



Confirmation 2018

*Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church
Parish School of Religion*

CONFIRMATION 2018



Dear Parents,

More than two thousand years ago, the first Confirmation class met in a small crowded upper room in Jerusalem. “And when the day of Pentecost had come...there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:1-4)

Confirmation is one part of the journey that begins with Baptism and continues through a lifetime of participating in the celebration of the Eucharist. Through the sacrament, the candidates are enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, are bound more perfectly to the Church, and are strengthened in faith. They are enabled to witness more courageously to Christ and to spread and defend the faith.

Remember—faith formation begins at home—You have seen that your child has been initiated into the faith through Baptism and the Eucharist. YOU are the most important example and role model for your child. The more reverence, respect, and preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation you model as parents, the more your child will learn the power and importance of this Sacrament and our Catholic Faith. If you are interested in understanding Confirmation better and explaining it to your child, checkout the Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 1285-1321.

And now your child’s own journey toward Confirmation begin! Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, your child will be more perfectly united to the Church and Jesus Christ. They will be given a special strengthening of the Holy Spirit, just like the Apostles and Mary at Pentecost, empowering them to better spread and defend the Gospel through their words and deeds. This strengthening of the Holy Spirit is necessary for us as Christians to live life “to the full” as Jesus wants for us. (John 10:10)

Know that you and your child will be in the prayers of our team of Confirmation Catechists and the entire parish community during this time of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you have any questions regarding the information here or any other aspect of the program, please contact us.

With blessings and prayers,

Leslie Smith
Director of Religious Education
Parish School of Religion
Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church

*****REVISED*****

IMPORTANT DATES

Confirmation Prep Sessions

6:00 – 8:00 pm in the Parish Center/Lunchroom

Dates – (Wednesdays)

September 19th

October 17th

November 14th

December 12th

January 16th

February 20th

March 20th

Other Important Events

September 30th – Confirmation Induction Mass (11 AM)

February 3rd – Confirmation Rite of Election Mass (11 AM)

Parent Meetings in the Social Hall

September 19th at 6:15pm

February 3rd at 10 am

Confirmation Retreat

Saturday, February 9th from 8 am to 5 pm

****Confirmation Mass****

Sunday, February 24th at 2pm

Saturday, February 23rd at 8 am (practice)

Attendance Policy

We take attendance at all Confirmation Prep sessions.

Confirmation Candidates are required to attend the monthly sessions on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

If serious circumstances beyond your control will cause you to miss a session, be sure to email our office and let us know. If a candidate misses more than 2 sessions, then we would suggest that the candidate wait a year to be Confirmed.

If you know you will miss a Confirmation session, you must:

- Email us in advance at olvpsr@olvsch.com
- Read the assigned readings and/or watch the assigned videos
- Write a paper about the session and how it applies to your journey of faith towards Confirmation.
- Paper should be two (2) pages typed 12 pt font double spaced.
- Paper must be signed by a parent and turned in at the next Confirmation session.

Confirmation Candidate Checklist

- Attend monthly Confirmation Preparation sessions
- Turn in a copy of your Baptismal Certificate by October 1st
If you were baptized at OLV, tell us the month and year of baptism.
- Review the Confirmation Commitment Pledge and attend the Induction Mass on September 30th at 11 am
- Pick a Sponsor and turn in Sponsor form by October 17th
If sponsor is from another parish, obtain a form stating that the sponsor is in good standing at the parish.
- Pick a Confirmation Name and turn in form by November 14th
- Turn in Letter to Bishop Baker by January 16th
- Attend the Rite of Election Mass on February 3rd at 11 am.
- Serve and record 9 hours of service by ~~February 20th~~ **February 9th**
- Attend the Confirmation Retreat on February 9th. 8 am to 5 pm
- Turn in Confirmation Reflection Report by ~~March 2th~~ **February 9th**

2018 Rite of Confirmation

Pledge of Commitment

Understanding that I am still in the decision-making process about whether to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation, I do choose to commit myself to the confirmation program. In doing so,

- 🔥 I promise to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days.
- 🔥 I promise to attend each session and participate in the activities, discussions, and assignments.
- 🔥 I promise to show respect in class to my classmates and catechist.
- 🔥 I promise to participate in the worship, service, and social events of my parish.
- 🔥 I promise to pray daily for guidance of the Holy Spirit in my preparation for confirmation.
- 🔥 I promise to develop my personal morality based on the will of God expressed through the teachings of the church, the scriptures, and the commandments, and to celebrate frequently the sacrament of reconciliation.
- 🔥 I promise to use my talents in the service of others, especially as outlined by the service requirements of the program.
- 🔥 I promise to attend and participate in the confirmation retreat.
- 🔥 I promise to meet/discuss with my sponsor about my faith journey.

Candidate's Signature

Parent's Signature

Choosing a Sponsor

A sponsor is a witness of the commitment to Christ that you are making. The sponsor can be a Godparent, Grandparent, Aunt/Uncle, or any other Catholic adult, but not a parent. The sponsor presents you at your celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation and is with you throughout your faith journey. The sponsor's function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament. The requirements listed in canon 874 refer to Baptism, but also apply to Confirmation.

Canon 874.1

To be admitted to undertake the office of sponsor, a person must:

1. Be appointed by the candidate for Baptism, or by the parents whoever stands in their place, or failing these, by the parish priest or the minister; to be appointed the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it;
2. Be not less than sixteen years of age, unless a different age has been stipulated by the diocesan bishop, or unless the parish priest or the minister considers that there is a just reason for an exception to be made;
3. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken;
4. Not labor under canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared;
5. Not be either the father or the mother of the person to be baptized.

Canon 874.2

A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may be admitted only in company with a Catholic sponsor, and then simply as a witness to the Baptism.

Canon 893.2

It is desirable that the sponsor chosen be the one who undertook this role at Baptism.

The sponsor does not have to be a member of the parish in which the candidate is preparing to receive, or will, receive, the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In the case of a sponsor who is unable to attend the celebration of Confirmation, a proxy may be appointed to serve in the role of sponsor. Those who serve as proxies must also fulfill the criteria set forth in canon 874.

It is best to choose a Sponsor with whom you can communicate. Look for someone who can walk this journey with you and help answer questions and guide you in this process. Don't be afraid to ask someone in the Church whom you respect and admire as a faithful Catholic. Most people are extremely honored and flattered to be asked to be a Confirmation Sponsor.

Confirmation Sponsor Form

Candidate's Name:

Sponsor's Name:

Sponsor's Address:

Sponsor's Parish:

Why have you asked this person to be your Confirmation Sponsor?

Please complete this form and return by October 17th.

Choosing a Confirmation/Saint Name

There is a great tradition in Salvation History of God changing a person's name to represent a new role, direction, or purpose for that person's life. In the Old Testament, when Abram was called to lead his people to believe in one God, his name is changed to Abraham, "Father of many nations." (Genesis 17) In the New Testament, we find Simon's name changed to Peter, because he will become the "rock" upon which Jesus founds his Church. (Matthew 16) These are examples of people of God set apart and destined for a great plan.

Your Confirmation name should reflect your new role as a mature Christian in the Catholic Church. A name identifies you in a unique way, not just your physical self, but who you are as a person. You might want to recommit yourself to your Baptismal name since it expresses the relationship that exists between these two sacraments, especially after you reflect on its meaning and discover some of the people who shared your name in Christian history. You might want to choose the name of a saint who represents the type of Christian you wish to imitate.

It is important to learn as much as you can about your patron saint. After all, you are asking this saint to be your friend and advocate for the rest of your life. Whether you decide to stay with your Baptismal name or pick a new name, take the time to research and explore the root meaning of the name, for as Scripture says, "I have called you by name: you are mine ... you are precious in my eyes." (Isaiah 43:1,4)

After you decide on a name, use the space below to explain your choice.

Candidate's Name:

Saint's Name:

Why have you chosen this Saint's name for your Confirmation name?

Please complete this form and turn it in by November 14th.

2018 Confirmation Candidate Letters to Bishop Baker

Introduction

In order to build up more personal and prayerful communication between himself and the young people of our diocese who are preparing for Confirmation, Bishop Baker has asked that each of our Confirmation candidates take a little time to reflect on their relationship with Christ and their deepening initiation into the sacramental life of his Church. Candidates should share some of their reflections with Bishop Baker in the form of letters, and should follow a few simple guidelines. The letters should:

1. Be legibly handwritten or typed
2. Share some personal details and thoughts (see "Writing Suggestions" below)
3. Be addressed in such a way as to identify each as a special Confirmation letter (see "How to Address" below)
4. Be sent to Bishop Baker at least 1 month in advance of the candidate's Confirmation date.

Although he cannot read each letter, Bishop Baker will read many of the letters from each parish, and at each Confirmation Mass, will tailor some of his own reflections in response to what candidates share.

Writing Suggestions

The Confirmation letters should of course be respectful of Bishop Baker in their content and tone. The occasion for writing this letter might provide an opportunity to speak to the candidates about the ministry of Bishop Baker, of his relationship to them and to the people of our local Church, and of apostolic succession and the college of Bishops generally. In order to ensure that letters are well composed, it is suggested that each be proofread by a parent and/or catechist before being sent.

In addition to writing a simple introduction and conclusion, each candidate should share his/her:

- Name and age
- Parish and school
- Feelings about receiving the sacrament of Confirmation
- Most anticipated Gift of the Holy Spirit
- Current parish/program service project
- Plans for continuing as a missionary disciple of Jesus at home, school, and in the parish
- Confirmation name and reasons for its selection
- Thanks to Bishop Baker and assurance of prayers for him

These suggested items are intended to guide our candidates in writing their letters, but not to limit them. Students are more than welcome to share other reflections with Bishop Baker, if they wish to do so.

How to Address

Candidate letters should be mailed at least 1 month in advance of the date of the Confirmation Mass to:
Most Reverend Robert J. Baker, S.T.D.
(Parish Name) Confirmation Letter
2121 3rd Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203

Sample Outline of Letter to the Bishop

Date

Salutation:

Most Reverend Robert J. Baker, S.T.D.
Our Lady of the Valley – Birmingham
Confirmation Letter
2121 3rd Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203

Greeting:

Dear Bishop Baker,

Body of the letter:

Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself. Tell something about your family, your background.

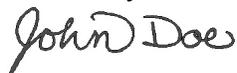
Paragraph 2: Request the Bishop to accept you as a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed.

Paragraph 3: Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament. It is important that you tell about specific parts of your preparation; your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, service for others exercised at home, within the parish and within the community.

Paragraph 4: Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Spirit. Tell how you plan to make your Confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future.

Conclusion: Conclude the letter with a closing, sign your name (your signature), and then print your name under your signature.

Sincerely,



John Doe

Confirmation Service Opportunities

Confirmation preparation involves opportunities for Candidates to serve in their community and spend time exploring how their gifts and talents can be used within their parish community and family. There are many various ways to get involved and serve our parish.

The church is a servant community and all those accepting full membership in the church are also accepting the responsibility to serve. Jesus came “not to be served, but to serve.” (Matthew 20:28)

As part of your preparation for Confirmation you are asked to perform three hours of service in the following areas: home, church and community. Below are suggested opportunities for service:

Church Ministries	Community	Family/Personal Faith
Altar Server	Visit elderly	Lead a family rosary
Usher	Zoolight Safari	Go to confession as a family
Greeter	Prepare meals for homeless shelter	Go to Holy Hour of Adoration as a family
Lector	Babysit for family or friends	Volunteer for Vocations
Music Ministry	Volunteer at Children’s	Cross
Food Festival	Hospital	Attend Edge Fall Retreat
Vacation Bible School	Edge MS Service Projects	
Santa Breakfast		
Angel Tree		

Check the bulletin and church website for other ways to share your talents and time. When volunteering for an event or ministry, please refer to the church website, bulletin or email to contact the event coordinator for details about volunteering.

Confirmation Service Log

Candidate's Name:		
Date	Service Event Description	Signature

Please complete and turn in form by ~~February 20th~~. **Now due February 9th**.

Confirmation Reflection

Guidelines for Writing Your Confirmation Reflection

As one of your final requirements in your Confirmation Preparation you are to write a two page, typed reflection on your Confirmation experience and the Saint whose name you have chosen for your Confirmation name. The Candidate may choose a new name as a sign of growth in faith or may keep their baptismal name to emphasize the fact that Confirmation is a sealing of the baptismal commitment.

The paper should reflect your journey and feelings about making the Sacrament of Confirmation. Below are some guidelines to assist you in preparing your reflection:

- ❖ How has this preparation incorporated you more firmly with the Church?
- ❖ How do my words and actions show others that I am a practicing Catholic?
- ❖ How has this preparation brought you closer to God?
- ❖ Express why you chose the name you did, or why you are choosing to reconfirm your baptismal name.
- ❖ Briefly outline the Saint's life you have chosen and why you have chosen this saint.
- ❖ What is interesting about this saint?
- ❖ How you can relate to the Saint's life.
- ❖ How can I imitate this saint and become a better Christian?
- ❖ Christian service is the beginning of a life long journey in our relationship with God, the Church, and our fellow human beings; tell about your service through this process and the effect it had on you.
- ❖ Express how you intend to continue your journey after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please turn in your report by ~~March 2nd~~. **Now due February 9th**.

Confirmation Candidate Information Sheet

Candidate's First, Middle, Last (legal) Name

(should be the same as on the Baptismal Certificate)

Candidate's Address

Date of Birth ____/____/____

Date of Baptism ____/____/____

Parents

Father – Complete Legal Name – First, Middle, Last

Mother – Complete Legal Name – First, Middle, Last, Maiden

Emergency Contact: (person to contact during Confirmation Prep Sessions or in the event of a cancellation)

Name: _____ Cellphone: _____

Email: _____