

*Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church*  
**Confirmation Process Outline**

The Confirmation preparation process in the Diocese of Orange consists of a two-year program, normatively beginning with students in the ninth grade. The Rite of Confirmation is celebrated with the local Bishop during the Easter season.

**Parent and Student Confirmation Orientation Dinner Meetings** (two separate meetings are held for year I & Year II families).

**Year II: Sunday, September 25**, from 6:00-7:30 PM (grade 10+ students and parents).

**Year I: Sunday, October 2**, from 6:00-7:30 PM (grade 9 students and parents). The meetings cover an explanation of the program details.

**The Confirmation Process is built on the R.C.I.A. Model** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) which includes five distinct periods of preparation:

- I. **Inquiry:** Evangelization and PreCatechumenate.
- II. **Catechesis:** Catechumenate
- III. **Spiritual Formation:** Purification and Enlightenment.
- IV. **Initiation:** Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- V. **Post Sacramental Catechesis:** Mystagogia, knowledge unfolding.

**I. Inquiry Phase:** Sunday, September 25 - Sunday, November 13: Confirmation Candidates are invited to witness and experience the love and life of Jesus Christ. **Candidates meet Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:30 PM** immediately after the 5 PM Mass in the parish hall. We provide a dinner with a meeting following. All "Youth Ministry" functions are part of the process. Students will also meet individually with program coordinator, John Bruscia, for a "discovery interview."

**Commitment to Participate, "Rite of Acceptance":** Sunday, November 13, 5 PM Mass. The Rite provides an introduction of our **confirmation candidates and their sponsors** to our parish community. They will be called forward to participate in a "Rite of Acceptance" ceremony marking the movement into the "systematic-catechesis" phase of the program. The parish community will participate by selecting names of candidates and praying with and for them. Sponsors will stay after Mass for dinner and meeting with candidates.

**II. Catechesis Includes Three Distinctive Components:**

1. **Curriculum** (cognitive dimension). Content and subject areas:
  - A. Jesus and Faith
  - B. The Church and its Mission
  - C. Morality and Decision Making
  - D. Prayer and Sacraments.

Curriculum requirements will be met during our Sunday meetings

2. **Formation** (spiritual, moral, affective, inter-personal dimensions). Includes continued participation in:
  - A. Sunday liturgy and liturgical rites and prayers of the church.
  - B. Days of challenge, renewal and retreats.
  - C. Spiritual guidance/direction.

Formation takes place individually when the students participate in the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, the prayer of the church, and through personal and communal prayer and the daily struggles of life. Formation also takes place corporately through our Youth Ministry program: with retreats, prayer experiences, peer counseling, meetings, discussions, service actions, etc. Dates of specific retreat days can be found on the provided "Checklist."

3. **Christian Service and Leadership** (social dimension)
  - A. Individual service and leadership.
  - B. Community service and leadership projects: Students are responsible to generate individual (on their own) service and Christian leadership situations both at OLMC and in the community. Students are also invited to participate in community service and leadership projects presented through our Youth Ministry Program.

**A total of thirty hours are required over the two-year preparation cycle.**

**III. Rite of Election:** Sunday, March 4, 2012, during the 5 PM Mass. **Year II candidates** make a public commitment of their intent to complete the confirmation program. **Candidates, and sponsors, will be called forward to the front of the church for the ceremony.** This marks a transitional period moving to greater "reflection, spiritual formation, purification and enlightenment." Sponsors stay for dinner and meeting with the candidates following Mass.

### **Other Preparation Requirements before the "Rite of Confirmation"**

1. Participation in a "Retreat Experience," see "checklist."
2. Saint's name selection and written paper on why name is chosen.
3. Interview with Pastor/parish priests.
4. Interview with Program Director, John Bruscia.
5. Letter to the Bishop requesting the "Rite of Confirmation."
6. "Confirmation Practice" before the celebration of the Rite.

**IV. Celebration of the Rite of Confirmation:** Confirmation takes place during the Easter Season; proposed dates: 1) Sun., May 6; 2) Sat., May 5; 3) Sat., May 12. The time and date will be assigned to OLMC in November.

**V. Post Sacramental Catechesis:** *Mystagogia*, the continual, sacramental life of the person; knowledge unfolding, the life long practice and celebration of the faith. Confirmation is one of the sacraments of initiation in which Confirmation complements Baptism and leads to the fullness of the Eucharistic banquet. Students are strongly encouraged to continue to participate in parish programs to assist them in their growth. They should seek ways to become actively involved in the life of the parish and in service to the community. Confirmation opens new doors of faith and continued catechesis and practice is essential! Life is full of Grace! God bless you journey!