



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH

all are welcome

July 8, 2019

Dear Confirmation Candidates and Parents/Guardians,

I hope that all of you have begun to enjoy your summer! This mailing includes a registration form for the 2019-2020 school year. Please read through this letter for lots of important information about the coming year.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE: Our Lady's prepares candidates for Confirmation over two years, typically during Grades 9 and 10. The program consists of large-group presentations and small-group discussions. Each grade will meet for **8 classes on Sunday nights, 7:00-8:15pm. In addition, for Grade 9 only, there is an opening orientation.** *We do not meet every week, which is why it is so important that you provide an email address and check your email regularly for class reminders.*

Each class will begin in the Lower Church Halls and then move into small group discussions, which are held in meeting rooms located in the church and in the parish office building. Due to space restrictions, the two grades of the Confirmation program will meet separately on different Sunday nights through the year.

For **Grade 9**, we will begin with our opening meeting on **Sunday, October 6 at 5:15pm**, beginning in the **Lower Church Hall** for a brief orientation and small group assignments. Parents are very much encouraged to attend. We will then attend the 6pm Mass together (*this is a requirement*), and students will be free to go home when Mass is dismissed at 7pm.

Grade 10 will reconvene two weeks earlier, on **Sunday, September 22, at 7:00pm** in the **Lower Church Hall**. This will be a typical class meeting, ending at 8:15. Parents are invited - though not required - to attend for the first 15 minutes or so, for some special Grade 10 information. Please note that the Confirmation Mass date for Grade 10 Candidates has been set for Friday, June 5, 2020, at 6:30pm with a mandatory rehearsal on Sunday, May 31, at 7:00pm.

For both grades, the schedule for the entire year is still being finalized, so it will be sent out later in the summer.

In addition to Sunday night classes, there is a retreat component for each grade. Ninth-graders will have an afternoon retreat here at the church, on Saturday, December 7. Tenth-graders will enjoy a retreat to Cape Cod on Sunday, March 15, 2020.

FOR ALL INCOMING 9th GRADERS and INCOMING CATHOLIC SCHOOL 10th GRADERS, beginning or joining our Confirmation program: Because Confirmation preparation marks a significant time in the journey of faith and because the program is different from the K-8 program here at Our Lady's, all incoming 9th graders and any new students are required to have an **introductory meeting** with Kristina during the summer. We will discuss the meaning and importance of Confirmation, along with the program requirements and components, and you will have a chance to ask any questions. Each candidate **MUST** schedule an appointment, and at least one parent/guardian must accompany the candidate. Please schedule your meeting as soon as possible.

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If you are new to the parish, welcome! Before registering for class, please register as a family with the parish at <https://boston.paritysoftfamilysuite.com/> For all returning families, I ask you to spread the word to any new families and invite them to join our parish and our program!

FEE: The fee for each year of the Confirmation program is \$100.00 per student. If possible, we appreciate you including your payment when you return your registration form. We will never turn anyone away who cannot pay the fee if there is a significant family need. However, please notify Kristina if this is the case. Multiple smaller payments throughout the year are welcome. **Parents who volunteer at EVERY CLASS (small group leader or hall monitor) do not pay tuition.** In addition, there is a late fee of \$25.00 per family for any registrations (from returning families) received after September 10.

Also, because our Religious Education programs run at a deficit each year, we would be grateful for any additional donation to the program, to help cover the fees of those who cannot pay. Any amount would be welcome and greatly appreciated!

VOLUNTEERS are an absolute necessity for this program to be successful. I am in need of small-group facilitators and hall monitors. With only eight 75-minute sessions per grade in the year, the time commitment is not great, though the reward is! I give discussion ideas and lots of support each week to help out. There is also a need for help at both retreats. Please indicate on your registration form if you are able to help out. Remember, those who volunteer at every class session do not pay tuition.

Please return your registration forms as soon as possible so that I can begin to plan the classes, and please include Baptismal and Eucharist certificates if you are new to the program and your child was not baptized at Our Lady's. Forms can be returned via mail or collection basket at Mass, or dropped in the locked after-hours mailbox to the left of the Staff Entrance.

All students must turn in a registration form regardless of past participation in the program, and Catholic school students must take part in Confirmation preparation at the parish as well. ALL registration forms must be received by Tuesday, September 10, in order for your son or daughter to begin classes on the first night. Please don't delay!

Thank you in advance for your attention to all of these matters. Feel free to contact me with any questions. I wish you all a restful summer, and I look forward to seeing all of you again in September!

Peace,

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