

# Our Mother of Good Counsel Church: High School Confirmation

## Handbook



OMGC Church  
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“Do not let anyone look down upon you because you are young but be an example for other believers in your speech, behavior, love, faithfulness, and purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)

### Contact Information:

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## Welcome to the OMGC Confirmation Process!

Dear OMGC Confirmation families:

Welcome! Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your family's spiritual journey. It is our hope that you will read the next few pages carefully, discuss its contents as a family, and begin preparation for this sacrament of Christian initiation. Please do not view this handbook as a required "to-do" list but rather as a guide to help you in the formation process. We look forward to getting to know you.

### **Confirmation Basics:**

- Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church.
- A young person seeking to be confirmed is referred to as a confirmation candidate.
- The Catholic Church designates Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist as the Sacraments of initiation. Through reception of these sacraments we become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church.

### **How does the Confirmation process work at OMGC?**

There are over 280 parishes in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Every parish community typically offers a confirmation program for high school aged youth. Every parish is different and unique. The OMGC Confirmation program is a two-year process that fully prepares high school students to receive this most sacred Sacrament.

**Our Confirmation preparation process follows the three (3) guidelines given to all parishes from the Office of the Archbishop of Los Angeles.**

1. Process must be parish-based and involve the entire parish community
2. The Sacrament of Confirmation should always be based on the readiness of the candidate
3. Confirmation preparation should be a two-year process and take place during high school

### **How often will our group meet?**

During this time of social distancing we will not be meeting in person. Instead all of our classes will be virtual through Zoom. Over the course of 2 consecutive years we will be meeting from the months of September to April attendance to every session is mandatory!

### **CLASSES/SESSIONS**

These monthly meetings will be referred to as Confirmation sessions. They are "catechetical classes" in which we discuss various Christian faith themes approved and mandated by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. During these sessions, students will be placed into smaller groups for discussions and activities. These interactive sessions build community, help develop the faith life of the participants and create an authentic relationship with Christ. These sessions are the heart of the Confirmation process. Attendance to socially distanced outdoor masses or streamed daily masses is strongly encouraged.

## **Who leads this effort?**

OMGC Confirmation is lead by the Core Team. A group of volunteers made up of both recently Confirmed youth, young and older adult parishioners. These special volunteers have answered the call to serve and will become your child's catechists (teachers of faith), chaperones, and small group leaders.

## **OMGC Confirmation Program General Information**

### **THE ROLE AND EXPECTATIONS OF EACH FAMILY**

As the primary educators of your children, we ask all parents, guardians, families, along with sponsors, to be strongly involved in the faith life and discernment process of their youth. Parental and family involvement requires serving as a role model in reflecting Catholic values through regular prayer, Mass attendance and service to the parish community.

### **THE ROLE AND EXPECTATION OF EACH YOUTH CANDIDATE**

**The confirmation preparation process seeks to provide each student with a safe environment of loving trust and support. The teens are expected to arrive on time, participate in discussion and activities, and follow instructions given to them by the adult leaders. Please note, a youth may be asked to leave the program at the discretion of the coordinator for any of the following reasons:**

- Participating in actions gravely harmful to the moral and/or spiritual welfare of others.
- Habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- Assault, battery, or any threat of force or violence directed toward others.
- Possession, use of, or sale of tobacco, narcotics, or alcohol.
- Open, persistent defiance/disrespect of leaders and/or staff.
- Stealing and dishonesty.

In the event of disciplinary action, the Confirmation Director will contact the parents for immediate pickup of the teen. This will be followed by a meeting with parents, teen, Confirmation Coordinator and Pastor.

### **YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS IS NEEDED**

Part of the decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation means participating fully in the process. Students are expected to attend **all** class meetings and arrive on time.

### **DRESS CODE FOR CONFIRMATION SESSIONS**

Students are expected to wear appropriate and modest clothing to all events. As we expect your cameras to be on the entire time for Confirmation sessions so that you may be full accountable, we also expect a certain level of professionalism.

## OMGC CONFIRMATION PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION

### **EMAIL COMMUNICATION**

Please make sure to check your email often as we will be sending updates frequently.

### **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION**

All staff members, catechists and volunteers are required to sign an acknowledgement that they have read and understood the ethical and personal conduct policies of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. They have also completed the required program, Protecting God's Children. Parents of the parish are encouraged to attend this program as well. Any parent volunteer is required to complete the program. The goal is to educate all those who work with children to recognize abuse/abusers and address the protection of children by allowing established guidelines.

Out of concern for abused children and their families, California State Law requires that known or reasonably suspected incidents of child abuse must be reported immediately, by telephone to a child protective agency by a mandated reporter. Child abuse includes physical injury, sexual abuse and child neglect. Adult volunteers mandated reporters and are required to report all incidents of suspected or observed child abuse and/or attempted suicide or suspected intent to commit homicide, regardless of the source of information (i.e., counseling session, retreat, classroom observations, journal entries, etc.).

### **OMGC CONFIRMATION COSTS/FEEES FOR 2019-2020**

**Program fee is \$200 per student (After Oct. 1: Fee will increase to \$225/student).**

#### **What does the program fee include?**

This fee covers costs for all materials for all sessions. It also covers the some of the expenses of the retreat and Confirmation Liturgy.

### **FINANCIAL AID**

Fees or finances should never be a reason that your teen is unable to participate. If you have any questions or difficulty with any payments, please feel free to communicate with me by telephone, email or in person. **No family will be denied religious education because of an inability to pay.**

### **OTHER COSTS AND FEES**

**A. Year 2 Weekend Retreat, \$200.00:** This fee pays for bus transportation to and from OMGC and retreat center. It also covers cost of all meals, lodging, and supplies.

**B. Inspiration Day, \$70:** This fee pays for entrance ticket to park and events & bus. Lunch not included.

**C. Youth Day, \$70** - Covers the bus transportation to and from the Anaheim Convention Center, access to all the Youth Day events (2 workshops and rally). Lunch not included.

**Disclaimer: The retreat and field trip events are all tentative for this year. If the state of our country improves in relation to COVID-19 and we are allowed to safely attend, then these events will once again be open.**

## **PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS**

### **PRIOR TO REGISTERING FOR YEAR 1:**

- HE/SHE MUST HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (A copy of the baptismal certificate is required)
- HE/SHE MUST HAVE RECEIVED SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION, OR IS ENROLLED IN FIRST COMMUNION PREP BY THE END OF THEIR FIRST YEAR OF CONFIRMATION
- HE/SHE MUST HAVE A GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

### **1. TURN IN ALL REGISTRATION FORMS BEFORE OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

- A Parent or legal guardian must complete a registration packet (which includes Registration Form and Health Medical Release Form) for each teen
- A new registration packet will be required at the beginning of each year

### **2. ATTEND YOUR YEARLY INTERVIEW**

All families wishing to begin, or returning to, the Confirmation process must sign up for an interview with the Coordinator. Youth and Parent must attend. Sign-ups will be held on the website.

### **3. ATTEND ALL CONFIRMATION SESSIONS FOR THE YEAR**

Candidates are required to attend **ALL** their confirmation sessions. If a candidate misses more than 2 sessions in a year, he/she will be asked to repeat the year before being able to be confirmed. (Please refer to Master Calendar for exact dates)

### **4. PERFORM COMMUNITY SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR - TENTATIVE**

Service is an important part of who we are as Christians. Youth will be required to perform the following service each year.

**VOLUNTEER at OMGC Parish event/function/fundraiser for a minimum of 6 hours.**

Parish service opportunities will be available throughout the year.

These include helping at the following: OMGC Parish Festival, Altar Serving at Weekly Mass, Coffee & Donuts Ministry, etc.

**VOLUNTEER at 1 OMGC Homeless luncheon during the Confirmation year for a minimum of 3 hours.**

These luncheons are held every last Saturday of the month. They are sponsored and prepared by the St. Vincent de Paul group to serve the needs of the local community. For the Homeless luncheon, students have the option of coming to help Saturday Mornings (10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.) to serve and help clean up the tables and chairs.

### **5. ATTEND ONE YOUTH NIGHT PER SEMESTER - TENTATIVE**

Being able to have fun and community build is an equally important part of the Confirmation process. One of the requirements of Year 1 is to attend at least one Youth Night in the Fall and one in the Spring. Youth nights can also be used to make up for a missed session but do not work retroactively.

### **6. CHOOSE YOUR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR**

The Confirmation Sponsor has a significant role in the faith development of the candidate. The Sponsor should be a mature person of faith and a confirmed Catholic in good standing with the church. The Sponsor participates in activities during the Confirmation process and meets

personally with his/her candidate on a regular basis to guide him/her on the discernment process. The candidate should choose the sponsor no later than the start of Year 2 Confirmation.

### **Requirements for Choosing a Sponsor:**

A confirmation sponsor must be at least **18 years of age** & be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the church. This means that the person follows the commandments of God by participating each week in Sunday Mass, frequents the Sacrament of Reconciliation and their marriage has been blessed by the Catholic Church. The sponsor must have received all sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) and **may not be a parent** of the Confirmation Candidate.

### **7. CHOOSE A CONFIRMATION NAME**

One of the traditional practices in the Catholic Church at the time of Confirmation is choosing a confirmation name. Prayer, reading and reflection will help you decide on your name.

You have a choice to keep your baptismal name, which is the name you were baptized with, and will help signify that you are confirming the faith that was given to you at your Baptism. You may also choose to add a name, to signify your new and deeper awareness of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. If the choice is made to add a new name, it is to be a **Catholic Saint's name**.

### **8. ATTEND YOUR YEARLY RETREAT**

All candidates are required to attend their Year 1 Day retreat or Year 2 weekend retreat in each year respectively.

### **9. PARTICIPATE IN AT LEAST 1 FX (FAITH EXPERIENCE) WITHIN THE TWO YEARS-TENTATIVE**

All Candidates will have the opportunity to experience this extraordinary encounter of Christ and His Church in a safe, fun and motivational environment. Candidates and families will be able to choose from either of the following based on their schedules. Because we buy the tickets for you in good faith you are reliable for any payments required past the signup deadline. If at any time, there is an emergency and you are not able to make the trip an email must be sent to the coordinator. If a replacement cannot be found, you are still required to turn in the payment.

#### **A. INSPIRATION Tour at Six Flags Magic Mountain – Saturday in Nov.**

The Inspiration Tour is a one-day Catholic youth retreat hosted by LIFE TEEN. Parishes from around Los Angeles will spend a day of prayer and fun. The day includes powerful speakers, music, Mass and of course THE RIDES! Inspiration is more than your “ordinary” youth rally;

#### **B. Youth Day at the Anaheim Convention Center Thursday in Feb.**

Youth Day is held annually on the Thursday of the Religious Education Congress weekend. High School students from across the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and beyond come together to participate in morning and afternoon Workshops, rallies and a special Youth Liturgy. Youth Day is designed by and for high school students from both public and Catholic schools, grades 9-12.