

Confirmation 2023 Information Packet



What an exciting time for your family! This packet has been put together to help you and your child with all the information needed as together we prepare him/her to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation! This packet will also be posted on the parish website under REP/Confirmation.

Date of Confirmation at Our Lady: We will announce the date as soon as we hear from the diocese.

Sacramental Profile Sheet: This sheet needs to be returned to Mrs. Kohler no later than **September 15, 2022** for your child to be enrolled in the OLPH Confirmation Sacramental Program. A copy of the Baptismal Certificate must accompany this form. You may drop off at the parish or school office or email Mrs. Kohler at maureen.kohler@my-olph.org. The profile sheet to be filled out and returned can be found at the end of this packet.

Sponsors: Each student must have a sponsor for Confirmation. The sponsor must be a confirmed practicing Catholic and at least 16 years of age. Your sponsor must obtain a **Letter of Eligibility** from his/her parish. If your sponsor is married, they must be in a valid Catholic marriage, meaning they were married in a Catholic Church. Letters of Eligibility are

needed even if the person is a member of OLPH Parish. A parent may not act as a sponsor. If the person you choose is unable to be at the Confirmation Liturgy, a parent may act as a proxy. The actual sponsor will still need a Letter of Eligibility. Please return Letter of Eligibility to Mrs. Kohler by **November 15th, 2022.**

Saint Report: Confirmation names are a special part of the Confirmation process for Roman Catholics. Before the ritual of being confirmed, those seeking Confirmation choose to take a saint's name with whom they identify. It can be your Baptismal name to reinforce the bond between Baptism and Confirmation. You may also choose a new name of a saint you look up to or a Biblical name. After Confirmation the confirmed can pray to the saint for guidance and protection. Each student will research their saint. You may either write a report that is at least two pages in length or answer questions as if you were interviewing your saint.

Your research should explain who your saint is, and provide as much detail as you can about his/her life. Here are some questions that can help you:

- When and where was your saint born? Did s/he live in one place?
- What did s/he do for a living?
- What drew him or her to Jesus Christ?
- Did your saint become a priest or nun, or was he/she a layperson?
- Did your saint know other saints of the Catholic Church? Did they get along?
- What sort of obstacles did your saint have to overcome to attain holiness?
- Did your saint write any books? Has another saint written about your saint?

- When and how did your saint die?
- On what date is your saint celebrated by the Church? Is there a reason why it is this date?
- On what date was your saint declared a saint by the Church?
- What is your saint the patron/patroness of?
- What miracles are attributed to your saint?
- What virtues or qualities does this saint have that you admire? • Do you and your saint have any similarities?
- Are there other saints who were devoted to your patron saint? • Is your saint the patron/patroness of something that matters to you?
- How can this saint help you live your life as a confirmed Catholic?

Please use Times New Roman font, Size of script 12, and Spacing-1.5

***The final paragraph must read:** My name is _____. I am a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. I have picked _____ as a Saint I wish to choose for Confirmation. I chose this saint because _____. The name I wish to be called at Confirmation is _____.*

Confirmation Retreat and Practice: Once we receive the date of Confirmation we will then be able to schedule the retreat and practice on the same day. Usually it is held the Sunday before Confirmation

Confirmation Dress Code: All confirmation students will be wearing Confirmation robes over church clothes. **Order forms** and more information will be given at a later date.

Boys: White dress shirt and tie (any color) must be worn.

Khaki or other solid color dress pants with dress shoes with Confirmation robes (No sneakers, jeans or cargo pants)

Girls: Dresses or dress pants with dress shoes with Confirmation robe

GiftFest: Prayer Service honoring the Gifts of the Holy Spirit alive and working in our lives. For each gift, you will need to choose someone in your life who shows this gift to you by their words or actions. You will write 1-2 paragraphs about how this person has shared this gift with you.

Invite these 7 people to GiftFest. **Date: TBA**

Wisdom: To share in God's vision for the world

Understanding: Insight to see the truth and meaning of our faith as we serve others

Right Judgment: To make the best moral decisions in our life of faith

Courage: To bravely speak out in faith

Knowledge: To know God and ourselves as we join together in evangelization

Reverence: To be a person of prayer, thanking God and respecting all creation

Wonder and Awe: To be aware of God's presence everywhere in the world

Letter to the Bishop: Each student will be required to write a letter to Bishop Schlert requesting Confirmation. The Bishop's Letter is due to Mrs. Kohler by **Friday, January 30, 2023**. You may write your own typed letter or use the sample letter as a guide.

Dear Bishop Schlert,

My name is _____ and I am writing to request that I be confirmed on (date) at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.

I have spent the last year preparing for this special day. I have picked a sponsor, spent time in service of others, learned more about the saints of our church and studied about the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit..

During my time of service I (Insert some things you did.) *Write what you learned from your experiences and what you enjoyed the most during your service to others.*

I have asked (sponsor's name) to be my sponsor for Confirmation. (State why you chose this person.)

I am looking forward to my Confirmation Day on _____ at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. I believe that I am ready to be confirmed because _____.

Sincerely yours,

(Insert your name)

Spiritual Bouquet: A spiritual bouquet is a group or bouquet of prayers said for the intention of a specific person or persons. In this case the prayers are for our Bishop, Bishop Schlert, the confirmandi and all those who helped you be ready for this special day. It is up to your child to decide how many prayers or masses he or she will do for their intentions. The form for the Spiritual Bouquet is due to Mrs. Kohler by **Friday, January 31, 2023.**

My Spiritual Bouquet of Prayers

Student's Name:

Please fill in with a number

Our Father _____

Rosaries _____

Hail Mary _____

Masses _____

Glory Be _____

Questions for Confirmation from the Bishop's Office

There are nine questions to memorize. The questions are to be memorized word for word as they are written. Students will be given the questions and answers during Religion classes in September. Testing information will also be shared at that time.



Confirmation Service Hours

Service of others in need is not an option for a Christian. It is an essential part of who we are. As adult followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to serve others in a church that is characterized by service, to be servants in a Servant Church. A Christian who asks to be confirmed in the faith accepts the responsibility to learn how to constantly grow in their role as servant.

We learn to serve by serving. It takes practice and experience to be a good Christian servant. In our preparations to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, we learn to serve others in need through sharing our skills and talents to meet the needs of our parish, our neighborhood and our community.

Service time is divided into three parts: Service to the Parish, Spiritual Works of Mercy and Corporal Works of Mercy. Each student must complete a total of **10 hours from the categories listed below.**

Parish Activities: *Acts of Love in our parish helps our parish to grow. By working together as a community, we are strengthening our faith life and the faith life of those around us. This would be done at Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish or the parish where your family is registered.*

Activities may include:

- Choir
- Altar Serving
- Junior Greeter
- Junior Usher
- Other parish activities approved by Father Marty or Mrs. Kohler

Spiritual Work of Mercy: *Acts of Love toward our neighbor to help in the needs of his/her soul.*

Activities may include:

- Daily prayer for peace in the world, the sick, the poor and all those in need of prayer
- Help with Vacation Bible School over the summer
- Help with Religious Education Classes as a student aide for the 2022-2023 school year
- Help a neighbor, friend or family member who is sorrowful and do something to comfort them
- Send thinking of you or praying for you cards to a nursing home or hospital

Corporal Work of Mercy: *Acts of Love which comes from the heart to help your neighbor in his bodily needs.*

Activities may include:

- Collect items from your neighbors and give to a local food bank
- Helping at a soup kitchen
- Collect gently used clothing, toys and take them to the Salvation Army or another organization.
- Collect for the Missions

- Spend time with a sick person by visiting a nursing home or a neighbor who cannot leave their home.
- Choir, Glee Club or another service in your school that goes out to perform in the community for those less fortunate
- Tutor a classmate or younger student.

Please keep track of your service hours using the chart. Also, keep a copy for your own records and return one copy to Mrs. Kohler by January 30th, 2023. Service time can be from January 1, 2022- January 30, 2023. Any questions contact Mrs. Kohler. Any other information leading up to Confirmation will be sent home closer to the date.

*Blessings,
Mrs. Maureen Kohler
Director of Religious Education
maureen.kohler@my-olph.org*

Sacramental Profile Sheet: Confirmation

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip code:** _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Birthdate: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthplace (city/state): _____

Date of Baptism: _____

Parish Name: _____

Parish Full Address: _____

Mother's Name: (include maiden name): _____

Father' Name: _____

**A COPY OF YOUR BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE MUST BE ATTACHED
UNLESS BAPTIZED AT OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP, BETHLEHEM, PA**

Please return this Sacramental Profile to Mrs. Kohler by September 15, 2022 in order to register your child for the Confirmation Sacramental Program. Form must be returned even if your child was Baptized at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.