



Confirmation Preparation Ministry Components and Requirements

Confirmation is a two-year process of preparation in the Archdiocese of Chicago. This journey invites the youth to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Through a deeper relationship with Jesus, youth become further acquainted with the unconditional Love of God so that they might face the challenges of life rooted in faith and without fear. Confirmation completes the sacraments of initiation.

Preparation for Confirmation includes:

- **Participation in Sunday Worship:** The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith; all candidates are expected to attend Sunday Worship weekly. Mass times are Sat. 5pm and Sunday at 8am, 11am and 4pm.
- **Academic Formation** is catechesis in a classroom via parish school or faith formation ministries. These sessions will include written reflection assignments that help the youth understand the effects of the sacrament and reflect on their faith journey.
- **Confirmation Retreat:** The Archdiocese of Chicago requires youth to attend 1 retreat for each year of prep.
- **Missionary Service:** Missionary Initiative or service projects are a way of practicing what it means to live as a believer intentionally: to see the world, hear the world, and live within the world with the eyes, ears, hands, and heart of Christ; especially for the poor, sick and most vulnerable in our society. Service or missionary spirit reminds and teaches all Christians that service is an expression of love and is performed by Christians towards building up the Kingdom of God on earth.

Missionary Service is intentionally taking on the mission of the Gospel. In preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, service is to be done within a certain framework. We ask candidates to complete at least one service project in the context of family, one in the context of parish, and one in the context of the wider community for each year of prep. The projects that candidates undertake are to be independent of requirements he/she might participate in or perform within their school or extracurricular activities. Candidates undertake the projects as a means to learn and to seek to know and encounter Christ in the work or people impacted by the candidate's contribution through his/her project.

- **Formation Gatherings** take place outside of the classroom. 5 of 7 gatherings over 18 months. Formation Gatherings will occur on Sunday mornings, concluding with the 11 am Mass, or Sunday afternoons, concluding with Mass at 4 pm. You can only miss 1 gathering and still be eligible for Confirmation.
 - **Why Sunday's.**
 - Archdiocesan policy prohibits sports during the parish-scheduled Mass times on Sunday mornings. This provides a window for the parish to include Mass and Confirmation prep without youth having to choose Confirmation prep over their parish-sponsored sports. Per page 18 of the ***Archdiocesan Handbook for Athletic Programs in K-8 Catholic Schools***: *“No practices or games should be scheduled at the same time Mass is scheduled on Sunday morning, as families should be allowed the opportunity to attend Mass together.”*
 - Most public schools do not have sports programming on Sunday, and the Archdiocese prohibits sports beginning before noon on Sundays. The least athletic conflicts occur on Sundays.
 - Sundays are opportunities for everyone preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation to gather with the wider parish and Confirmation community for worship and formation.
- **KEEP IN MIND:** The parish has no control over the public and Catholic High school testing, club sports, and special events. You can only miss 2 gatherings and still be eligible for Confirmation. *We suggest you use your “misses” wisely. For example, if your team makes the playoffs, you will want to play in that game. Don’t miss a regular season game and later have to weigh missing a playoff or championship game.*

Requirements

- Formally apply for Confirmation via the parish website by January 1st.
 - Applications are not complete without sacramental records and the parent and candidate reflection complete.
 - If you received Sacraments at Old St. Mary’s Parish, we will notify you if we need additional information.
- Submit Baptismal and First Eucharist records to the Lifelong Faith Formation office.
- Participate in Sunday worship on a weekly basis
- Participate in academic formation for the sacrament
- Participate in 5 of 7 formation gatherings. (1 absence allowed and be eligible for Confirmation)
- Attend the Confirmation retreat from beginning to end.
- Participate in Missionary Service Initiatives; some restrictions apply.
- All communication related to sacramental prep is directed at the parish Lifelong Faith Formation office.

- Remain attentive to the parish Confirmation Website, schedule, and communications from the parish Lifelong Faith Formation office.
- All communications between parish, parents, and candidates should assume the best intentions and demonstrate kindness, respect, and consideration for one another in the example of Jesus.
 - Sacramental Prep Communications will come via the **PARISH** EBLAST system and Parish Lifelong Formation Office.
 - Questions related to Sacramental Prep or how communications are managed get directed to mharrington@oldstmarys.com or 312-922-3444 ext 26

7th Grade Confirmation Prep Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 5	9-1pm, OPTIONAL: Eucharist Miracle Expo, parish Gym. Join us as little and as long as your schedule allows.
January 1, 2024	Application for Confirmation Due
Jan-Dec	Missionary Service Projects
Feb. 4, 2024	10:30am-12:00pm Rite of Acceptance for 7 th Grade Confirmation Candidates
April 14, 2024	2-5pm Formation Gathering, Commons
June 2, 2024	2-5pm Formation Gathering, Gym Reception

MISSIONARY INITIATIVE / SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liturgical Ministry: Lector, Usher, Music, and Greeter • Contact Scott Williams at SWilliams@oldstmarys.com
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Faith Formation Aide one Sunday per month, Sept.-January • Contact Mharrington@oldstmarys.com
June 18 or July 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30am – 1pm OLA Service opportunity, contact Mharrington@oldstmarys.com
October 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Ministry Saints Gathering, contact Olga@oldstmarys.com