our catechists will incorporate and review these questions in the classrooms however, it's important that you work with your candidates on these questions at home over the course of the program, so that by the end of the 2 years, your candidate will have these facts and prayers memorized. These make great conversation starters at the dinner table and whole family would benefit!

ATTENDANCE POLICY

There is no doubt that preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will require you to make sacrifices. It may also require you to make value judgments and examine your priorities when conflicts arise with the Confirmation Program schedule

1. All candidates are expected to attend all class sessions. This includes attendance at a mass, 6 PM on Sunday is available. If a candidate misses a class session they are expected to ask the DRE for the missed work. Make-up work is to be handed in within a week of receiving it.
2. All candidates are expected to attend the mandatory retreats. Sports events, Boy/Girl Scout events, trips, research papers, etc. are not acceptable for being absent. It is the responsibility of the parent/s to notify the DRE in advance of any absence.
3. If any candidate misses the retreat, they must attend a confirmation retreat in another parish to fulfill this requirement. It is the candidate's responsibility to find an applicable retreat.

RESPECT POLICY

It is hoped that the atmosphere of Our Lady of the Magnificat would be a Christian one. Respect for the catechist, for each other and for one's self is paramount in a religious setting. Conduct unbecoming of a Christian student and/or inappropriate behavior cannot be tolerated in our classes.

INCLEMENT WEATHER EMERGENCY

A decision will be made by 4:00 PM on Sunday for the cancellation of class. Communication of closures will be emailed to the parents and the information will be posted on the OLM Facebook page, OLM Rel Ed Confirmation Facebook page and OLM website, www.olmchurch.org.

APPENDIX

This appendix contains the following documents:

- A. Sponsor Form
- B. Service Log
- C. Basic Beliefs and Prayers to be memorized

Confirmation Sponsor Form

Sponsor to complete and return to the OLM Confirmation Office by the first class in November (1st year)

Name of Candidate for Confirmation: _____

Name of Sponsor: _____

Cell Number of Sponsor: _____

Address of Sponsor: _____

Email of Sponsor: _____

Statement of Sponsor

I herby attest that I am committed to my Roman Catholic Faith. I recognize that in accepting the role of Sponsor, I become responsible to live my life as a good example to the Candidate as a committed and active Catholic and to support to his/her parents in the practice of the Faith. *(Please initial all statements below and sign.)*

- _____ 1. I am sufficiently mature for the role (at least 16 years of age)
- _____ 2. I am a registered member of the parish noted below, and have completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist)
- _____ 3. I am a practicing Catholic who regularly attends Mass.
- _____ 4. I am not the parent of the candidate

Signature of Sponsor: _____ Date: _____

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(To be completed by Sponsor's Parish)

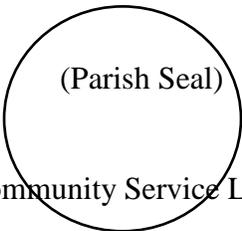
Statement of Sponsor's Parish

This certificate validates that _____ is a Catholic member of our parish and is eligible for this honor to act as a Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Name of Sponsor's Pastor (printed): _____

Name & Address of Sponsor's Church : _____

Seal of Sponsor's Church:



Please contact the OLM Religious Ed. Office at reled@olmchurch.org or 973-838-0567 with any questions

Community Service Log



The Diocese of Paterson

Basic Required Content for Candidates for Confirmation

Questions from *The Baltimore Catechism No. 1*

Tip: Start with the questions that have been bolded.

1. Q. ***Who is God?***
A. **God is the Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things.**
2. Q. *What is man?*
A. Man is a creature composed of body and soul, and made to the image and likeness of God.
3. Q. ***Why did God make you?***
A. **God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.**
4. Q. *Why can there be but one God?*
A. There can be but one God, because God, being supreme and infinite, cannot have an equal.
5. Q. ***What is the Blessed Trinity?***
A. **The Blessed Trinity is one God in three Divine Persons.
The Father is God and the first Person of the Blessed Trinity.
The Son is God and the second Person of the Blessed Trinity.
The Holy Spirit is God and the third Person of the Blessed Trinity.**
6. Q. ***Are the three Divine Persons one and the same God?***
A. **The three Divine Persons are one and the same God, having one and the same Divine nature.**
7. Q. ***Who is Jesus Christ?***
A. **Jesus Christ is God, the Second Person of the Trinity, consubstantial (of the same substance or essence) with the Father, who became man, was born of the Virgin Mary. As such he is one Divine Person, with two natures, human and divine; he is fully God and fully man.**
8. Q. *Did Adam and Eve remain faithful to God?*
A. Adam and Eve did not remain faithful to God; but broke His command by eating the forbidden fruit.
9. Q. *What happened to Adam and Eve on account of their sin?*

- A. Adam and Eve, on account of their sin, lost innocence and holiness, and were doomed to misery and death.
10. **Q.** *What is the sin called which we inherit from our first parents, Adam and*
A. The sin which we inherit from our first parents is called original sin. It wounds our human nature and inclines us toward sin.
11. **Q.** *Was anyone ever preserved from original sin?*
A. The Blessed Virgin Mary, through the merits of her Divine Son, was preserved free from the guilt of original sin from the first moment of her conception in her mother's womb, and this privilege is called her Immaculate Conception.
12. **Q.** *What is actual sin?*
A. Actual sin is any willful thought, word, deed or omission contrary to the law of God.
13. **Q.** *How many kinds of actual sin are there?*
A. There are two kinds of actual sin-mortal and venial.
14. **Q.** *What is mortal sin?*
A. Mortal sin is a grievous offense against the law of God committed with sufficient reflection and full consent of the will. Thus, for a sin to be a mortal sin, by which we lose sanctifying grace, there needs to be three things: a serious matter, sufficient reflection and full consent of the will.
15. **Q.** *What is venial sin?*
A. Venial sin is a slight offense against the law of God in matters of less importance; or in matters of great importance it is an offense committed without sufficient reflection or full consent of the will.
16. **Q.** *On what day did Christ die?*
A. Christ died on Good Friday.
17. **Q.** *Why did Christ suffer and die?*
A. Christ suffered and died for our sins.
18. **Q.** *On what day did Christ rise from the dead?*
A. Christ rose from the dead, glorious and immortal, on Easter Sunday, the third day after His death.
19. **Q.** *After the Risen Lord had remained appearing forty days on earth, where did He go?*
A. After forty days of Resurrection appearances, Christ ascended into heaven, and ended his manifestation as the Risen Lord. The day on which He ascended into heaven bodily before his apostles is called Ascension Day.

20. **Q. *On what day did the Holy Spirit come down upon the Apostles?***
A. The Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles ten days after the Ascension of our Lord; and the day on which He came down upon the Apostles is called Pentecost.
21. **Q. *Why did Christ send the Holy Spirit?***
A. Christ sent the Holy Spirit to sanctify His Church, to enlighten and strengthen the Apostles, and to enable them to preach the Gospel.
22. **Q. *What is grace?***
A. Grace is a supernatural gift of God bestowed on us, through the merits of Jesus Christ, for our salvation.
23. **Q. *What is sanctifying grace?***
A. Sanctifying grace is that grace which makes the soul holy and pleasing to God.
24. **Q. *What is actual grace?***
A. Actual grace is that help of God which enlightens our mind and moves our will to shun evil and do good.
25. **Q. *Which are the means instituted by our Lord to enable us at all times to share in the fruits of the Redemption?***
A. The means instituted by our Lord to enable us at all times to share in the fruits of His Redemption are the Church and the Sacraments.
26. **Q. *What is the Church?***
A. The Church is the assembly of all those who profess the faith of Christ, partake of the same Sacraments, and are governed by their lawful pastors under one visible Head.
27. **Q. *Who is the invisible Head of the Church?***
A. Jesus Christ is the invisible Head of the Church.
28. **Q. *Who is the visible Head of the Church?***
A. Our Holy Father the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, is the Vicar of Christ on earth, and the visible Head of the Church.
29. **Q. *Has the Church any marks by which it may be known?***
A. The Church has four marks by which it may be known: it is One; it is Holy; it is Catholic; it is Apostolic.
30. **Q. *In which Church are these marks found?***
A. These marks are found in the Catholic Church alone.
31. **Q. *What is a Sacrament?***
A. A Sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

32. **O. *How many Sacraments are there?***
A. There are seven Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, *Holy* Eucharist, Penance, The Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.
33. **Q. *Do the Sacraments a/ways give grace?***
A. The Sacraments always give grace, if we receive them with the right dispositions.
34. **Q. *What is Baptism?***
A. Baptism is a Sacrament which cleanses us from *original* sin, makes us Christians, children of God, and heirs of heaven.
35. **Q. *Who can administer Baptism?***
A. The priest or deacon is the ordinary minister of Baptism; but in case of necessity any individual who has the use of reason may baptize.
36. **Q. *How is Baptism given?***
A. Whoever baptizes should pour water on the head of the person to be baptized, and say, while pouring the water: I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
37. **Q. *What is Confirmation?***
A. Confirmation is a Sacrament through which we receive the Holy Spirit to complete our Sacraments of Initiation and to make us strong Christians capable of perfection.
38. **Q. *To receive Confirmation worthily is it necessary to be in the state of grace?***
A. To receive Confirmation worthily, it is necessary to be in the state of grace.
39. **Q. *What is a state of grace?***
A. A state of grace is freedom from *mortal* sin.
40. **Q. *What is the Sacrament of Penance?***
A. Penance is a Sacrament in which the sins committed after Baptism are forgiven.
41. **Q. *What must we do to receive the Sacrament of Penance worthily?***
A. To receive the Sacrament of Penance worthily we must do five things:
 - 1. We must examine our conscience.**
 - 2. We must have sorrow for our sins.**
 - 3. We must make a firm resolution never more to offend God.**
 - 4. We must confess to the priest all our *mortal* sins committed since our last confession. It is good *also* to confess our venial sins.**
 - 5. We must accept the penance which the priest gives us.**

42. Q. *How often should we go to Confession?*
A. We should go to Confession at the very least in preparation for Christmas and Easter. We must go to Confession whenever we are conscious of having committed a mortal sin. We are encouraged to go on a regular basis to grow in our relationship with Jesus.
43. Q. ***What is the Mass?***
A. **The Mass is the unbloody sacrifice of the body and blood of Christ. It is the same sacrifice as that of the cross.**
44. Q. ***What is the Holy Eucharist?***
A. **The Holy Eucharist is the Sacrament of the body and blood, soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ under the appearances of bread and wine.**
45. Q. *How do the priests exercise this power of changing bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ?*
A. The priests exercise this power of changing bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ through the words of consecration in the Mass, which are the words of Christ: This is My body; this is My blood.
46. Q. ***After the consecration, is the Eucharist still bread and wine?***
A. **No, it is truly the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ, whom we worship and adore.**
47. Q. *What is the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick?*
A. The Anointing of the Sick is the Sacrament which, through the anointing with the oil of the sick and the prayer of the priest, gives health and strength to the soul, and sometimes to the body, to those who are sick.
48. Q. *What is the Sacrament of Holy Orders?*
A. Holy Orders is a Sacrament by which bishops, priests, and deacons are ordained and receive the power and grace to perform their sacred duties. Priests and bishops exercise their ministry in the person of Christ.
49. Q. *What is the Sacrament of Matrimony?*
A. The Sacrament of Matrimony is the Sacrament which unites a baptized man and woman in lawful and holy marriage by an indissoluble bond until death.
50. Q. ***Is it enough to belong to God's Church in order to be saved?***
A. **It is not enough to belong to the Church in order to be saved. We must also keep the Commandments of God and of the Church.**

51. **Q. Which are the Commandments of God?**
A. The Commandments of God are these ten:
1. I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.
 2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
 3. Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath day.
 4. Honor thy father and thy mother.
 5. Thou shalt not kill.
 6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
 7. Thou shalt not steal.
 8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
 9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.
 10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.
52. **Q. What do we mean by praying to the saints?**
A. By praying to the saints we mean the asking of their help and prayers.
53. **Q. Why do we pray before the crucifix and the images and relics of the saints?**
A. We pray before the crucifix and images and relics of the saints because they enliven our devotion by awakening loving and holy feelings and desires and by reminding us of Christ and of the saints, that we may imitate their virtues.
54. **Q. What is the third Commandment?**
A. The third Commandment is: Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath day.
55. **Q. How are we to worship God on Sundays and holy days of obligation?**
A. We are to worship God on Sundays and holydays of obligation by participating in Mass, by prayer, and by other good works.
56. **Q. Is it a mortal sin not to attend Mass on a Sunday or a holyday of obligation?**
A. It is a mortal sin not to attend Mass on a Sunday (or Saturday evening) or a holyday of obligation unless we are excused for a serious reason. They also commit a mortal sin who, having others under their charge, hinder them from attending Mass, without a sufficient reason.
57. **Q. What is the sixth Commandment?**
A. The sixth Commandment is: Thou shalt not commit adultery.
58. **Q. What are we commanded by the sixth Commandment?**
A. We are commanded by the sixth Commandment to be chaste: pure in all our thoughts, looks, words, and actions.
59. **Q. What is forbidden by the sixth Commandment?**
A. The sixth commandment forbids using others or ourselves as objects for gratification or sexual pleasure. It forbids all taking unchaste liberties with another's wife or husband; also all unchastity with ourselves or others in looks, dress, words, or actions.

60. Q. *What is the judgment called which we have to undergo immediately after death?*
A. The judgment we have to undergo immediately after death is called the Particular Judgment.
61. Q. *What is the judgment called which all have to undergo on the last day?*
A. The judgment which all have to undergo on the last day is called the General Judgment.
62. Q. *What are the rewards or punishments appointed for our souls after the Particular Judgment?*
A. The rewards or punishments appointed for our souls after the Particular Judgment are Heaven, Purgatory, and Hell.
63. Q. ***What is Heaven?***
A. **Heaven is the state of everlasting life in which we see God face to face, are made like unto Him in glory, and enjoy eternal happiness.**
64. Q. ***What is Purgatory?***
A. **Purgatory is a state in which those who die guilty of venial sins, or without having satisfied the temporal punishment due to their sins are purified by God's love and made ready to enter his presence. For nothing unholy can stand in the presence of the all holy God.**
65. Q. ***What is Hell?***
A. **Hell is a state to which those who have willfully and completely turned against God and have died in the state of mortal sin are, by their own choice, deprived of the sight of God for all eternity and suffer that dreadful loss.**
66. Q. *Will our bodies share in the reward or punishment of our souls?*
A. Our bodies will share in the reward or punishment of our souls, because through the resurrection they will again be united to them.
67. Q. ***What is prayer?***
A. **Prayer is the lifting up of our minds and hearts to God.**

Prayers that all Confirmation Candidates must know:

1. *Sign of the Cross*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. *The Apostles Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

3. *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.

4. *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 our death. Amen.

5. *Glory Be (also known as The Doxology)*

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.

6. *The Act of Contrition*

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin.

OR

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

7. *Prayer for Eternal Rest for Relatives and Friends*

Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.