

**THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
*FOR SCHOOL-AGED CANDIDATES***



**THE PARISH OF
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIESTS

Dear Parents and Guardians:

May the grace and peace of Our Lady of Good Counsel be with you.



Since her earliest days, the Church has recognized parents as the first educators of the faith. It is within the “domestic Church” created by each Christian family that baptized children first learn about God’s love for them. Little by little, they are taught to love God through simple prayer and good deeds. Within the family atmosphere, young consciences are formed and develop as they begin to recognize good and bad choices, and how these choices help or hurt their relationship with God and God’s people.

When your children reached the catechetical age, their faith formation took on more formal tones as they were enrolled in a religious education program in our Parish. Although the practice and living of the Catholic faith is still the primary obligation of the parent, the School and PREP aid our parish families in the religious training of our Parish children. The religion lessons of the home are further developed intellectually and intuitively on an age-appropriate level.

As priests, we are charged by the Church to identify the goals and needs for our religious education program, and to also oversee the catechetical and sacramental preparation of our parish children.

This year is a very important time in your children’s faith life as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. In addition to classroom instruction, a parish sacramental program that includes parent meetings, activities, prayer services, and information packages has been structured to enhance parental involvement in this sacramental preparation. We urge you to take advantage of these opportunities. Also, take advantage of this special time to tell your children the stories about your own reception of the sacraments and other personal faith moments. Pray daily at meal times and before bedtime. Talk to them about our Catholic saints as they choose a Confirmation name. Most importantly, on Sundays, assist with your children at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the central mystery and belief of the Catholic sacramental life.

Confirmation will take place on **Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 4:00 PM with Archbishop Edward J. Adams**. This special moment of grace harkens back to their Baptism, making them children of God and recipients of God’s unconditional love. This sacrament completes their initiation process while enlightening them to a Christian vision for their entire life. As our parish anticipates this great moment of joy for your child, be assured of our continued prayers for all involved in the sacramental preparation of your child. May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless our endeavors.

Devotedly,

Reverend Robert Suskey, Pastor
Reverend Msgr. Joseph A. Tracy



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Enclosed is important information regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please take the time to examine this information carefully.

Attached to this packet is an information sheet. This information sheet is to be completed (both sides, in full) and dropped off or mailed to the Trinity Center, along with the sacrament fee of \$75, to the attention of the PREP office NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024. The information you provide on this sheet is critical to both the smooth preparation of your child's Confirmation Day, as well as the permanent records of the parish. *The fee will cover the cost of a robe and a recording of your child's confirmation as well as help offset the cost of the retreat, textbook, musicians, floral arrangements for Mass, gift to the bishop and other miscellaneous costs associated with sacramental preparation.*

Please have your child choose his or her sponsor as soon as possible. If the sponsor chosen is not a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel, they must obtain a "Letter of Eligibility" from their home parish. The Letter of Eligibility must be attached to the above mentioned red information form and returned not later than **December 6, 2024**. *The Code of Canon Law requires this letter - a person may not be accepted as a sponsor without one.*

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me (215-357-1300, ext.134).

Sincerely,

Kristal Alexander, DRE

Office of Religious Education

**SCRIP MAY BE USED TO PAY SACRAMENT FEE. PLEASE PROVIDE SCRIP CREDIT RECEIPT FROM SCRIP OFFICE WITH INFORMATION SHEET.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

As one of the sacraments of initiation, Confirmation is the sign in which the Father seals us with the Holy Spirit and directs the graces of our Baptism. Through the laying on of hands and the anointing with chrism the Father conforms the baptized more closely to Christ, strengthens them as members of the Mystical Body, the Church, and enriches them with the power of the Holy Spirit. Marked and sealed in this divine identity, they share in the mission of Christ. They are to proclaim the wonders of salvation and, in their words and actions, to spread God's kingdom of love, justice and peace.

The core curriculum for Confirmation catechesis builds upon the theological principles taught in the first four levels as determined by the Archdiocesan guidelines for a parish religious education program. During the fifth year of religious education, the theology of Confirmation is presented through the study and explanation of the Rite of Confirmation (its symbols and gestures), the "Confirmation Concepts" study guide and sections of the candidate's religion textbook. Additionally formative experiences are offered in the way of the reception of the sacraments (Eucharist and Penance), prayer services and a Confirmation retreat during this year of sacramental preparation.

Who is Eligible for the Sacrament of Confirmation

A candidate is baptized and must have reached the age of reason, profess the faith of the Catholic Church, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, be prepared for the role of disciple and be a witness to Christ in his/her life.

The Choosing of a Sponsor

A sponsor represents all members of the Church. He or she will present the candidate to the Bishop who confirms. The sponsor is someone who is not only special to the candidate but also lives his/her life in accordance to the Gospel message of Jesus. The sponsor should be someone who is interested in your faith life and will help the candidate to grow closer to Jesus through his or her example. **The sponsor must be a practicing, fully initiated Catholic and at least 16 years of age.** Because the sponsor is a person who assists parents with the faith development of their child, **parents and step-parents** may NOT be sponsors.

SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY

If a sponsor is a registered member of Our Lady of Good Counsel, the parish records will be consulted as to the sponsor's eligibility. ***If the Sponsor is not a registered member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, a Letter of Eligibility must be acquired from the sponsor's home parish and must be attached to the information sheet.*** The Code of Canon Law requires this letter, or the person may not be accepted as a sponsor. The Letter of Eligibility is a minimal way to determine the acceptability of a sponsor. It is the responsibility of the sponsor's pastor to ascertain that he/ she is a practicing Catholic and qualifies to be a sponsor. By definition, a practicing Catholic is a baptized Catholic who regularly attends Mass on Sunday, participates in the Sacrament of Penance, and if married, is validly married in the Catholic Church.

(*REGULATIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY FROM THE CODE OF CANON LAW IN REGARDS TO THE SPONSOR FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION)

The Choosing of a Confirmation Name

Many people choose an additional name at Confirmation. They select a saint that they see as a model for the faith. A candidate may elect to choose his/her Baptismal name. There are Catholic websites that provide this information such as <http://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php>.

ATTIRE

Boys and girls wear white robes ordered by the Parish and purchased by parents.

Boys—White or light colored shirt, dress tie, dress pants, dress shoes.

Girls—dress or skirt (be sure length does not exceed length of gown; gown is approximately 2-3" below knee, dress shoes.

Sneakers are not appropriate for the Celebration of the Sacrament

SEATING ON CONFIRMATION DAY

Each family will be allotted two (2) reserved seats.

The remaining seats will be available for additional guests on a first come basis.

Parish Staff

Kristal Alexander (Director, Religious Education & Sacraments for Children) - Extension 134
Barbara Riley (Principal, Our Lady of Good Counsel School) - Extension 104

Catechists for the Sacrament of Confirmation

OLGC School 7th Grade Religion Teacher
Mrs. Sledzeski / Mrs. Robinson: PREP
Mrs. Callahan / Mrs. Rueter: PREP

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

1. Liturgy of the Word is celebrated in the ordinary way.



Presentation of the Candidates

After the Gospel, all (including the bishop and the priests) sit down. The Confirmandi will remain standing. Father Suskey will then present the candidates to the bishop. Father will tell the bishop that all are ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation because they have studied and prepared for this day.

2. The bishop then gives a homily.
3. After the homily, the candidates stand and renew their baptismal promises by answering the bishop's questions.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Bishop:

Do you reject Satan and all his works and all his empty promises?

The candidates respond together: I do.

Bishop:

Do you believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop:

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was Crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop:

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in confirmation?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop:

Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Candidates: I do.

The bishop confirms their profession of faith by proclaiming the faith of the Church:

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The whole congregation responds: **Amen.**

4. The Laying of the Hands

From the altar, the bishop will then pray a short prayer, then extend his hands over all of the candidates and say:

All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit

you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life.

Send you Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide.

Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

The whole congregation responds: Amen.

5. Anointing with Chrism

The bishop will then move to a seat at the entrance of the altar. He will dip his right thumb in the chrism and will make the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate as he says:

Bishop: "Confirmation Name", be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Confirmandi responds: Amen.

Bishop: Peace be with you.

Confirmandi responds: And with your spirit..

6. The General Intercessions are prayed after all Confirmandi have been anointed.

7. The Mass continues with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

CONFIRMATION

CATECHETICAL CONCEPTS

Understanding the content of these concepts is important in the catechetical preparation for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation.

The study of these In Brief statements will help all to have a common language when speaking of this sacrament.

Memorization of statements can assist in using a common language but word for word memorization is not necessary.

- 1 A Christian is a follower of Christ.
- 2 I become a Christian at Baptism.
- 3 The seven sacraments are signs (words and actions) instituted by Christ by which the Holy Spirit spreads the grace of Christ throughout the Church. (CCC #1131)
- 4 Grace is a participation in the divine life God has given to us.
(CCC #1996-1997, 2003)
- 5 The seven sacraments are: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. (CCC #1210)
- 6 Initiation is the process by which we are made members of the Body of Christ, the Church.
- 7 The sacraments of initiation are: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
(CCC #1212)
- 8 Christians are reborn in Baptism, strengthened in Confirmation and nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. (CCC #1212)
- 9 Confirmation is the sacrament of initiation in which we are sealed and strengthened with the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 10 Every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
(CCC #1306)

“To receive the sacrament of Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (CCC #1310)
- 11 The Holy Spirit is God and the third person of the Blessed Trinity.
- 12 The ordinary minister of the sacrament of Confirmation is the bishop.
- 13 I will be confirmed by **Archbishop Edward J. Adams**
- 14 Confirmation is conferred by the laying on of hands, the prayer to the Holy Spirit, the anointing the forehead with chrism, and the words: “N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.” (CCC #1320)

- 15 Chrism is perfumed oil blessed by the bishop on Holy Thursday and used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.
- 16 When the bishop anoints the forehead of the one being confirmed, he says (Name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.
I will answer: Amen.
 Then, the bishop will say: Peace be with you.
I will answer: And with your spirit.
- 17 Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders imprint “a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian’s soul”; for this reason one can only receive these sacraments once in one’s life. (CCC #1317)
- 18 This “character” is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked the Christians with the seal of his Spirit by clothing them with the power from on high so that they may be his witness. (CCC #1304)
- 19 The effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. (CCC #1302)
- 20 “A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ. (CCC #1319)
- 21 Candidates for Confirmation, as for Baptism, seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. “To emphasize the unity of the two sacraments, it is appropriate that this be one of the baptismal godparents.” (CCC #1311)
- 22 Read about the first Pentecost in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2.
 Be prepared to answer the following questions:
Who was gathered together? **Apostles, disciples and holy women, including Mary**
Where were they gathered? **In Jerusalem, in the Upper Room**
In what form did the Holy Spirit come upon those gathered? **First, those gathered heard the sound of rushing wind and then they saw tongues of fire above each person’s head.**
- 23 Name the seven *gifts* of the Holy Spirit.
 “The seven *gifts* of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.” (CCC #1831) (this may be stated
 The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, right judgement, courage, knowledge, reverence, and wonder and awe. (Rite of Confirmation – Prayer for the Laying on of Hands)
- 24 Name the twelve *fruits* of the Holy Spirit. The twelve *fruits* of the Holy Spirit are: “charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity.”
 (CCC #1832)

**THE PROCESS FOR PREPARATION AND CELEBRATION OF
THE SACRAMENT OF INITIATION, CONFIRMATION:**

Sacrament packet available for printing by September 1, 2024 on the parish website:

www.olgc.org

- Click on “Parish”
- Click on “Sacraments”
- Click on “Sacraments of Initiation”
- Click on “Confirmation”

Paperwork & fees (\$75) due December 6, 2024

Please drop off or mail to the Trinity Center, Attention: PREP Office

Mandatory Retreat for Candidates

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

**9:00 am – 12:00 pm (Upper Church &
McNelis Room of the Trinity Center)**

**Mandatory Sacrament Talk for 1st Time Parents*
(Trinity Center)**

Wednesday,

February 5, 2025 (4:15-5:30 or 6:15-7:30)

*This is a mandatory presentation for all 1st time parents of Confirmation candidates. Non-attendance will result in attendance at a faith formation session.

Practice for ALL Sponsors and Confirmandi: Thursday, April 24, 2025

6:00pm-6:30pm

ALL gather in Upper Church

Confirmation administered by:
Archbishop Edward J. Adams

Date: Thursday, May 1, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Confirmandi **MUST BE IN LOWER CHURCH BY 3:30 PM** on Confirmation Day!



OLGC CONFIRMATION INFORMATION SHEET

THIS INFORMATION & SACRAMENT FEE ARE DUE BY

December 6, 2024

For Office Use:

Date _____

Check # _____

Amount _____

Candidate's Full Name

Circle one: Male or Female **Height:** _____

(Last)

(First)

(Middle)

CANDIDATE'S CONFIRMATION NAME:

Home Address _____
(Street)

(Town)

(State)

(Zip)

Candidate's Date of Birth _____
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Candidate's Place of Birth _____
(Town) (State)

Candidate's Date of Baptism _____
(Month) (Day) (Year)

*Candidate's Church of Baptism _____
(Name of Church)

(Street Address) (Town) (State) (Zip)

Father's Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Mother's Name _____
(Last) (First) **(Mother's Maiden Name)**

Godfather's Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Godmother's Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

****If you have a copy of your child's Baptism certificate, please be so kind as to attach it. If your child received First Holy Communion at OLGC your child's certificate can be pulled from that file, if you are unable to attach it.****

Date of Child's First Holy Communion _____

(Month) (Day) (Year)

Sponsor's* Name _____

(Last) (First) (Middle)

Sponsor's Address _____

Address City State Zip

Sponsor's Home Parish _____

(Parish Name)

Address City State Zip

****If the Sponsor is not a registered member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, a LETTER OF ELIGIBILITY must be acquired from the sponsor's home parish and must be attached to this information form. The Code of Canon Law requires this letter - a person may not be accepted as a sponsor without one.****

Final Checklist

(Paperwork/money due by December 6, 2024)

1. Information Sheet (*with Baptismal Certificate and Sponsor's Letter of Eligibility*)**
2. Sacrament Fee - \$75.00 (*helps to cover the cost of the robe, videographer, retreat, etc.*)

***If a Letter of Eligibility is required for a sponsor (see "Choosing a Sponsor"), it is a courtesy to contact the parish rectory at least 3 days prior to picking up this form.*

***Please put all items in the envelope marked - Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Office/Attention: Kristal Alexander. (215-357-1300, ext. 134: olgcprep@olgc.org)**

PLEASE CIRCLE: PREP or SCHOOL

Catechist's (Teacher's) Name: _____