

# Our Lady of the Valley Confirmation Guidelines

## Summary of Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation preparation at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church emphasizes a more intimate relationship with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit. It involves the Confirmation teachers, parents, sponsors, and the entire parish community, and prepares candidates for their call to full participation and active discipleship in the Church.

## Why Confirmation?

“Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the ‘sacraments of Christian initiation’, whose unity must be safeguarded... the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For, ‘by the sacrament of Confirmation, (the baptized) are more perfectly bound to the Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.’ (CCC 1285)

## Who can receive the sacrament of Confirmation?

“Every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Since Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist form a unity, it follows that ‘the faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time’, for without Confirmation and Eucharist, Baptism is certainly valid and efficacious, but Christian initiation remains incomplete.” (CCC 1306)

**Restoration of the Order of the Sacraments of Initiation Resource** -<http://archden.org/saints/>

## Confirmation, 4 & 5 Grade, Class Times:

Wednesday, 6-7:15 p.m. beginning September 6<sup>th</sup> at

**Windsor Charter Academy, 680 Academy Ct, Windsor, CO 80550.**

**OR**

Saturdays 8:00-9:15 a.m. beginning September 9<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady of the Valley, Classroom.

Please enroll in the class that works with your schedule.

## Absence Policy

Attendance is Mandatory for Confirmation Students. Students are expected to make up any classes missed, a maximum of 3 missed classes allowed per year. To make up a missed class, parents should review the material from the missed class with their child and have them write 6-8 sentences on what they learned about the topic. Students are required to turn their work into their teacher by the next Confirmation class. The teacher will update the attendance record from an unexcused absence to an excused absence. We will be implementing the following activities when your child misses a class to comply with this policy.

Small group leader for your child will send an email to the parents the evening of the missed class that will include:

- Copy of the class agenda presented
- Copy of this document

- Parents should review the class material with their child and answer any questions they might have
- Student will write 6-8 sentences describing what they learned about the topic
- Student is required to turn their work in by the next Confirmation class
- Small group leader will review the write-up and revise the attendance record from an Unexcused absence to Excused.

### **Communication**

The RE Office will communicate to you by Flocknote, please join the group “RE Program” and all the sub-group grades that your students are enrolled in. We will also update our webpage with all forms that are required for the year, <http://ourladyofthevalley.net/confirmation/>  
In case we need to cancel class for a snow day, we will do our best to Flocknote all our parents by 1:00 p.m. Please take advantage of the text option.

**Parents are required to help aid in at least one Confirmation class during the year.**

### **Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy**

God’s love and sacraments are gifts freely given and not earned. **Charity and service should naturally flow because of our love of God.** Ongoing service is a key lesson candidates should learn and enact both during and beyond the time of Confirmation preparation. Students should make Christian service a way of life. Please see the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy Form for creative ideas to participate in together as a family.

### **Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor**

Each candidate preparing for Confirmation is asked to choose a Confirmation Sponsor. Your sponsor **must be at least 16 years of age, have received all Sacraments of Initiation, and be a practicing Catholic.** If your sponsor is married, the marriage must be canonically valid. Sponsors must be chosen and a “**Godparent Sponsor Form**” must be filled out by the sponsor’s pastor and **due by registration.** Parents cannot be the sponsor of their own candidate. It is desirable that the godparent at Baptism, if present, also be the sponsor at Confirmation. This expresses more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and also makes the duty and function of the sponsor or godparent more effective. Nonetheless, the choice of a special sponsor for Confirmation is not excluded. A Confirmation sponsor has these primary purposes:

- to serve as a role model of the Catholic faith
- to be committed to praying for you regularly and for life
- **to guide and assist you in your faith, including regular meetings (in person, Skype or Face-time) go over, “OLV Sponsor Handbook” and pray together. Please complete by April 31st. This Handbook will be available by our First Class in September.**
- to be a companion for you on your journey of faith. Your sponsor should be someone whose Christian lifestyle you admire, someone with whom you feel comfortable, and someone who has the time and willingness to be involved with you during this process
- to attest to your practice of the Catholic faith for you before the bishop and the church community. He or she proclaims your readiness to receive the sacrament and become a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church.

Requirements are found on the “**Godparent Sponsor Form.**”

### **Candidate Letter**

Each candidate with the help of their parent will write a **Letter to Father and the Confirmation Team** requesting to be confirmed. Parents and Sponsors please feel free to help your student as needed. **The letter is due April 31st.** The following information is to be included in the candidate's letter:

- tell us about your relationship with Jesus Christ and how it has changed since Confirmation year?
- how you have changed or grown in your faith since the beginning of Confirmation
- who or what are the main Catholic influences in your life and why
- An example of how you live so that others will know you are a Christian
- which gifts of the Holy Spirit do you think you need most during this time in your life and why, and how you will use them in the OLV parish community
- why you chose your particular patron saint-tell us about your relationship with that saint and how they affect your life

### **Confirmation Ceremony**

When the final date for the Confirmation Mass has been calendared from the Archdiocese of Denver (usually by February), candidates and their families will be informed. May 8, 9, 10, 23 at 7 pm are possible Confirmation Mass Dates. Rehearsal is the night before Confirmation 7-8 pm at Our Lady of the Valley Church.

Candidates with their sponsors will meet before Confirmation Mass in the Narthex at 6:30 pm. Boys are asked to wear ties and dress pants (no t-shirts, tennis shoes, or jeans). Girls are asked to wear either a modest dress or a skirt with a blouse. No strapless or low-cut tops will be allowed, **shoulders must be covered, and dresses and skirts should go below the knee.**

### **Retreats**

**Wednesday**, Confirmation Retreat April 14, 2018, 9 am-8 pm, at Treasure for Heaven, 35321 CR 31, Greeley, CO 80637

**Saturday**, Confirmation Retreat April 21, 2018, 9 am-8 pm, at Treasure for Heaven, 35321 CR 31, Greeley, CO 80637

Students RE registration fee includes their retreat.

### **Other Important Information**

- **Attendance at Sunday Masses and Holy Days of Obligation is mandatory:** The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." The Family of God gathers together as a parish community at weekly liturgy. Candidates are expected to attend weekly Sunday Mass at their parish and daily Mass if they desire. If you are traveling please make accommodations to attend in the area you are visiting. If you are especially busy please seek another parish Mass time to make your Sunday or Holy Day Obligation. Not because you have to, but because you want to. Frequent reception of Holy Eucharist and reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation are encouraged.
- Besides the requirement of already being baptized, a candidate must be in a state of grace to be confirmed. He or she should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Confirmation.
- Candidates please pray often to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit with the courage and readiness to act on them.

- All forms can be found on our website <http://ourladyofthevalley.net/confirmation/>

**Paperwork Deadlines:**

**To hold your students spot in their class we need the following before they attend their first day.**

Certificate of Baptism (Copy), if not baptized at OLV, Journey to Confirmation, Sponsors chosen, Certificate to Serve as Sponsor, signed by Pastors, due by **your students first day of class.**

Letter to Father Gregg and The Confirmation Team due by **April 31st.**

Revised 7/13/17