



PURPOSE

Purpose Confirmation Preparation Our Lady of Lourdes

Purpose is Life Teen's transformative plan for confirmation preparation. More than a resource, *Purpose* is designed to help proclaim the Gospel message to young people while providing an atmosphere where they are accompanied by adult leaders toward discipleship.

Impactful Curriculum:

The *Purpose* curriculum is 24 lessons, adapted into a 12-week program, focused on three big questions - "Why believe in God?" "Why trust Jesus?" and "Why belong to the Church?" This curriculum is designed to be faith forming with an emphasis on walking a teenager from an unfounded belief (or disbelief) in God toward a commitment to Jesus lived out through the Catholic Church. Each session is supplemented with videos that engage the hearts, mind, and humor of teenagers.

Powerful App Platform:

The Life Teen Purpose mobile application is a companion app for the Purpose curriculum. This app platform is designed to ease communication between youth ministers and families. The app provides a space for information on important events and deadlines to reach parents and teenagers. Parents and students are asked to download the Life Teen Purpose app (available for iOS and Android).

Parent Involvement:

The classes for the Sacrament of Confirmation will have a strong focus on the family's role as the "Domestic Church." **Parents are required to attend six (6) of the confirmation sessions**, to learn how they can better equip and ready their teen for the sacrament of Confirmation. Parents are to attend sessions on **Oct 20th, Nov 3rd, Nov 17th, Dec 8th, Jan 5th, and Jan 26th**. In addition to the session, parents and sponsors can dive into the "*Story Guide*" (available through the app) and find readings for each of the 24 Purpose lessons so they can follow along with their candidate's confirmation preparation.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Parish Family

Confirmation Preparation Requirements:

All teens that are a part of the Confirmation process for the 2019-2020 year are asked to:

1. **Practice your faith** regularly by participating in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.
2. **Register for Confirmation Preparation** on our website. Registration fee (\$120) includes the cost of books, supplies, and retreat
3. **Write a Letter to Father Gary** stating why you would like to be Confirmed. See instructions in the packet pertaining to the Letter. Please turn this letter in by **Thursday, August 1st**. After the letter is received, an interview with Fr. Gary will be set up during our Day Retreat.
4. **Turn in a copy of your Baptism Certificate** and First Communion Certificate if those Sacraments were not received at Our Lady of Lourdes. A copy of the certificates should be turned in by Sunday, **Oct. 27th**
5. **Attend all classes** on the schedule. Attendance is required for all classes, retreats, rites, rehearsal, and the Sacrament. The only excused absences are for illness (to the degree that a child is kept home from school) and family emergency. A teen who has excessive absences will need to wait until the following year to celebrate the sacrament. Scheduling conflicts such as sporting events, practices, or other extracurricular activities will NOT be considered an excused absence. Preparation for the Sacrament is expected to take precedence over those other types of activities.

Class Schedule: All classes are in Conmy Rooms B/C from 2:30pm-4:45pm

- Registration & Day Retreat: **October 20th** 12:30pm-5:00pm
 - Parent(s) and teen attend
- *Rite of Welcoming*: **October 20th** at the 5:00pm Life Teen Mass
- Fall 2018 Sessions: **October 27; November 3, 10, 17, 24 & December 8**
 - *Rite of Enrollment*: **November 3rd** at 5:00 PM Life Teen Mass
- Spring 2019 Sessions: **January 5, 12, 26**
- Life Teen Retreat: **January 17th-19th**
- Confirmation Rehearsal will be at 4:15pm during **January 26th** class.
 - Sponsor/parent and teen must attend
- *Rite of Completion*: **January 26th** at the 5:00pm Life Teen Mass
- Sacrament of Confirmation: February of 2020. Bishop Parkes chooses this date and as soon as we know of the date, you will be made aware.

6. **Select a Sponsor:** someone 16 years of age or older, received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation and if married, is married in the Catholic Church. Your sponsor should be chosen as a person who can be a role model and mentor. The Sponsor cannot be a parent.
 - Selection of Confirmation Sponsor Reflection.
 - All Reflections must include:
 - Your name
 - Name of the Sponsor you have chosen.
 - The Parish your Sponsor is registered in.
 - A brief description of who they are.
 - Why they impact your life?
 - What causes you to want to aspire to be like this person?
 - We will need a letter from the Sponsor's parish stating that he/she is in good standing with the Catholic Church. The letter is due by Sunday, **December 8th.**
7. **Be a good steward.** Stewardship is an integral part of the Confirmation journey. Confirmation candidates should be involved in experiences that enable them to use their gifts and talents in service of others. **All candidates must complete three Spiritual and three Volunteer Opportunities**, fill out the appropriate forms (see attached), and turn them in to the Faith Formation Office by **January 5th, 2020.**
8. **Select a Confirmation Saint.** You should take time to research Saints and select a Saint whose life is something you would like to emulate. Some ideas to get you started are to look at who is the patron of something you are passionate about, a Saint with the same/similar name as you, or a Saint whose feast day is your birthday or baptism date. **All candidates for Confirmation are to complete a Saint Essay.** All essays are due **November 17th.**
 - All projects must include:
 1. Your name
 2. Name of the saint you have chosen
 3. A brief description of the life of your saint
 4. The feast day of your saint
 5. Why they impact your life?
 6. What causes you to want to aspire to be like this Saint?
 - Essays should be two pages in length, handwritten, including all the information above.
9. To help you build a strong faith life and community with other young Catholics, Confirmation candidates are asked **to be active in a Faith Formation program during** the Confirmation journey. This can be Catholic school, Life Teen, bible study or an alternate program approved by the Director of Faith Formation.
10. **Attend the Life Teen Retreat** as part of the preparation process, in addition to the Day Retreat. Life Teen Retreat is held at the Bethany Center **January 17th-19th 2020.** We meet at the Bethany Center at 7:00pm Friday evening and return via bus to OLL for the 5:00pm Life Teen Mass on Sunday the 19th.
11. Be registered at Our Lady of Lourdes with your family.

Letter to Fr. Gary

We ask all Confirmation Candidates to write a letter of intent to Fr. Gary. This letter should state your desire to be Confirmed in the Catholic faith and is the first step in the Confirmation process. The letter must be received **by August 1st**.

On October 27th, Father Gary will interview each candidate during class. The interview is NOT a pass/fail but rather a way for our pastor to know each of you and truly see your desire to participate in the Sacrament.

The letter should be:

- Handwritten
- Approximately one page in length (2-3 paragraphs)
- Introduce yourself to Fr. Gary and tell him a few things about yourself
- Explain where you are currently in your faith journey
- Detail 2-3 reasons why you would like to be Confirmed
- Write as best you can! Do not worry too much about grammar or spelling.

We just want to hear your voice/opinion!

Letters should be in a sealed envelope. They can be turned in one of three ways:

- By mail (our address is below)
- In the collection basket during Mass on Sunday
- To the Faith Formation office during weekday hours
 - o 9:00 am-5:00 pm Monday-Thursday
 - o 9:00am-12:00pm Friday

Please label the envelope:

Fr. Gary Dowsey
Attn: Confirmation Letter
750 San Salvador Drive
Dunedin, FL 34698

Please include the follow on the letter:

First Name Last Name
Address
City, State Zip
Phone Number

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this step.

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Please complete **three Spiritual Opportunities**, fill out the reflection journal for each opportunity, and turn them in to the Faith Formation Office by **January 6, 2020**.

The spirituality of stewardship should seek to integrate the truths of our Catholic faith, the sacred Scriptures and the Mass into our daily actions. Spirituality has real meaning in our lives and the lives of others because we connect to the source of that meaning, Jesus Christ and His Church. Stewardship is a way of living, not merely a program offered through a parish.

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES IDEAS

- Attend Daily Mass (Monday-Saturday) once a month
- Pray the Rosary with your family and/or friends weekly
- Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet with your family and/or friends weekly
- Watch a Catholic movie and spend time sharing your thoughts on it with a good friend or family member.
- Read a Catholic book and spend time sharing your thoughts on it with a good friend or family member.
- Read a Catholic blog every day for one week. Share your thoughts with a friend or family member or comment on the blog.
- Learn a Traditional prayer of the church that you don't already know and pray it during the Confirmation process.
- Research Novenas and commit to praying one for an intention.
- Go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation 3 times between now and the time you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Visit the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays during Adoration in the Chapel.
- Begin journaling to talk to God. Spend every day for one week writing to God in the journal as a form of prayer.
- Find a prayer that is to your Confirmation Saint. Commit to memorizing the prayer.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." - 1 Peter 4:10

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." - 1 Peter 4:10

All candidates must complete **three Volunteer Opportunities**, fill out the reflection journal for each opportunity, and turn them in to the Faith Formation Office by **January 5, 2020**. Stewardship is an integral part of the Confirmation journey. Confirmation candidates should be involved in experiences that enable them to use their gifts and talents in service of others. Candidates should serve at each of their volunteer opportunities for 5 or more hours.

"Stewards of God's gifts are not passive beneficiaries. We cooperate with God in our own redemption and in the redemption of others. We are also obliged to be stewards of the Church—collaborators and cooperators in continuing the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, which is the Church's essential mission. This mission—proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying—is our task. It is the personal responsibility of each one of us as stewards of the Church." -USCCB

SOME VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IDEAS

- **Vacation Bible School:** June 8th and June 10th-14th
- **Fall Festival:** October 10th-13th (required)
 - We are asking all candidates to volunteer at the Fall Festival as one way to experience serving the parish. It will also be a great moment for the candidates to work together.
- **Faith Formation Classroom Aid:** Sundays 9am-11am or 10:30am-12pm
- **Edge Middle School Youth Group:** Wednesdays 6pm-8pm
- **Living Nativity Practice/Play:** December 8th and 15th, 12:45pm-2pm and Christmas Eve 5pm Family Mass
- **Breakfast with Santa:** December 8th, 9am-1pm
- Any Corporal Work of Mercy*

* Corporal Works of Mercy are the way in which we extend God's compassion and mercy to the world by helping our neighbors with material and physical needs. They include: Feeding the Hungry, Giving Drink to the Thirsty, Clothing the Naked, Sheltering the Homeless, Visiting the Sick, Visiting the Imprisoned, Burying the Dead

We have several opportunities offered through Our Lady of Lourdes, but candidates can also participate in non-parish sponsored events so long as it is a Corporal Work of Mercy.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Parish Family

Confirmation Preparation Commitment Form:

I, _____ have read and understand the requirements for the preparation of the Sacrament. I agree to having all paperwork turned in no later than January 5, 2020. I agree to complete the items and I desire to be part of this process.

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Stewardship Spiritual Reflection Journal

Spiritual Opportunity: _____

Why did you select this spiritual opportunity? _____

What was your favorite part of this spiritual opportunity? _____

What lessons and/or blessings did you bring away from this experience? _____

Do you feel this spiritual opportunity opened your heart to God working in your life? Why or why not? _____

Would you repeat this type of stewardship? Why or why not? _____

Name: _____

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Name: _____

Stewardship Volunteer Reflection Journal

Service Location/Project: _____

How did you serve others in your community? _____

Why did you choose this project? _____

What talents/skills did you use during this work? How did the recipients of your service react to you? _____

What lessons and/or blessings did you bring away from this experience? _____

Would you repeat this type of stewardship? Why or why not? _____

SIGNATURE VERIFYING COMPLETE SERVICE PROJECT BY VOLUNTEER LEADER:

X _____

Name: _____

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What lessons and/or blessings did you bring away from this experience? _____

Would you repeat this type of stewardship? Why or why not? _____

SIGNATURE VERIFYING COMPLETE SERVICE PROJECT BY VOLUNTEER LEADER:

X _____

Name: _____

Selection of Confirmation Sponsor Reflection:

Name of Sponsor: _____

The Parish your Sponsor is registered in: _____

A brief description of who they are. _____

How has this person impacted your life? _____

What causes you to want to aspire to be like this person? _____
