



Confirmation Corner

A Newsletter for Parents

October 07, 2017

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

“As the primary educators of their children: parents are to be intimately involved in the catechesis for Confirmation. This will help them renew and strengthen their own faith, besides enabling them to set a better example for their children.”(NCD, no. 119)

What does the Church ask of parents in sacrament preparation?

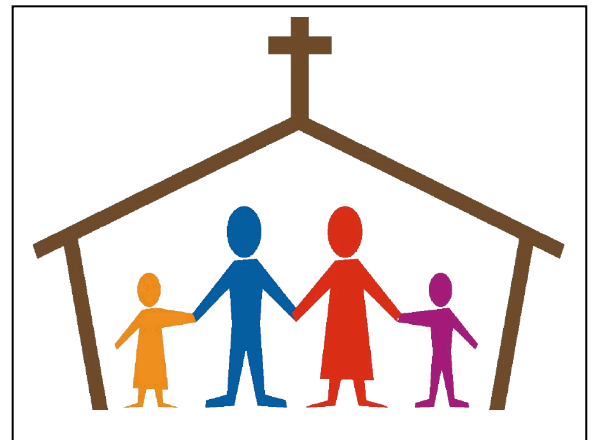
The church views the role of parents in religious formation of children as both a privilege and an obligation. When you presented your child to the Church for Baptism, you were distinctly reminded that you have the responsibility to “bring [your child] up in the practice of the faith” (*Rite of Baptism* 56). This privilege and obligation extends to all sacrament preparation.

Because parents:

- Are the primary educators of their children
- Are responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life
- Serve as models for their child by being committed Christians

Parents should expect to:

- Worship with your families regularly
- Be actively involved in the Confirmation preparation of the candidate.
- Engage in discussions about the material being studied including sharing your understanding and perspective.
- Encourage your child to reflect and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Pray for your child’s spiritual growth every day.
- Support and encourage completion of assignments, activities and expectations.
- Emphasize the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation.
- Assist in retreats, service work, meetings, classes, spiritual events and social events.
- Faithfully bring your teen (and when necessary yourself) to meetings, programs, and prayer services that are planned to help your child prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation



Parents have the very important responsibility to create a Christian environment in the home and helping their child during the Confirmation preparation process.

HOW CAN I CREATE A CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT IN THE HOME?

1. Set a good example and encourage your child to lead a life of active Christian service.
2. Serve your family out of love.
3. Build an atmosphere of trust and understanding.
4. Worship together regularly and participating in parish life.
5. Continue to nurture your child in faith at every age.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD PREPARE FOR CONFIRMATION?

6. Encourage them to reflect thoughtfully on this special sacrament.
7. Pray with them and discuss various aspects of faith and the special meanings of Confirmation.
8. Take part in adult catechesis offered by the parish to help renew your own faith so you can more effectively guide your child.

Remember, the home is the place where faith can best be nourished

The Domestic Church

Family altars, ideally, should be on the Eastern wall of a home, in the same orientation as church buildings. The altar can be as simple or as elaborate as one desires, but should be beautiful and conducive to contemplation. A few key items to be placed on or around the altar table are:

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| Crucifix | Sacred Scripture | vigil candles | icons (statues and/or two-dimensional) |
| a Holy Water font | a cellar of blessed salt | charcoal incense burner | Rosaries |

Family altars, like the rest of the home, can be decorated according to the liturgical season, changing tablecloths, sacred images, and flowers according to that Season's liturgical colors and themes. One tip is to buy (from the dollar store) one of those little tiny 6" easels made to display small pictures, and then buy an assortment of Holy Cards to place on it according to liturgical season or Feast. For ex., on the Feast of St. Nicholas, a Holy Card bearing his likeness can be set out; on Good Friday, a card depicting the Crucifixion; on the family's Name Days, depictions of their patrons can be placed on it, etc. Where is the altar at your house? How does your altar look?

How to Request/Dedicate Mass Intentions or Flowers at OLMC?

1. What occasions am I able to request/dedicate Mass Intentions or Flowers? Special Occasions such as birthdays, memorials, anniversaries, graduations, promotions, championships, etc.
2. When should I request Mass Intentions or Flowers? Preferred at least six or more months in advance. However, date(s) may be available.
3. What are the Mass Intentions times? 5PM – Saturdays, 8AM, 10AM, 12:00PM – Sundays, 7:00AM – Mondays-Fridays
4. How many are permitted to request a Mass time? Several individuals can have the specific Mass Intention.
5. What is the suggested donation amount? Mass: \$10 for weekdays (Monday-Friday), \$20 for weekends (Saturday-Sunday), Flowers: \$60+ Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, \$75+ Altar
6. What are the locations to request/dedicate flowers? Altar flowers or Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
7. Who do I contact to request/dedicate flowers or Mass Intentions? Estela Flores, Church Secretary, 713-645-6673, or eflores@olmchou.org.

Financial Stewardship

Parents are asked to assist the candidates practicing good stewardship to the parish. Please provide the candidates with monetary donation for collections. It is in the act of giving that we are want to encourage and practice. Using the offertory envelopes can better track your donations and claim end of year giving for tax purposes.

Fees and Payment Plan

Confirmation II fees include a mandatory off-site retreat and Sacramental Preparation. We are a self-funded ministry. All fees are to offset expenses for the use of facilities and utilities for Confirmation II related activities. All proceeds from the fundraisers benefit the program activities and supplies. Your support and contribution is crucial and greatly appreciated. Please make payment(s) on time. Credit card payments are highly encouraged as the transaction are instant and receipts will be emailed (no handling of cash or waiting for checks to clear). If paying by check, please make it out to *OLMC* or *Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church*. For questions on the fee statements, please contact Janie Nunez, 713-644-2930 or nunez_janie@hotmail.com.

Communication

By Text: Parents can sign up to receive text messages that are sent out to the candidates. Please send a text to 713-498-6066 with the message "Candidate's Name Mom/Dad". Example: "Francis Mom"

By Email: Parents can sign up to be on a distribution list to receive reminders and the monthly schedule by email. Please send an email to fvbui@yahoo.com with the subject "OLMC Conf II Parent".

Translations: Parents may request to receive Confirmation II materials in spanish. Please advise one of the catechists so that we can prepare these in advance for you. As always, the spanish version will be on our website to download and print.

Holy Days of Obligations

- 1) January 1, the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- 2) Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter, the solemnity of the Ascension
- 3) August 15, the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 4) November 1, the solemnity of All Saints
- 5) December 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- 6) December 25, the solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Parents Meetings

Due to limited meeting space, the Second Sunday Parents Meetings will be temporarily moved to after the First Saturday Family Mass. Next meeting will be on Saturday, November 04, 6pm. If the parents are not able to attend, an adult representative may substitute in their absence.

Rosary

Parents are invited to join the candidates at 4:30PM on the First Saturday and 11:30AM on the Fourth Sunday to pray the rosary. Let the community pray for you. We lift our intentions, we give praise, and we seek peace when we pray together. Rosaries will be provided and the Mysteries will be lead by the candidates.

Recycling Aluminum Cans

Please save empty aluminum cans from drinks and canned food. Designated blue recycling bins are located in the parish center during normal business hours or in the caged area after hours. Please collect from your home, at work, from family, and friends. It may seem little, but every bit counts. The recycling money helps pay for prizes and social activities for the candidates.

Wisdom

God's gift of Wisdom – the Holy Spirit – enables us to see things with God's eyes. Wisdom moves our vision far out into the future; it gives us perspective. God's gift of Wisdom enables us to see our own sufferings in the light of God's loving plan for us.

Understanding

Understanding is like 'stand under', to 'get to the bottom of things'. Sometimes in order to understand how to use a gift – like a new iPod – we have to read the directions. God's gift of how we should live our lives comes with directions also – the sacred Scriptures. Prayerful reading of the Bible enables us to understand God's plan and to get to the bottom of things.

Right Judgment

Decisions! From the time we decide to get up and out of bed, we make choices. Right Judgment helps us to avoid rash judgments. The Spirit of Right Judgment is the gift to make good choices – to make God's choices and seek His advice.

Courage

The word courage is derived from the Latin word *cor*, 'heart'. Courage is the gift that enables us to face danger and overcome fear with confidence. In the Gospels, before performing a cure Jesus often says, 'take courage... take heart... be confident...' The gift of Courage enables us to see where our real strength lies: God is our strength.

Knowledge

It's important to know things. The Gift of Knowledge helps us know the right things. Knowledge helps us know which things are important and which are not. The Gift of Knowledge helps us to know Jesus. A good way to tell if we are really using the Gift of Knowledge is to examine whether or not the things we know lead us to charity in our actions.

Reverence

Reverence places us at the foot of the cross, looking up to the face of Jesus. The perspective lets us see our relationship to God: the saved and the Savior. The Gift of Reverence enables us to act in the light of this reality and to show our gratitude by our piety and devotion.

Wonder & Awe

It takes time and leisure to wonder and be amazed. Take the time to see God's beauty around you. Take time to step back from your daily routine and to take stock of your lives.

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| <p><u>October</u> Saturday, October 14, 9:30AM All Souls Service Project I</p> <p>Sunday, October 22, 9:30AM, BYOB, P, N, R, S, \$ Fourth Sunday Candidates Session Rosary Fourth Sunday Candidates Mass</p> <p>Sunday, October 29, 1:30PM All Souls Service Project II</p> | <p>November Wednesday, November 01, 7PM, S, \$ Adore/All Saints Mass, CCC</p> <p>Thursday, November 02, 5:30PM, S, \$ All Souls Service Project II</p> <p>Saturday, November 04, 10:00AM, \$ Training Day - Lectors and Altar Servers Rosary, 4:30PM Family Mass, 5:00PM Parents Meeting, 6:00PM</p> <p>Sunday, November 12, 9:30AM, BYOB, P, N Second Sunday GHS</p> <p>Saturday, November 18 Parents "Day at the Casino"</p> |
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This Month

All Souls Fundraiser

Confirmation II candidates are asked to sell 10x candles. Pre-sale price is \$7 by October 29. All Souls candles are to remember a loved one or honor someone special and will be on display at All Souls Mass on Wednesday, November 2. Candidates will receive credit by turning in completed forms and money and signing for it on Sundays October 08, 15, 22, 29.

Prizes will be given to the first candidate that turns in completed orders and to the candidates that sold the most candles. Do not turn in any order forms or money to the office. To make arrangements please contact Marylou Cabrera at 281-630-5965 or mlcabrera48@gmail.com.

Service Project days are Saturday, October 14, 9:30am-12:00pm and Sunday, October 29, 1:30pm-3:30pm, and Thursday, November 2, 5:30m-9:00pm, to prepare the candles and to serve at All Souls Mass. Community service hours will be awarded for hours volunteered.

OLMC Cook-off, Festival, Raffle

OLMC Cook-Off November 4, 2017 - If you are interested in joining the cook off contest, you can register beginning next week. Goal \$160,000.



OLMC Festival & Raffle November 5, 2017 - If you are interested in sponsoring a booth, you can

register beginning next week. Remember this is a crucial moment to raise money to help repair our church. Goal \$50,000.

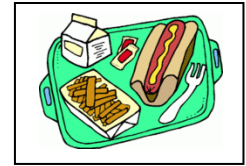


All Confirmation II families are asked to sell just one raffle tickets envelop. Please turn the raffle ticket stubs and money to the parish office or drop them in the collections basket.

Save the Dates

Training Day 2017

Confirmation II candidates will attend Training Day for Lectors and Altar Servers on **Saturday, November 04, 2017**. Under the direction of the Lectors ministry and Altar Servers ministry, candidates will receive instruction and also have hands-on practice on serving at Mass. Once trained candidates will be assigned to serve at the Mass that Confirmation II will attend 2017-2018. This is a required event for all 2018 candidates.



Parents are asked to assist with providing a potluck lunch on Saturday, November 04, 2017. Please bring a favorite dish, dessert, that will feed 4-6 people. Sign-up sheets will be available on 10/22. Serving plates, utensils, ice, drinks, and snacks will be provided to the candidates.

Candidates can wear casual clothes throughout the day and change to the Mass appropriate attire. No red polo this day.

Casino Trip to Coushatta



Parents deserve a day out, and why not?!?! Confirmation II is sponsoring a "Day at the Casino" on Saturday, November 18, 2017. One week before the holidays. You will be chauffeured to/from Coushatta on a motor coach, chance to win door prizes, breakfast provided, and all the non-alcoholic drinks along the way. Don't forget to enhance your cash winnings with the cash raffle on the motor coach. Cost is \$20 per seat. Must be 21 years of age to participate.

This is also a fundraiser. There are many ways to support Confirmation II and participate in a "Day at the Casino". You can donate \$20 to sponsor a first responder or parishioner that may have been affected by Harvey, Mexico earthquakes, or Maria. You can purchase a seat for \$20 and surprise a family member who deserves a much needed one day getaway. And of course, you can always donate \$20 or purchase supplies.

Tickets will be on sale starting Sunday, October 29 - November 13 (or until seats are sold out). All parents will be asked to turn in an RSVP form by Sunday, October 29. For additional details, please contact Bianca Escobar, 713-244-4417, or escobar.bianca100@gmail.com.

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.

| Contacts | | |
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| Clara Cruz, CRE office 713-645-6673 cell 281-414-8747 ccruz@olmchou.org 6723 Whitefriars Dr. Houston, Texas 77087 | Bianca Escobar, 713-244-4417 Cecilia Perez, 713-584-8960 Clara Cruz, 281-414-8747 Dolores Negrete, 281-662-8655 Francis Bui, 713-498-6066, fvbui@yahoo.com Gerry Lopez, 832-370-4265 | Janie Nunez, 713-644-2930 Jovana Acua, 832-589-6548 Roxana Ramirez, 832-758-1900 Suzette Alvarenga, 832-285-6959 Tinafi Andrade, 832-845-4989 Need Jesus? 713-732-2241 |