

***Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
Confirmation Parent/Student Handbook
2018-2019***



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	Pages
Table of Contents/Contact Information.....	1
Welcome Letter.....	2
Sacrament of Confirmation	3
Confirmation Program	4
Requirements	5
Class Attendances/Retreats	6
Role of the Parents	7
Role of the Sponsor.....	8
Expectations of Our Youth	9
Student/Parent Certification upon reading handbook	10

CONTACT INFORMATION

Roy Ramirez
Director of Confirmation

820 N. Garfield Avenue
Montebello, CA 90640

Cell: (562) 879-9478
olmmyouthconfirmation@gmail.com



Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish

820 N. Garfield Ave, Montebello, CA 90640 , Phone: 323-725-7578 ext. 313

August 1, 2018

Dear Parents and Candidates,

Welcome to the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Confirmation Program! This is a chance for your son/daughter to continue and grow on their faith journey. This is also a time for you and your family to be closer to God. As a parish community, we strive to support you and your family.

This Parent Handbook was created to make this year a little easier and to hopefully answer any questions you may have about this year. We also have an open door policy at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. If there are any questions, feel free to come by the Youth Confirmation Office or call/e-mail us.

Through our Confirmation process, parents, teens, sponsors, and the team will be growing closer to God through His Spirit. We are excited about all the new ways Jesus will be made real in our lives as the year progresses. May God bless you and your family!

In Christ,

Roy Ramirez

Director of Youth Confirmation

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Along with Baptism and Eucharist, Confirmation is a sacrament of Christian Initiation. It represents a sealing of Baptism and the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Confirmation program is designed to help our young people to explore, deepen and strengthen the seeds of faith they were given at baptism. The candidates, themselves, are choosing the Catholic faith as a way of life.



Philosophy of OLMM Confirmation Program

The Confirmation Program of Miraculous Medal Parish seeks to provide our youth with the knowledge, experience, and skills necessary to become faithful disciples of Jesus. In keeping with their age, they will assume responsibility as vital members of the parish and be able to participate in the Church's mission to proclaim, celebrate, and serve God.

Mission Statement

Miraculous Medal's Confirmation Program provides leadership, service, support, and direction to the young people in our community. Our goal is to empower young men and women to live as disciples of Jesus Christ; to encourage them to participate in the life, mission, and work of the Church; and to promote their spiritual growth. We serve the community by preparing teens to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, creating opportunities for teens to know Christ, and developing faith leaders of tomorrow.

Confirmation Program

The Confirmation Program is a two year sacramental preparation journey for all youth in high school. The journey consists of community building, prayer and worship, service opportunities, and inspirational retreats.

- ✚ **The Year One Program** meets every other week for two hours. The program will meet twice a month from September through Pentecost Sunday before and including the 6:00 p.m. Teen Mass. See the calendar for the dates.
- ✚ **The Year Two Program** meets every other week for two hours. The program will meet twice a month from September through Pentecost Sunday before and including the 6:00 p.m. Teen Mass. See the calendar for the dates.
- ✚ Candidates will be placed into small groups led by an adult and peer leader who will journey with them throughout the year. Classes will be held in the Parish Hall.
- ✚ **Attendance is Mandatory**. It is important that candidates attend every scheduled session seeing as how the Confirmation journey consists of faith sharing.
- ✚ **Mandatory Mass attendance.** Mass is an essential part of the Confirmation process. Candidates will be responsible for checking-in at the Parish Hall after the 6:00 p.m. teen Mass, which is part of the confirmation journey. If you do not have class that week, you are required to sign in on the clipboard at the Youth Confirmation office door. We encourage you to be involved within the ministries of the church. (Ushers, Lectors, Altar Servers, Choir, Greeters)

- ✎ Each candidate must provide a Baptismal Certificate in order for him/her to be confirmed. Please submit to the Youth Confirmation office upon enrollment.

- ✎ Each candidate must be a registered parishioner with Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. This is to ensure that we are providing all the support our families need.

Additional Requirements

Year One

- ✎ *Complete 20 hours of Service.* These hours should be completed serving OLMM parish and the local community. Service hours may include Food Banks, volunteering at a homeless shelter, Youth Confirmation/RCIA Fundraisers/Donut Sales, OLMM Arts and Environment Committee, Religious Education classes, etc.

Year Two

- ✎ *Complete 20 hours of Service.* These hours should be completed serving OLMM parish and the local community. Service hours may include Food Banks, volunteering at a homeless shelter, Youth Confirmation/RCIA Fundraisers/Donut Sales, OLMM Arts and Environment Committee, Religious Education classes, etc.

- ✎ *Sponsor Interview.* Candidates will be given a list of questions to ask their sponsors. Assignment will be given to candidates in October and it will be due in February.

Class Attendance

- ✎ Confirmation candidates are expected to attend class regularly.
- ✎ Only THREE (3) **valid** absences are allowed.
 - Absence – being more than 30 minutes late to scheduled sessions.
- ✎ All the sessions are listed on the calendar.
- ✎ Candidates should arrive 5-10 minutes early to check in.
- ✎ Confirmation should not be passed by for a movie, friends, or some other leisure activity. Please don't make it a habit to miss class.

- ✝ If your child is unable to come to class, please call or email us prior to absence.

Retreats

- ✝ Confirmation retreats provide young people a weekend filled with prayer, activities, and faith sharing. Retreats provide candidates with the opportunity to reflect on their own faith journey and to prayerfully reflect on their relationship with Jesus.
- ✝ Retreats are **Mandatory**. **Year Two** candidates retreat will consist of a full weekend event (Friday to Sunday). **Year One** – The parish offers a two day retreat. The dates of the retreat are listed on the calendar.
- ✝ If a candidate cannot make the retreat, they must attend another retreat approved by the director. See refund policy below for more information.

Payment

- ✝ Payment must be paid in full by November 30, 2018. If payment is not received prior to the completion of the first year, the candidate will not be allowed to register for the second year of Confirmation. If payment is not received prior to the completion of the second year, the candidate will not be allowed to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ✝ Refund Policy: There is a \$50.00 non-refundable registration fee. If you chose to withdraw from the program prior to the first day of you class, you will receive a refund of \$100. After the third class, no refund will be provided.
- ✝ No refunds will be provided for those who are unable to attend our Year 1 or Year 2 retreat. If you chose to attend a retreat at another parish, you are responsible for their cost of that retreat. Any questions or concerns please speak with the Youth Confirmation Director.

THE ROLE OF THE PARENTS

Parents are the primary religious educators. They have a strong influence on the faith development and religious formation of their children. Therefore, the parents' role is to support, encourage, and affirm your teen's involvement in the confirmation journey.

During this Confirmation process, we ask that you share your faith through your words and actions; attending mass and praying with your family are just some of the ways to share your faith. In addition to supporting your teen and the program, please attend parent meetings, weekly Mass, special events and Confirmation liturgies; support the completion of service hours/projects; and assisting your teen with picking a faith-filled sponsor.

The Confirmation Team and Youth Ministers are here to work with you in preparing your son/daughter for the Sacrament of Confirmation. There will be Parent Workshops offered once a month. The monthly parent workshops are aimed at giving parents an opportunity to ask questions about the Catholic Faith, Eucharist, Church, Jesus, and much more. It will be a wonderful opportunity to journey with your teens while they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please see the calendar for further details.

THE ROLE OF THE SPONSOR

The sponsor is an important part of the preparation for Confirmation. The sponsor is to be a role model and religious mentor that the **candidate** chooses. He or she is someone the candidate feels comfortable approaching about faith and life issues.

Expectations of Sponsors:

- ❖ show the candidates how to practice the Gospel in personal and social life,
- ❖ assist the newly confirmed so that they remain true to their baptismal promises after receiving the sacraments,
- ❖ attend meetings and workshops for sponsors,
- ❖ participate in Liturgical Rites of the Confirmation process,
- ❖ meet monthly with the Candidate to encourage and assist the Candidate to grow in knowledge, in prayer, in service, in worship and in participation in the Parish Community.

To be a sponsor, one must be:

- ❖ A baptized Catholic who has been confirmed and received the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist;
- ❖ At least 16 years old;
- ❖ Not the parent of the candidate;
- ❖ Practicing Catholic: Attend mass weekly and receive Holy Communion;
- ❖ Able to provide a copy of Confirmation Certificate.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE OUR YOUTH

- Candidates are expected to attend Mass on a regular basis. On the night the class meet, the youth are **expected** to attend the 6:00 p.m. Teen Mass. Please make this mass time important as your child is on this confirmation journey.
- Respect for the Confirmation Team, catechists, the parish hall and all the church property is expected.
- Be on time and attend the scheduled sessions.
- Electronic devices can hinder the experience of the Confirmation Program. Therefore, we ask you refrain from using all electronic devices during Mass and the sessions.
- Respect your fellow peers. There will be zero tolerance for disrespectful, violent, or abusive behavior of any type; particularly, bullying.
- Harassment of any kind, such as drugs, alcohol, and tobacco will not be tolerated.
- Weapons of any kind are prohibited and will not be tolerated.
- Dress appropriately and modestly when coming to the class sessions. Be mindful we will be attending mass after every session.

We wish to remind candidates and their parents that proper behavior and conduct is expected at OLMM Parish, retreat centers, and anywhere you go with in the community as a representative of OLMM. Any behavior or conduct problems will be addressed directly with the Director of Youth Confirmation.

STUDENT/PARENT CERTIFICATION UPON READING HANDBOOK

PLEASE RETURN SIGNED FORMS TO PROGRAM DIRECTOR.

Please print neatly

CANDIDATE

I, _____, have read the program handbook and hereby agree to abide by the rules and regulations contained in the book at all times while attending the youth confirmation program at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. I also understand that not adhering to these guidelines will warrant any appropriate actions by the coordinator – including termination from the program.

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE

DATE

Please print neatly

PARENT/GUARDIAN

I, _____, have read the program handbook and give my consent for son/daughter to attend Miraculous Medal Confirmation program, I hereby pledge my cooperation in urging that my daughter/son observe the rules and regulations which are laid out in the handbook. I also understand that not adhering to the rules and regulations will warrant appropriate actions by the coordinator and may include termination from the program.

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE

DATE

CONFIRMATION DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE

DATE