

# LYNNFIELD CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE CONFIRMATION GUIDE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

2014-2015



Collin McBride

Coordinator of Youth Ministries

[cmcbride@ola-smg.org](mailto:cmcbride@ola-smg.org) | 781.598.4313 x208

# THE LYNNFIELD CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE

Our Lady of the Assumption  
17 Grove Street  
Lynnfield, MA 01940



Saint Maria Goretti  
112 Chestnut Street  
Lynnfield, MA 01940

P. 781.598.4313 F. 781.598.0055

Collin McBride  
cmcbride@ola-smg.org

Andrea Gagnon  
agagnon@ola-smg.org

Michael McDuffee  
mmcduffee@ola-smg.org

*Coordinator of Youth Ministries*  
Lynnfield Catholic Collaborative

*Coordinator of Confirmation*  
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

*Coordinator of Confirmation*  
Saint Maria Goretti Parish

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Introduction .....	Page 4
Program Elements and Expectations .....	Page 5
Monthly Sessions	
Catholic High School Students	
Youth Ministry Events	
Service Projects	
Retreats	
Confirmation Rehearsal and Mass	
Confirmation Name .....	Page 7
Role of the Parents/Guardians.....	Page 8
Tips for Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor .....	Page 9
Behavior, Dress, and Other Student Expectations.....	Page 10
Schedule of Session Dates.....	Page 12

---

*“The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be in the Lord. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land’s afflicted.”*

-Isaiah 11:2-4a

---

---

# INTRODUCTION

---

The High School Faith Formation Program for grades 9-12 is uniquely tailored to address the real world needs of the teens within the parishes of the Lynnfield Catholic Collaborative. This program includes a wide range of dynamic components including a dedicated youth mass with contemporary Christian music, Confirmation preparation (for grades 9 and 10), interactive service projects, mission trips, and challenging activities and competitions all designed to create intentional disciples out of the young people in the Lynnfield Catholic Community.

*Although the High School Faith Formation Program includes preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is not exclusive to teens preparing to receive Confirmation. Components of the High School Faith Formation Program are available to all high school students from grades 9-12.*

The High School Faith Formation Program seeks to achieve the following goals:

1. Foster a maturing faith in Jesus as Lord through youth ministry experiences and opportunities.
2. Invite the young to full membership in the traditions and life of the Catholic community through sacramental preparation and weekly liturgical participation.
3. Empower the young to serve God's Kingdom of justice and peace through service projects, retreats, and mission trips.

Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, an individual responds to the Father's universal call to holiness by committing him/herself to being a disciple of Christ. Confirmation, given only once, imprints an indelible spiritual character, signifying that Christ has marked the Christian with the seal of the Holy Spirit for the sake of Christian witness, and perfecting the common priesthood received in Baptism. The Confirmation Preparation Program at the Lynnfield Catholic Collaborative seeks to foster faith development, participation in the Church community, and service to God's Kingdom through the various program elements.

*Confirmation preparation is an integral part of the ministry which the Lynnfield Catholic Collaborative offers to its young members.*

---

# PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

---

The Confirmation Preparation Program works hand in hand with all elements of the High School Faith Formation Program to provide a comprehensive sacramental preparation experience. All programs preparing Catholic adolescents to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation have to be viewed as an action of the entire Church community. In light of this reality, Confirmation preparation is not limited to a few preparatory sessions but includes components of the wider, comprehensive ministry which the collaborative offers its teens.

## Monthly Sessions

All students preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation are expected to attend the 6 monthly sessions scheduled each year. Each session will follow a catechetical theme designed to form students in their faith through multi-media usage, interactive activities, and introspective discussions. Each session is offered twice a month; once at each parish. Any student who is unable to attend the session at his/her parish should arrange to attend the session at the other parish by contacting the Coordinator of Youth Ministries. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure he/she attends the sessions scheduled. Since it is the responsibility of each parish to make sure all students are prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, any student who fails to attend a session will be required to complete a related assignment which displays the student's comprehension of the material. Students who miss multiple sessions will be asked to have a conversation with the Coordinator of Youth Ministries to discuss his/her intent towards the reception of the sacrament.

## Catholic High School Students

Students who attend a Catholic High School are not *required* to attend sessions in their *first* year of preparation. However, since it is the parish's responsibility to ensure all candidates for confirmation are properly formed, any student who is not present for a particular session will be required to complete an assignment which displays the student's comprehension of the topic covered in the missed session. ***All Catholic High School students are considered part of the program and are invited and encouraged to attend the 6 monthly sessions each year.***

## **Youth Ministry Events**

By its very nature, a Confirmation preparation program is incapable of carrying the entire burden of parish ministry to the young. Therefore, the goals of the program are extended to the entirety of the parish ministry to the young through participation in youth ministry events.

All students (Catholic High School student included) are expected to attend two (2) Youth Ministry nights during each year of sacramental preparation. In order to provide maximum flexibility to accommodate the busy schedules of our teens, each student may choose which nights they wish to attend based on topic, weekday, availability, location, etc...

## **Service Projects**

Since the purpose of Christian service is about serving our Lord in others, there will be less of an emphasis on the number of hours spent on service and more focus on the objective behind the service and the community building it creates within those participating in the service. Therefore, rather than using a clock to determine the validity of service performed, program leaders will use a compass to evaluate how effective the service is in guiding the teens further along their formative path laid out by Jesus for his disciples.

Students are able to complete service through the Confirmation Program in two ways:

1. Participate in one of the scheduled service projects made available through the collaborative.
2. Complete and submit a Service Project Approval Form for service projects or initiatives which students have already undertaken as disciples of Jesus.

## **Retreats**

Retreat opportunities are extremely valuable for teens to unplug from the noise of their daily lives and evaluate their relationship with God and others. Every student (Catholic High School students included) is expected to attend the retreat for their grade level. All students must make every effort to attend the retreat. Any student who is unable to attend the retreat at their parish must make arrangements with the Coordinator of Youth Ministries to attend the retreat at the other parish. These will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

## Confirmation Rehearsal and Mass

Each year, a specific time is set aside for grade 10 students and their sponsors to gain a greater understanding of the Rite of Confirmation and what takes place during the Confirmation Liturgy. The Confirmation Rehearsal will prepare teens, parents, and sponsors for the day of the actual confirmation with an explanation of the logistics for the day as well as spiritual preparation. The Confirmation Rehearsal will take place the Friday before the confirmation mass unless otherwise specified.

---

## CONFIRMATION NAME

---

A name identifies you in a unique way, not just your physical self, but who you are as a person. One of the traditional practices in the Church at the time of Confirmation is choosing a name that will remind you of this sacrament. Your prayerful reflection will help you determine that name. You might want to recommit yourself to your Baptismal name since it expresses the relationship that exists between these two sacraments, especially after you reflect on its meaning and discover some of the people who shared your name in Christian history. You might want to choose the name of a saint who represents the type of Christian you wish to be. It is important to learn as much as you can about your patron saint. After all, you are asking this saint to be your friend and advocate for the rest of your life. Whether you decide to stay with your Baptismal name or pick a new name, take the time to research and explore the root meaning of the name, for as Scripture says, "Yahweh calls each of us by name."

*"But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine."*

-Isaiah 43:1

---

# ROLE OF THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS

---

*The following are guidelines for the Parent/Guardian of a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation as well as opportunities for adult religious formation:*

1. Parents/Guardians ought to live out the commitment made at the child's baptism, when they accepted the "responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith." (*Rite of Baptism for Children*) Parents/Guardians should be open to continued and renewed growth in their own faith through participation in the sacramental life of the Church, especially in regular Sunday celebration of the Eucharist, and in daily prayer. Parents/Guardians should make every effort to be involved in the parish Confirmation preparation program for their children. (*Archdiocese of Boston Pastoral Guidelines and Policies, Book II, p. 6018*)
2. Parents/Guardians should take seriously their responsibility as primary educators of their children and raise them in the practice of the Catholic faith. This includes providing for a formal program of instruction in Catholic doctrine, and promoting family participation in the liturgical life of the Church. (*Archdiocese of Boston Pastoral Guidelines and Policies, Book II, p, 6017 as taken from the National Catechetical Directory, #119*)
3. Parents/Guardians ought to give prayerful support and encouragement to the candidate in matters pertaining to the practice of the Catholic faith.
4. Parents/Guardians should support the candidate through Confirmation preparation and continue that support in post-confirmation continuing faith development. This involves an appreciation of the sacramental life of the Church and an understanding of what that means in the candidate's everyday life (e.g. moral decision making).

*(Source: Preparing for Confirmation: Resources and Guidelines, Archdiocese of Boston)*

**We strongly recommend that all parents prayerfully consider volunteering to be a member of the High School Core Team which will serve as a group of catechists and leaders responsible for the formation of the teens in the program. This team is vital to the success of the program and the Collaborative will provide any information or formation that may be needed to serve in this capacity.**



---

# TIPS FOR CHOSING A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

---

Look first to one of your Baptism godparents. Because of the connection between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, the Church encourages you to invite your godmother or godfather to be your confirmation sponsor. “It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor [godparent] at Baptism be sponsor at Confirmation. (*Code of Canon Law, Canon 893*)

If there is a valid reason why the Baptismal Godparent is not available, (e.g., death, a non-practicing Catholic) then look for a person who fits this description from Canon Law: **The sponsor must be a confirmed member living a life in harmony with the Catholic Church.** (*Code of Canon Law, Canon 874*)

*Remember, your sponsor must be a baptized and confirmed Catholic but cannot be your mother or father.*

What does it mean to live a live in harmony with the Catholic Church? Look for a person who is:

- Faithful to Sunday Mass and reception of the sacraments.
- A living witness to the Catholic faith.
- A person of prayer. He or she has spoken about or indicated an understanding of the importance of personal prayer.
- Aware of a Christian’s responsibility to follow Jesus in service of others. Someone who donates time or money to help the poor, works with youth, visits the homebound, helps at the local food pantry, or does other forms of service.
- Honest. A person of integrity who is willing to speak up and stand up for what is right even in the face of opposition. A person who encourages you to do the same.
- Someone you know well and who knows you well. Someone with whom you will have an on-going relationship.

Did you recognize anyone in the description above? Think about the people in your life: aunts, uncles, older sisters or brothers, parent of a friend, a neighbor, or a teacher at school. It is a huge privilege to be asked to be a Confirmation sponsor. The person you chose should recognize this and take it seriously. He/she should be your prayer partner and mentor in the faith long after the oil of Confirmation is gone from your forehead.

---

# BEHAVIOR, DRESS, AND OTHER STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

---

To honor God and be a witness to the world, The Lynnfield Catholic Collaborative has certain standards of behavior and dress for our High School Faith Formation Program. It is very important that our youth are setting a good example to others. The Church should not be a place where young people have to worry about acting or dressing for popularity. Instead, we want their focus to be on sacramental preparation and discovering what God may be trying to teach them and the simple joy that comes from being together in the Lord.

In order to promote this culture, we have set forth a list of guidelines when it comes to participating in the High School Faith Formation Program.

## **Behavior Policy**

All teens and adults are expected to be Christ to others. Students who are unable adhere to the behavior guidelines may be asked to leave a session or event. Students are expected to:

- Be respectful to each other, adults and volunteers, and all parish and personal property.
- Refrain from texting/cell phone use unless permitted to do so.
- Bring any concerns to the attention of the coordinator or other adult leader.

If repeated behavior issues arise, parents will be asked to meet with the Coordinator of Youth Ministries (and potentially other parish team members). If a problem cannot be resolved, we will meet as a team to develop a plan that is better suited to the individual's learning needs and/or environment.

Bullying and harassment, verbal or physical, will not be tolerated at the Lynnfield Catholic Collaborative. Parents will be contacted if any instances are reported or discovered and will be investigated by the parish or other agencies when appropriate.

***The Lynnfield Catholic Collaborative and its ministers serve as mandated reporters of any expressed, implied, or suspected cases/situations of abuse, neglect, or other criminal actions. The safety and wellbeing of the teens in our programs is paramount and any of these instances will be reported to the authorities.***

## **Appropriate Dress Policy**

Any students who does not adhere to the dress standards may be asked to change before returning to a session or event.

- Sleeves must be worn to all events. No spaghetti straps, halter-tops, tube tops, tank tops, cut-offs, etc.
- Hemlines and necklines should be modest. No low cut tops.
- No skin-tight clothes (cycling shorts, spandex, yoga pants, etc...).
- Make sure your pants are not hanging low. Avoid revealing your undergarments please.
- No short shorts or skirts.
- “Message Pants” are not allowed. School or sports apparel is acceptable, but no sayings or slogans.
- Clothing promoting tobacco, alcohol, cigarettes, sex, or questionable sayings or slogans is prohibited.
- No bare midriffs. Shirts should be long enough to tuck in or so that no skin is visible.

## **Other Expectations**

Teens are expected to arrive to events/sessions prepared and in a timely fashion. All events will start at the given time so plan to arrive a few minutes early. Please be respectful of the time, energy and resources that are spent on each activity. All leaders in the program invest a high level of commitment in the education and formation of the faith in our collaborative’s teens. Prompt arrival will allow for an on-time dismissal from events/sessions.

# SCHEDULE OF SESSION DATES

---

## 2014

Parent Meeting	Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Our Lady of the Assumption	7-8pm
Parent Meeting	Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Saint Maria Goretti	7-8pm
Session 1	Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Our Lady of the Assumption	6:30-8pm
Session 1	Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Maria Goretti	6-7:30pm
Session 2	Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Our Lady of the Assumption	6:30-8pm
Session 2	Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Maria Goretti	6-7:30pm
Session 3	Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Our Lady of the Assumption	6:30-8pm
Session 3	Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Maria Goretti	6-7:30pm

## 2015

Session 4	Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Our Lady of the Assumption	6:30-8pm
Session 4	Jan. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Maria Goretti	6-7:30pm
Session 5	Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Our Lady of the Assumption	6:30-8pm
Session 5	Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Saint Maria Goretti	6-7:30pm
Session 6	Mar. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Our Lady of the Assumption	6:30-8pm
Session 6	Mar. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Maria Goretti	6-7:30pm

*If you cannot make a session it is your responsibility to make arrangements with the Coordinator of Youth Ministries to attend the session at the other parish. Students who miss multiple sessions will be asked to have a conversation with the Coordinator of Youth Ministries to discuss his/her intent towards the reception of the sacrament.*

### **Mandatory Grade 9 Retreat**

Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> OLA 1-5pm

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> SMG 1-5pm

### **Mandatory Grade 10 Retreat**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Confirmation Rehearsal**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Confirmation Mass**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_