

OUR LADY OF ANGELS CONFIRMATION 2011 PREPARATION CHECKLIST

Keep track of when you turn papers in to Religious Education.

Date due	Done?	
	✓	
Oct. 17, 2010	___	Baptismal Certificate
Nov. 14, 2010	___	Candidate Application
Nov. 14, 2010	___	Letter of Intent
Jan. 23, 2011	___	Sponsor/Candidate/Parent Vocations Workshop
Jan. 23, 2011	___	Sponsor Certificate
Jan. 23, 2011	___	Saint Report and Research Worksheet
May 1, 2011	___	Ministry Project and Summary
May 1, 2011	___	Sponsor Conversations
May 1, 2011	___	Letter to the Bishop
Sept. 2011	___	Confirmation Retreat
May 9-27, 2011	___	Confirmation Interview _____date/time
May 2, 2011	___	Final Exam
Sept. 11, 2011	___	\$40.00 Payment
Fall 2011	___	Confirmation Rehearsal
Fall 2011	___	CONFIRMATION MASS
	___	Consistent Class Attendance
	___	Consistent MASS Attendance

*Office of Religious Education
Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church
13752 Mary's Way, Woodbridge, Virginia 22191
(703) 494-3696 FAX (703) 494-3117
www.ourladyskids.org*

Dear Parents of Confirmation Candidate:

Greetings in Our Lord Jesus Christ!

The clergy and staff of Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church welcome you and your child to this program of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Your child now begins the final immediate preparation of receiving this sacrament. Your involvement is essential to your child's preparation. We have prepared this booklet so that you will understand what we require from your child and from you.

Our role is to assist you in your role of teaching your child the faith. The purpose of the classes, meetings, retreat and other projects is to enlighten these young people more intensely about their faith and to encourage them to make their faith an essential and integral part of their whole life. If at any time you have questions about this preparation program, please contact us at the Religious Education Office.

The Church and the world are very much in need of zealous followers of Jesus Christ. Our prayer is that the faith of these young people will be so enkindled with the power of the Holy Spirit, that they will go forth with the courage of the Apostles to lead others to the joyful and saving knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May God bless you and your families.

***Come! O Holy Spirit
Fill the hearts of your Faithful
and enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your spirit, O lord, and they shall be created,
and You shall renew the face of the earth.
O God, you did instruct the Hearts of the faithful
by the Light of the Holy Spirit.
Grant that in the same spirit we may be truly wise,
and ever rejoice in his consolation,
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.***

In Christ,
The Religious Education Staff

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Parental Involvement

Parents' involvement in preparation for this Sacrament is **VITAL**. Please make every effort to remind, encourage and insist that your child fulfill **THEIR SUNDAY OBLIGATION and HAND IN ALL OF THEIR CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS ON TIME**. Frequent confession as a family is also strongly recommended. Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility by giving good example to them.

Length of the Confirmation Program

A period of preparation of at least two and one half years is recommended in this program. . The Pastor or the Director of Religious Education may adjust the time of preparation according to the legitimate needs of the candidate.

Attendance Policy (Sacramental Prep Classes)

Attendance is mandatory for all students in sacrament preparation classes. Students preparing for a sacrament who have three or more unexcused absences will not be recommended to the Pastor for the respective sacrament.

Sacred Triduum

The final days of Lent, leading up to Easter, are the most holy days of the Liturgical Year, as we celebrate and participate in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each candidate should attend the Holy Thursday Mass, the Good Friday Liturgy, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. The Church centers the rest of the year's liturgies on these three days.

CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENT INFORMATION

CANDIDATE APPLICATION (yellow form)

Students must fill out the Confirmation Candidate Application. The information will be used for official Confirmation records. A parent and candidate must sign the application agreeing to fulfill the requirements in preparation for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE (due at 1st Parent Meeting)

The Church requires proof of Baptism for Confirmation. A copy of each candidate's baptismal certificate must be on file in the Religious Ed Office. It is imperative that the **address** of the church where your child was baptized be on the certificate. After Confirmation we will update our records and send the Confirmation information to the parish where your child was baptized. If you do not have a copy of your child's baptismal certificate, you will need to request a copy from the parish where he/she was baptized. If your child was baptized through the Military Ordinariate you may write or call them at the address below to obtain a copy.

Archdiocese for the Military Services
United States of America
P.O. Box 4469
Washington, D.C. 20017-0469
Phone: 202-719-3605 FAX: 202-269-9022

Or via e-mail <http://www.milarch.org/sacramental/index.html>

If your child was baptized at Our Lady of Angels, you still need to provide a copy of the baptismal certificate so that your child's Confirmation can be recorded properly.

If your child was baptized outside of the United States the address of the church of baptism must be provided by the parents.

If the baptismal certificate is neither in English nor Spanish, a copy of the translation must accompany the certificate.

LETTER OF INTENT (gold form)

The Letter of Intent is a promise to follow the Precepts of the Church both now and after Confirmation, including the continued study of the faith, and faithful attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. The candidate and his/her parent must sign the Letter of Intent.

CONFIRMATION NAME (tan form)

Part of the rite of confirmation is the naming of the candidate by the Bishop. Each candidate has the liberty of choosing his or her confirmation name, in keeping with the nature of the sacrament as granting the candidate adult status in the Church. The candidate may choose a new name, or keep the name given at baptism. Either way, the name **MUST** be that of a saint of the Catholic Church. Please pray and do serious research in determining your saint. This will be your patron saint forever! The confirmation name is provided on the saint report research worksheet.

SAINT REPORT RESEARCH WORKSHEET AND PAPER (tan form)

Each candidate must submit a one-page research report about his or her chosen confirmation saint. A saint report research worksheet is included in the red confirmation folder. The form is for gathering information about your saint. Once your research is completed and each question on the research form is answered, type your essay in your own words. The paper can neither be copied from a book nor from the internet. Your saint report worksheet must be stapled to the back of your saint report. The office has many books and other information on the saints of the Church.

THE SPONSOR PROGRAM

Candidates for Confirmation, as for Baptism fittingly seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. To emphasize the unity of the two sacraments, it is appropriate (but not necessary), that this be one of the baptismal godparents. Sponsors take on a lifelong commitment to help their candidate fulfill the obligation for this sacrament.

A sponsor must:

Be 16 years of age or older.

Be a practicing Catholic.

Have received all three Sacraments of Catholic Initiation: *Baptism, Communion, & Confirmation*

Be eligible to act as a sponsor in accordance with Church law.

Receive Communion at the Confirmation Mass.

PRAY FOR YOUR CANDIDATE CONTINUALLY

SPONSOR AFFIDAVIT (green form)

Due at Sponsor/Candidate/Parent Meeting

The sponsor affidavit form must be completed by the sponsor. The form must be signed by the sponsor's Pastor and contain the Parish Seal.

PROXY (In lieu of sponsor)

In the event that the sponsor cannot attend the Confirmation ceremony in person, a proxy, explicitly designated by the sponsor, who fulfills the sponsor qualifications, may act in place of the sponsor. A parent may be a proxy; however, **a candidate's parent may not be the sponsor.** If the Confirmation candidate has a proxy, a **SPONSOR AFFIDAVIT** must be submitted for **both sponsor and proxy.**

SPONSOR CONVERSATIONS (purple form)

Each candidate must meet with his or her sponsor at least two times before confirmation. We offer questions for the sponsor and the candidate to discuss during these meetings. **These can be found in the red confirmation folder.** If a sponsor lives out of town, the questions may be discussed over the phone or via email. The questions must be completed and turned into the Religious Education office by the due date scheduled.

LETTER TO THE BISHOP (typed letter)

Each candidate must write a personal letter to Bishop Loverde. In this letter, you are formally asking him to accept you as a candidate and to grant you this great sacrament.

Your letter should have the following points:

1. Why you want to be confirmed.
2. Why you chose your confirmation name.
3. Explain your preparation (class, retreat, service project) and what this has meant to you.
4. Why you chose the sponsor you did.

Your letter should be about one page long, and written in ink or typed on an 8 ½" by 11" paper. **A sample letter is included in the red confirmation folder.**

MINISTRY PROJECT AND SUMMARY (blue form)

Every candidate for confirmation must show a willingness to share in the mission of the Church in spreading the Gospel and in serving the world. This is in imitation of Christ who came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life for the redemption of souls.

Our Lady of Angels requires 10 (ten) hours of service from each candidate. These hours must be completed in service to our parish and/or our community. This service must be under the supervision of an adult, who will keep track of the time spent and the work done. Each candidate must complete the blue Ministry Project and Summary Form. Log the hours worked, procure the supervisor's signature, and return the form to the religious education office. The **Ministry Project Summary** must be completely filled out, signed by a parent/guardian, and returned by the required date.

RETREAT

Each candidate **must** participate in the Confirmation retreat. This is a very important part of the spiritual preparation for Confirmation. More information will be forthcoming.

MARRIAGE/VOCATION WORKSHOP

This is a workshop on vocations to the priesthood/religious life and to marriage. In order to see the various possibilities of living out one's confirmation within the life of the Church, it is necessary to learn what the Church understands about vocation.

FINAL EXAM

Religious Ed students will take the exam during class time. A test time for Aquinas and homeschooled candidates will be scheduled. See the Study Guide for information that will appear on the exam.

CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW

The interview assists the priest/deacon in assessing the candidates' readiness to receive the sacrament. Candidates and parents will sign up for a scheduled interview time.

PENANCE

One should receive the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit. More intense prayer should prepare one to receive the strength and graces of the Holy Spirit with docility and readiness to act. (Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1310)

CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL

All candidates and their sponsor or proxy must attend the rehearsal.

CONFIRMATION

The Bishop will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at a special Mass on the date selected by the Bishop. A reception will follow in the Hall. The Teen Initiation Class will receive Confirmation and/or other sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. IF on the day of Confirmation the candidate is SICK, please call our office and we will discuss make-up options.

APPROPRIATE CLOTHES FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Floor or knee length dress or skirt. Please dress modestly. Blouse or dress should cover the chest and back. No Spaghetti straps.

APPROPRIATE CLOTHES FOR YOUNG MEN

Dress pants, (no jeans) dress shirt (long or short sleeve), tie, dark dress shoes. A suit is appropriate but not necessary.

CONFIRMATION ROBES

The Arlington Diocese requires confirmation robes to be worn during the Confirmation Mass. These robes are lent to the confirmandi by Our Lady of Angels parish, and returned after the reception.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Religious Education Office: 703-494-3696

Email: religioused@olacc.org

www.ourladyskids.org

FAX: 703-494-3117

Please do not wait until the last week to finish your projects.
A deadline will be established and will be strictly enforced.
This will ensure the staff has time to coordinate the projects and ceremony.
Thank you for your cooperation.