

# **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/>

## **Class times**

Confirmation class will be held on **Sunday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. beginning September 11 in the OLV Narthex**, and on **Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. beginning September 14 at Windsor Charter Academy (680 Academy Ct, Windsor, CO 80550)**. Please enroll in the class that works with your schedule.

## **Absence Policy**

Attendance is Mandatory for Sacrament Students. Students are expected to make up any classes missed. To make up a missed class, please have your child write a half page (8 sentences) on the upcoming Gospel Reading & a half page (8 sentences) on a saint. Students turn this into their teacher to make an unexcused absence into an excused absence.

## **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, <http://ourladyofthevalley.net/confirmation/>  
In the case of us needing 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**

Service to God and neighbor is not optional for those who follow the Gospel and claim the name Christian. It is integral to the message of Christianity. 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, and not simply the fulfillment of a requirement.

However, God's love and sacraments are gifts freely given and not earned, it is grace bestowed upon us. Service can never be a condition to receive Confirmation. **Charity and service should naturally flow because of our love of God.** We would like our students to participate in 30 hours of Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy outside and within the parish. Forms will be provided for students to keep track of their hours to be signed by their parents for each work. 15 of the 30 hours may be fulfilled by being involved in the parish through youth group events (1 hour earned per event), altar serving, ushering or greeting at mass, or praying at adoration. Please see the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy Hours Form for more details. There are several opportunities throughout the year that we will share with you. **Due by March 31st.**

### **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 "**Certificate to Serve as Sponsor**" must be filled out by their pastor and **due by November 1st.** 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) to go over the "5th and 6th Grade Confirmation Sponsor Packet" and pray together. Please complete by March 31st.**
- 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 Certificate to Serve."

### **Candidate Letter**

Each candidate 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 March 31st.** The following information is to be included in the candidate's letter:

- tell us about yourself and your relationship with Jesus Christ

- 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 ceremony has been calendared from the Archdiocese (usually by February), candidates and their families will be informed. The ceremony will be either May 16th, May 17th, or May 18th or June 6th, at 7 p.m. Rehearsal will be the night before at 7:00 p.m.

Candidates will meet before the ceremony with the celebrant and will have a reception to follow. Boys are asked to wear ties and dress pants (no t-shirts, tennis shoes, or jeans). Girls are asked to wear dresses or skirts and blouse. No strapless or low-cut tops will be allowed, **shoulders must be covered, and dresses and skirts should go below the knee.**

### **Retreats**

**October 1, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Day Retreat:** 10-3, at Treasures for Heaven, 35321 CR 31, Greeley, CO 80637

**October 8, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Day Retreat: 10-3,** at Treasures for Heaven, 35321 CR 31, Greeley, CO 80637  
Students RE registration fee includes their retreat.

Mountain Madness Retreat, 6-8th Gd, is on Feb. 17-19 at YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. contact [Bridget@ourladyofthevalley.net](mailto:Bridget@ourladyofthevalley.net) for more information.

### **Other Important Information**

- **Attendance at Sunday Masses and Holy Days of Obligation is mandatory:** The Family of God gathers together as a parish community at weekly liturgy. Candidates are expected to attend weekly Sunday Mass at their parish. 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.
- Students are highly recommended to attend their retreats and meetings.
- 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:**

Certificate of Baptism (Copy), if not baptised at OLV, due by **August 31**, students may attend class once certificate is filed in the OLV Office.

Journey to Confirmation, Sponsors chosen, Certificate to Serve as Sponsor, signed by Pastors, due by **October 31st**.

5th and 6th Grade Confirmation Sponsor Packet, Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy Hours Forms, Letter to Father Gregg and The Confirmation Team due by **March 31st**.

**Contact information for teachers:**

5th-6th grade Sunday afternoon:

Kathy Zrubek [mzrubek1@yahoo.com](mailto:mzrubek1@yahoo.com)

Brad Buckman

Susan Blanco

5th grade Wednesday evening:

Kendra & Cameron Watkins [kgonzales@gccguardrail.com](mailto:kgonzales@gccguardrail.com)

Nikki Varney [lifetones@comcast.net](mailto:lifetones@comcast.net)

Brian Bate [brianamberbate@gmail.com](mailto:brianamberbate@gmail.com)

Brant Richards [RMFlyfshrmn@gmail.com](mailto:RMFlyfshrmn@gmail.com)

6th grade Wednesday evening:

Stephen and Cynthia Kintzley [cyn\\_54@yahoo.com](mailto:cyn_54@yahoo.com)

Darci Lambert [darci.lambert@gmail.com](mailto:darci.lambert@gmail.com)

Michael Uphaus