

Confirmation Resource Booklet



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Our Lady of Lourdes Faith Formation

Deacon Byron Champagne

Phone: 919-861-4607

deacon.byron2009@gmail.com

A Little Background Information...

Confirmation is a 2 year program at Our Lady of Lourdes:

C1: Is the first year of the program (see footnote explanation)

C2: Is the second year to be Confirmed that year (see footnotes)

Confirmation is: one of the three **Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation**. It continues a process of full membership in the Church that was begun at Baptism. Confirmation strengthens and celebrates the presence of God's Spirit in our lives.

At Our Lady of Lourdes, preparation for **Confirmation 2** is a process for young people in high school as requested by our Diocese. The Confirmation program uses a curriculum that fosters the development of knowledge and small group sharing and maturity needed for an adult level of participation in all areas of parish life. At the conclusion of this program there is a beginning of complete membership in the parish community. Each part of the series focuses on different aspects of community and different levels of understanding of the Catholic Faith. In addition there will be a strong emphasis on Catholic Social Teaching and the need for regular charity in our Catholic Christian lifestyle.

General Expectations... For C1 and C2 Confirmation:

Parents/Guardians are expected to help their child focus on what is expected as a candidate, support and pray for their child, and do any "at home" work requested. While parents should encourage their child to want to be a full member of the Church, the young person should be allowed to make the final decision themselves about whether or not they are currently ready to fully commit to adult membership, participation and responsibility in the Church. During the two years of preparation, parents can help the young people make useful service choices, attend Mass and parish events and see the ways that belonging to a parish are important to the family. At the end of this time, the young person must determine their readiness for Confirmation.

Candidates in C1 & C2 Confirmation sessions: In order to be **Confirmed**, the family of the candidate must be members of the parish. This is a Church expectation- not just an Our Lady of Lourdes expectation. The candidate must have already received the **Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist**. A Baptismal certificate must be on file in the office. If the candidate was **NOT** baptized at Our Lady of Lourdes please provide a photocopy of the original Baptismal Certificate from the parish where the candidate was baptized. A copy may be obtained by calling the parish of baptism and requesting a copy. The candidate must then complete all the requirements of the program. If he/she decides not to be **Confirmed** at the end of the program, contact Deacon Byron Youth Formation Minister.

Attendance/Calendar: All required formation sessions and Confirmation meetings, events, and retreats will be listed on the formation calendar. This calendar will be on line at <http://www.ourladyoflourdescc.org>. We understand that young people must sometimes be absent due to illness or family emergency. Please notify the youth formation director as far in advance as possible, make up any work immediately, and make absences as rare an occurrence as possible **Students with high absenteeism will be contacted to determine a solution to the situation. Confirmation may be postponed if there is a high level of absenteeism.**

Sponsors: A sponsor will need to be selected at the beginning of the C2 year. Sponsors will help the candidates prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation through discussion and their willingness to act as a role model. It is important for candidates and sponsors to discuss their faith often before the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Who can be a sponsor? Given the nature of the sacrament of Confirmation as a Sacrament of Initiation, and its close relationship with Baptism, sponsors will need to stay in close contact with the candidates as they move through the remainder of the preparation. **At the completion of the process the sponsor will be required to present the candidate to the Catholic Church community as fully prepared to enter into the community as an adult member. This can only be done through regular contact and dialogue after each and every session.**

Please note:

- Given the guidelines of Canon Law a sponsor **cannot** be a parent of the candidate.
- The sponsor must be an active practicing Catholic **16** years or older, and received the Sacraments of **Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.**
- The sponsor must be an excellent model of adult Catholic living in the world.
- C2 Sponsors will be asked to attend a sponsor workshop.
- Required Workshop is scheduled for **January 21st 2018 1-3 pm in the Fallon Center**
- If a sponsor is unable to attend a sponsor session, a parent should come in the sponsor's place.

Confirmation Service Opportunity:

Due to the importance of the regular practice of service in the lives of active Catholic adults all C1 and C2 learners will be required to complete **2 different service entries** of community service each year, 2 during the C1 year and 2 during the C2 year. Through the positive exercise of this service opportunity you should learn the value of regular service, and thus be prompted to partake in future service experiences.

The guidelines are:

- Service must be completed for a nonprofit organization.
- There needs to be a connection between who we are as Christians and the motives behind the service.
- Each service opportunity should be a different activity. It is important that learners experience different forms of service. This allows learners to come into a greater understanding about how they would like to serve as Christians after Confirmation.
- Although admirable, membership on sports teams does not fulfill the service opportunity.
- At the completion of the service, all candidates will need to get a signature and phone number from the supervisor at the service site.
- Service events will be scheduled and promoted by Our Lady of Lourdes to assist this requirement.

Confirmation Retreat.....Chosen “to the heart”

Candidates preparing for Confirmation have varying degrees of commitment to the life of faith. A retreat experience is an invaluable way to inspire candidates and awaken in them a desire for a deeper life of faith. This Confirmation retreat will help the candidates fully engage in their preparation for Confirmation through guest speakers, small group sharing, service activity and adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession. Families are encouraged to attend the 5 pm Mass.

It aims to “to the heart” to reinforce the evangelization candidates received in their **C2** lessons and prepare them for the formation and final preparation that will follow. Candidates will be inspired and challenged to a stronger commitment to a life of holiness and discipleship after being introduced to the basic gospel message and the person of Christ and His Cross.

The following four points are addressed in this retreat:

1. Our very existence and the meaning of our lives are fulfilled only in God.
2. God loves us unconditionally and passionately.
3. Sin separates us from our created purpose: a relationship with God.
4. God wants our relationship with him to be a consistent commitment.

Frequently Asked Questions...

Q. *How many hours of service do I need to do?*

A. There is no set number of hours. You are required to perform service a **minimum** of 2 separate times **during** your **C2** year.

Q. *I participated with my school and went to a retreat does that count as a retreat?*

A. Yes and No!! That will be looked at on an individual basis. If the retreat followed the points stated (**on page 4**) for a Confirmation retreat that retreat might apply. If it did not apply then No. Each situation will be addressed.

Q. *How many classes can I miss during the year?*

A. The answer depends upon the following: Students with high absenteeism will be contacted individually to determine a solution to the situation. Confirmation may be postponed if there is a high level of absenteeism.

Q. *The person I want for my sponsor lives out of town. Is that okay?*

A. Yes, as long as they meet the sponsor requirements listed earlier in this packet. All of the sponsor information can be done over the phone, but it is very important that they are there for the Confirmation Ceremony. Please bring a parent or other adult to sit in at sessions in the Sponsor's place.

Notes:

C1: These will be the students who have had limited religious formation or have not had the basic foundational teaching that is offered in C1.

C2 students are those who have either completed C1 successfully or those students who have had the formation foundation that C1 lessons teach. Also that they will be 14 at the time of their Confirmation.

Please contact Deacon Byron Youth Formation Minister for individual situations in question.

Contact Information:

Deacon Byron Champagne – Director Youth Ministry Faith Formation – 919-861-4607
deacon.byron2009@gmail.com

