

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH

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Dear Parents

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Congratulations on your decision to get your child confirmed! As you know, confirmation will complete your child's initiation into the Catholic Church. Here are the things you need to know to make this important decision!

Program: We will be using the program "Chosen", from Ascension Press. Chosen is a very good program, and very thorough. But because it is American, and Americans get confirmed in grade 12, it is targeted at that age group. Therefore we will select highlights from the program for the candidates instead of watching the whole thing, while still covering all of the content necessary.

However, covering the necessary teachings is only one component of the formation of confirmation candidates. We also want them to build relationships with each other as ultimately the Church is a community of believers, and to develop an authentic and personal relationship with God. In order to facilitate these other two objectives, we will be running the bulk of the program with other parishes in a retreat format at Our Lady of Victory Camp. Candidates are expected to attend both retreats in their entirety. The retreats will be fun and engaging and will hopefully provide students with a powerful experience of God.

Students will need to bring to the retreats weather appropriate clothing, a sleeping bag and pillow, toiletries, and snacks to share. We will also have two evening sessions in the year built into the regular Youth Ministry Program.

It is preferable that students remain at the camp overnight, however we are aware that some parents are not comfortable with overnight events. The camp is nearby, and if parents prefer to pick their kids up for the overnight portion that option is available.

Directions: OLVC is 10 minutes from the town of Bentley, AB. Travel east from Bentley on 50 Ave. Turn north on Range Rd 11. OLVC is at the end of the road, on the shore of Gull Lake.

Weekly Mass: It is expected that every Catholic will attend Sunday Mass on a weekly basis. Our Lady of the Assumption Parish has two Sunday Masses- Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 11:00am. Candidates may choose to attend Mass at another Catholic Church, but they must attend Mass every week leading up to confirmation, and are expected to continue after confirmation.

Confirmation Sponsor: Each candidate will need a confirmation sponsor who will stand with them on the day of their confirmation. The sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, 16 years or older, who is fully initiated into the Catholic Church, ie; baptized, confirmed, and has received first communion.

Confirmation Saint: Most candidates choose a confirmation saint, and take that saint's name, many even adding it to their legal name. Saints are often chosen because the candidate has a devotion to that

particular saint, or because they are the patron saint of something the student is interested in. For example, St. Sebastian is the patron of Athletes, and St. Cecilia is the patron of music. Parents might also suggest St. Jude, the patron of lost causes.

Cost: The cost for the whole program is \$80, payable to Our Lady of the Assumption Parish. This includes the cost of food and lodging at OLVC, as well as the Chosen program.

Volunteers: This program will be facilitated by Peter van Kampen and Cheyanna Borrowman, as well as Mr. Locke from Mother Teresa School. We will also have candidates and adults joining us from other communities, so there will be a very strong team putting on the program. However, more help is needed! **We particularly need help in the kitchen.**

Parent Volunteers are needed to help with retreats/ events. The Archdiocese requires that we have 2 adults for every 15 youth in attendance. We need help in the kitchen, a nurse for each weekend, and help with supervision. Adults must have a police check and Safe Environment training, provided by the Church, in order to serve as volunteers.

Important Dates

Sep 10- Parent info night, 7pm. Please bring your registration form, cheque for \$80, and baptismal certificate to this meeting. This is a parent meeting, youth need not attend.

Oct 4-5- Retreat. Starts at 10:00am Saturday through 3pm Sunday. At Our Lady of Victory Camp

Oct 21- Confirmation session at youth group. 7-9pm at Church.

April 25-26- Spring Retreat. Starts at 10:00am Saturday through 3pm Sunday. At Our Lady of Victory Camp

May 12- Confirmation session at youth group. 7-9pm at Church.

June 21- Sacrament of Confirmation, 11am.

If you have any questions about the formation program, please contact me, Peter van Kampen, at peter.vankampen@rdcrs.ca or 403-848-0955.

In Christ,

Peter van Kampen