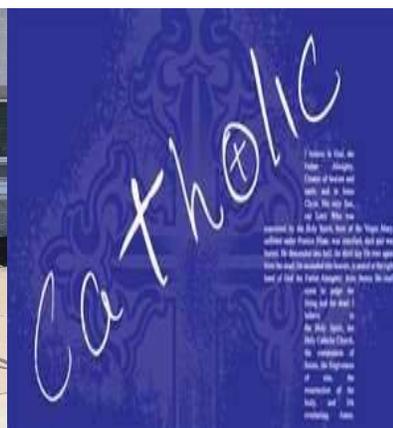




Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church
Senior High Youth Ministry
Grades 9-12

L.I.G.H.T. GUIDEBOOK 2018-2019



*Guide for High School Life-Long Faith Formation
Including preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation*

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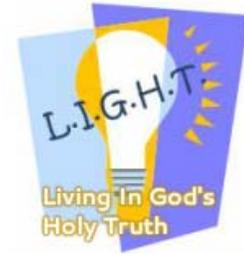
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All About the L.I.G.H.T....



Welcome to the L.I.G.H.T. Youth Ministry!

Faith formation is a life-long journey! The L.I.G.H.T. (Living in God's Holy Truth) program is designed to nourish and strengthen faith formation during all four years of high school. The courses and activities within the program are geared toward strengthening the high school teens' relationship with Jesus, increasing their desire to serve and affirming their understanding of the Catholic Church.

The L.I.G.H.T. program encompasses four "Basic" faith themes: Profession of Faith, Sacraments of Faith, Life of Faith, and Prayer in the Life of Faith. Through thought-provoking classroom instruction, social activities, and service and discipleship projects, the teens will understand that faith is a journey for life and that the sacrament of Confirmation becomes *part* of the journey -- not the end of the journey.

Lessons and activities are geared for **all** high school teens, not just those interested in receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. As the name of the program implies, we are trying to instill a way to ***Live In God's Holy Truth***.

This guidebook will take you through the program we have designed and prepared. A listing of our courses and activities is also provided as well as the registration information for courses and retreats. Please note that while the sacrament of Confirmation is offered through this program, there is no set time frame for a teen to go through this process. A participant may complete the preparation in the same time frame as past programs, but we also allow for flexibility and readiness of the student.

Please know that we are here to serve you and your family. If you ever need assistance or have a question, please feel free to contact us at any time. We thank you for the opportunity to partner with you on this life-long journey of faith!

Always In Christ,

L.I.G.H.T. Planning Team

Dave Miserendino
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry



What is Catholic Youth Ministry...

The Catholic bishops of the United States defined Catholic youth ministry in the 1997 document [*Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*](#) (RTV). This document, printed in both English and Spanish, provides a structure for the ministry as well as a language, theology, and pastoral approach for responding to the personal and spiritual needs of today's adolescents.

“What is needed today is a church which knows how to respond to the expectations of young people. Jesus wants to enter into dialogue with them and, through his body, which is the church, to propose the possibility of a choice, which will require a commitment of their lives. As Jesus with the disciples of Emmaus, so the church must become the traveling companion of young people...”
(Pope John Paul II, World Youth Day 1995, Philippines)

The church must become the traveling companion of young people—and that is what we mean by youth ministry. If, indeed, “it takes an entire village to raise a child,” then it certainly takes an entire church to journey with young people as they grapple with the Good News and respond in discipleship.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops, in their 1997 document, *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*, identified three goals and eight components which provide direction for this ministry. Youth ministry, at its best, is characterized by the following five hallmarks:

- Discipleship
- Connection
- Giftedness and growth
- Comprehensiveness
- Entire church (parish) involvement



Goal 1

Youth Ministry ... it's about discipleship

The first goal of youth ministry is “to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.” (RTV 9). Young people are “searching for a noble adventure”, a compelling and challenging vision of life, and a cause worth their commitment. They hunger to hear the Good News that finds response in discipleship. As their companions on this spiritual journey, some of the ways the Church fulfills this first goal of youth ministry is by...

Goal 2

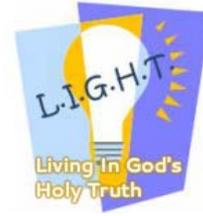
Youth Ministry ... it's about connection

The second goal is “to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.” (RTV 11). Young people have a hunger for connection, to be in relationship, and to belong. Family, peers, school, youth serving organizations, and church are primary connections for young people. Some of the ways the church fulfills this second goal of youth ministry is by...

Goal 3

Youth Ministry ... it's about gifts and growth

The third goal of youth ministry is “to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.” (RTV 15). Adolescence is an important time for mental, spiritual, social, and physical growth. Their experiences and relationships greatly influence their healthy and positive development. The Church strives to surround young people with the best possible external scaffolds—networks of caring relationships of family, school, peers, and other adults—while young people are developing their internal psychological and spiritual backbone—their values, life skills, commitments, and moral compass. The Church fulfills this third goal of youth ministry by...



What is our L.I.G.H.T. Program...

L.I.G.H.T. Kick-Off for ALL Parents & Teens!

Our Kick-Off events for L.I.G.H.T. will be on Saturday, October 27th, at 9:00 a.m. and Tuesday, October 30th, at 7:00 p.m. in the OLM Church. All teens in L.I.G.H.T. and at least ONE parent are asked to attend ONE of these two sessions. Teen Bibles, Folders and Journals will be given out to all teens new to the L.I.G.H.T. Program. Schedules for courses currently signed up for will also be giving out to ALL students as well as a review of what will be happening this coming year.

Teen Alpha Nights

All high school teens are invited to Alpha Nights held in the Fall (Starting Sept. 9th) for 10 weeks. We will meet on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:30 PM (after 5:30 PM Mass) in the PLC for a meal, faith topic and discussion. These nights are designed to help teens grow in their basic Christian faith and grow together as a community while having fun and meeting new people! Teens can sign-up by contacting Dave in the YM Office.

Basic and Faith Elective Mini-Courses

We will offer various mini-courses for high school teens at many different days and times throughout the year. Our focus is on flexibility and content of specific faith topics that will help teens grow in their faith. We have designed four (4) "Basics of Our Catholic Faith" courses that we feel every high school teen should participate. These include Morality and Justice, Prayer and Worship, Meeting Jesus in Scripture and Being Catholic.

We have also designed "Faith and Life" elective courses that teens can choose based on their interest and needs. These range from developing relationships, prayer, Mary, church teachings, media, peer/friend issues, etc.

Most of our courses are 4 sessions in length and held during 4 consecutive weeks, while others are one day workshops or events. They are usually held in the Parish Life Center (other locations will be noted).

Please refer to the course descriptions section in this guidebook.

Community and Social Events for Teens

Various opportunities to get together and socialize with other teens are also available through L.I.G.H.T. The following are some of the activities that are planned throughout the year:

- Catholic Teen Nights (held with other local churches)
- Open Gym Nights and organized sports
- Chili Bowl Flag Football Tournament
- Teen Friendsgiving Dinner and Christmas Party
- Winter Sledding/Tubbing event
- Lock-In overnight event
- Other various events TBA

Sacrament of Confirmation Program Requirements

Before entering the Sacramental Program, students are required to complete the following:

- ❖ All 4 "Basics of Our Catholic Faith Mini-Courses": *Being Catholic, Morality and Justice, Meeting Jesus in Scripture and Prayer and Worship*
- ❖ At least 2 "Faith & Life Elective Mini-Courses" which are aimed at deepening their faith and conviction.
- ❖ Search Retreat (2 dates offered in the Winter Quarter each year)
- ❖ 3 Service electives which are focused on serving others.
- ❖ 4 Discipleship electives aimed at making the teen a disciple for Christ within the community.

Once the above prerequisites are met, the Confirmation Preparation Program requires the following:

1. Starting January 1st, please return the **Sacrament of Confirmation "Letter of Intent" and "Course/Retreat Registration Form"** by the established deadline. Once all the necessary forms and paperwork are turned in to the Youth Ministry Office, candidates will be notified that they are registered in the Confirmation Preparation Program.
2. Attend the Opening Session: Seder Meal & Presentation for **Candidates, Sponsors & Parents.**
3. Attend all four session of the Confirmation Preparation Course (offered in the Spring Quarter of each year). The themes presented include:
 - a. Baptism: including the meaning of dying and rising, salvation, freedom and sin.
 - b. On-going conversion including the life-long Journey of Faith and the need for reconciliation, especially through the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - c. Jesus Christ: including the meaning of his life, death and resurrection for our salvation and his meaning for individuals and the Church today.
 - d. The mission of the Church: including responsibilities of membership; witness to the faith; the call to ministry; action on behalf of justice; preferential option for the poor.
 - e. The community of Faith: including the communal dimension to faith; the chrisms and gifts of the Spirit; and the body of Christ, as well as the institutional dimensions of the Church.
 - f. The Presence of the Spirit: including reflection on the life and presence of the Spirit in the Church and in the life of the believer; discernment of the presence of the Spirit.
 - g. Confirmation: including a presentation and explanation of the Rite itself and the signs and symbols of the sacrament.
 - h. The Eucharist: including its place in the life of the individual and the community.
4. Participate in the Harvest Saturday Food Drive and Collection (Can be done before entering Confirmation preparation program.)
5. Attend the Discovery Retreat after prep classes completed (offered in the Summer quarter).
6. Interview (Candidate & Sponsor/Parent).
7. Rehearsal and Ceremony (held each Fall)

A Family and Sponsor Guidebook will be given out to families at the Opening Session.

Check List for the Sacrament of Confirmation Program

Please use this form to guide you in the Sacrament of Confirmation preparation. Please check off courses/requirements as they are completed so you can keep track of your progress.

<p>Basic of Our Catholic Faith Courses Completed: <i>(All 4 are required)</i></p> <p>Being Catholic (Date _____)</p> <p>Morality and Justice (Date _____)</p> <p>Prayer and Worship (Date _____)</p> <p>Meeting Jesus in Scripture (Date _____)</p>	<p>Faith and Life Elective Course Completed: <i>(2 courses required)</i></p> <p>1) _____</p> <p>2) _____</p> <p>3) _____</p> <p>4) _____</p>
<p>Service Elective Projects Completed <i>(3 credits required)</i></p> <p>1) _____</p> <p>2) _____</p> <p>3) _____</p>	<p>Discipleship Elective Projects Completed <i>(4 credits required)</i></p> <p>1) _____</p> <p>2) _____</p> <p>3) _____</p> <p>4) _____</p>
<p>Search Retreat</p> <p>Completed on _____</p>	<p>Returned Confirmation Intent Form</p> <p>Completed on _____</p>

The following can be completed once the above requirements are met.

<p>Confirmation Opening Session-Seder Meal</p> <p>Completed on _____</p>	<p>Preparation Course (4 sessions)</p> <p>Completed on _____</p>
<p>Harvest Saturday Food Drive & Collection</p> <p>Completed on _____ <i>(This event can be done at any time.)</i></p>	<p>Discovery Retreat</p> <p>Completed on _____</p>
<p>Interview (Candidate and Sponsor)</p> <p>Completed on _____</p>	

Faith formation is life-long, so once a teen is confirmed we want them to stay active in the youth ministry! It all doesn't end when we receive the sacrament!



Service Projects

Serving others is a fundamental part of our Catholic faith. L.I.G.H.T. Service projects help us live out the call of Jesus to serve those in need. These projects help individuals in need, organizations, community efforts, schools, etc. The only requirement is that the project helps a person in need!

Confirmation Requirement: Teens must complete 3 different Service projects.

Teens will be asked to LIST and REFLECT on their Service projects when they complete their Confirmation Letter of Intent in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sign-up for ALL projects is now done ONLINE! Please go to the following link to see the projects available, descriptions and to sign-up! You may also go to our webpage to access this page!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=c.SignUpSearch&eid=0FC7CBDF8CCF7&cs=09B5BAD88FBF8B137B0764745BC1>

These are some of the Service Projects Offered:

A minimum of three (3) different projects are required.

Parish Little Lambs Nursery Help with childcare on Sundays at 9 or 10:45AM mass. (Must attend 4 sessions)	Children's Liturgy of the Word (C.L.O.W.) Help handout materials, share bible stories, etc at 9 or 10:45AM mass. (Must attend 6 sessions)
Seder Meal Teen Assistant Help with set-up, food serving and clean-up at the Confirmation Seder Meal. <i>(Cannot be attending the Seder Meal as a participant)</i>	Salvation Army Bell Ringing Help ring the bell outside of Mariano's to raise money for the Salvation Army. (Must attend 2-4 hour shift)
Friday Family Feasts Help set-up, serve food, bus tables, clean-up, etc. (Must attend a 2 hour shift)	Harvest Saturday Food Drive Help collect food door to door in the community to support our local food pantry.
Pancake Breakfast Teens will help with the Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast held throughout the year.	Mercy Fest Volunteer Help with various events (parking, crafts, selling tickets, etc.) at Mercy Fest.
Hike for Hesed Raise money for Hesed House and then walk/run in the annual event.	St. Vincent DePaul Clothing Drive Teens will help load donations into the truck in the parking lot before and after a mass.
RE Craft/Office Work and/or Bulletin Stuffing Held at various times throughout the year. You will be notified via email.	Diocesan Appeal Weekend Teens will assist at a mass by distributing and collecting donation envelopes.
Plan you Own Service Project <i>(these are planned by the teen on their own within the local community, neighborhood or school)</i>	Fall Clean Up Teens will assist parishioners with yard clean-up, leaf raking, and general clean-up.

Other projects will be posted on the "Online Sign-Up" page throughout the year.



Discipleship Projects

An important goal of the L.I.G.H.T. program is to empower our high school teens to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in today's world. To help them on their spiritual journey, the LIGHT program enables teens to be disciples through involvement in a ministry and/or leadership opportunities. These projects help the teen share their faith with other through teaching, learning and doing!

Confirmation Requirement: Teens must complete at least 4 Discipleship credits.

Teens will be asked to LIST and REFLECT on their Discipleship projects when they complete their Confirmation Letter of Intent in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sign-up for ALL projects is now done ONLINE! Please go to the following link to see the projects available, descriptions and to sign-up! You may also go to our webpage to access this page!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=c.SignUpSearch&eid=0FC7CBDF8CCF7&cs=09B5BAD88FBF8B137B0764745BC1>

These are some of the Discipleship Projects Offered:

A minimum of four (4) credits are required.

<p>Mission Trip & Fundraisers 3 Discipleship Credits Teens can attend the week-long mission trip (out of state) to help and serve needy residents. They will also participate in the fundraisers for this trip.</p>	<p>Teaching Ministry: Co-Catechist for Grades K-5 3 Discipleship Credits Teens can help co-teach (with an adult Catechist) a class for grades K-5. They must make a year-long commitment & sign-up by October 3rd.</p>
<p>Teaching/Mentoring Ministry: EDGE Peer Mentor 3 Discipleship Credits LIGHT teens will serve as mentors and positive role models to EDGE students by reaching them on a personal and spiritual level. Teens must attend training and orientation sessions as well as all EDGE sessions.</p>	<p>Vacation Bible School Teen Leader 2 Discipleship Credits Teens will help with the week-long VBS program held in August. They will assist with drama, crafts, sharing, etc. The teen must be there for all 5 days (morning 8AM until Noon). Sign-up is done after Mass in May-June so check the bulletin for more details.</p>
<p>Reach Out (4 Week Mini-course of Sharing Your Faith) 2 Discipleship Credits Teens will learn how to share their faith as a disciple of Christ. The course will use discussion and video to help teens realize the importance of discipleship. Only 15 spots per course!</p>	<p>Living Stations of the Cross 1 Discipleship Credit Teens will perform the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. They will need to attend a short meeting to assign parts & go over the plan & then attend the rehearsal & performance</p>
<p>Advent and Lenten Forums 1 Discipleship Credit Teens can join our online forum for reflection and discussion on faith and becoming a better disciple of Jesus. These are held during the Advent and Lenten season.</p>	<p>Mass Ministries 1 Discipleship Credit Teen can serve as Ushers, Altar Servers, Lectors and in the Cantor/Music Ministry (must make a year long commitment and attend required training session).</p>
<p>Peer Ministry Team (Retreat team) 1 Discipleship Credit for each retreat worked Teens can serve as a retreat leader for Search & Discovery Retreats as well as other retreats. The teen must have already attended a retreat in order to serve as a leader.</p>	<p>Aurora Day of Service Project 1 or 2 Discipleship Credits Teens will go out into the Aurora community to have a mini-mission trip. They will do work around people's homes including yard work, cleaning windows/garages, etc.</p>
<p>Other Projects done on your own... Teens can do other projects through their community or Catholic School. Contact Dave to see how your project might fit into the Discipleship requirement!</p>	

Other projects will be posted on the "Online Sign-Up" page throughout the year.

Retreat Program

Retreats help high school teens take a greater ownership in their faith and help them prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation. They also provide the teens with the opportunity to share faith discussions and prayer experiences with other teens as well as reflect on their personal gifts and strengths. Retreats help the teens see that God is present in their lives. The following retreats are offered through L.I.G.H.T. and are required in order to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

1. **Search Retreat** (2 dates offered during Winter Quarter)
January 25-26, 2019 & February 8-9, 2019
2. **Discovery Retreat** (offered during the Summer Quarter prior to Confirmation).
** Teens may only attend this retreat if they have completed their Confirmation requirements and have completed the Confirmation Preparation course.*

Family Mass

There will be 3 Family Masses held throughout the year (1 in Fall Quarter, 1 in Winter Quarter, and 1 in Spring Quarter). Our Prayer & Worship Mini-Course teens (from that quarter) will be leading the ministries at the mass. We ask ALL families in our L.I.G.H.T. program to attend these masses. It is a great way to stay connected with the program and support our teens as they grow in their faith and understanding of the Catholic tradition.

Family Mass Dates:

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Sunday, March 3, 2019

Sunday, May 19, 2019

All masses begin at 5:30 PM in the Church

Parent Faith Formation

Opportunities are available within the parish for parents to attend workshops and seminars to help strengthen their faith. These faith-building opportunities are listed online and in the Bulletin. All parents are invited and encouraged to participate in the various faith formation opportunities within the parish.

Also, parents are encouraged to check out our Parent Resources page on the website (<https://olmercy.com/formation/light/resources/>)



Course Descriptions for Basic & Electives...

All 4 week courses are minimum 8, maximum 15 students with the exception of Being Catholic course which is limited to 12 students (and their parents) due to classroom size.

-One-day Workshops are minimum 8, maximum 35 students

Basics of Our Catholic Faith Mini-Courses

The "Basics" courses follow themes set forth from the Catechism of the Catholic Church. All courses are geared towards teens and include activities, discussion, media and prayer.

Morality and Justice

How do we live the right way? What is the right way? Jesus didn't have to live with my parents and doesn't understand what I go through every day. He didn't have peer pressure, Facebook, or a cell phone. How can His teachings have any relevance to my life two thousand years later? This course addresses decision making from the Catholic perspective and the effect of sin on our relationship with God.

Dates offered:

Code	Quarter	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-101	Fall	Morality & Justice	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Sun 6:45-8:15 pm
18-102	Fall	Morality & Justice	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm
18-103	Winter	Morality & Justice	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Sun 9:00-10:30 am
18-104	Winter	Morality & Justice	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm
18-105	Spring	Morality & Justice	4/7,4/14,4/28,5/5	Sun 9:00-10:30 am
18-106	Summer	Morality & Justice	6/4,6/11,6/18,6/25	Tues 6:45-8:15 pm

Prayer and Worship (5 week course, including Family Mass)

Is the Liturgy of the Eucharist a special mass? Where did the *Our Father* originally come from? Are there really parts of dead bodies in our church? What is ordinary time? Why do some people actually like going to mass when I don't seem to get anything out of it? This course will explore different types of prayer, parts of the mass, nuances of our church building, and other topics, all aimed at gaining insights into our rich Catholic tradition and making our weekly sixty minutes with God fulfilling. **Important Note: This course is 5 weeks in length (including 4 classes and 1 Family Mass)**

Dates offered:

Code	Quarter	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-201	Fall	Prayer & Worship	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9 *Family Mass on 12/16	Sun 9:00-10:30 am
18-202	Fall	Prayer & Worship	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9 *Family Mass on 12/16	Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm
18-203	Winter	Prayer & Worship	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24 *Family Mass on 3/3	Sun 9:00-10:30 am
18-204	Winter	Prayer & Worship	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24 *Family Mass on 3/3	Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm
18-205	Winter	Prayer & Worship	2/5,2/12,2/19,2/26 *Family Mass on 3/3	Tues 6:45-8:15 pm
18-206	Spring	Prayer & Worship	4/7,4/14,4/26,5/5 * Family Mass on 5/19	Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Being Catholic

What is the Nicene Creed and does anyone say it anymore? Was Jesus a man or is he God? Who does Jesus say He is? We can believe in God on our own; why do we need the Catholic Church? I never heard of a mission statement, and aren't all the missions in foreign countries anyway? We will learn about and discuss the sacraments, the symbols, and the rituals that connect us to God, the Catholic Church, and each other. ***Important Note: This course requires (at least) one parent attend EACH session with their student.***

Dates offered:

Code	Quarter	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-301	Fall	Being Catholic	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Sun 9:00-10:30 am
18-302	Fall	Being Catholic	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm
18-303	Fall	Being Catholic	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Sun 6:45-8:15 pm
18-304	Winter	Being Catholic	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Sun 9:00-10:30 am
18-305	Winter	Being Catholic	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm
18-306	Spring	Being Catholic	4/7,4/14,4/28,5/5	Sun 9:00-10:30 am

Meeting Jesus in Scripture

If the Old Testament is full of stories about the Jewish people, why do Catholics care about this history? Are the Old and New Testaments of the Bible connected? Why did Jesus speak in parables? Is it true the Gospel writers never met Jesus? When and where did Jesus meet Paul? You will use the first three classes to prepare for the final session in which the character of Jesus will be put on trial. Based on the evidence learned, will you choose to defend or prosecute?

Dates offered:

Code	Code	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-401	Fall	Meeting Jesus in Scripture	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Sun 9:00-10:30 am
18-402	Fall	Meeting Jesus in Scripture	11/13,11/20,12/4,12/11	Tues 6:45-8:15 pm
18-403	Winter	Meeting Jesus in Scripture	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Sun 9:00-10:30 am
18-404	Winter	Meeting Jesus in Scripture	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm
18-405	Spring	Meeting Jesus in Scripture	4/7,4/14,4/28,5/5	Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm
18-406	Summer	Meeting Jesus in Scripture	6/4,6/11,6/18,6/25	Tues 6:45-8:15 pm

Faith and Life Elective Mini-Courses

Faith and Life Elective Mini-Courses are on topics that interest teens and are geared towards helping them develop life skills along the faith journey.

Teen Issues and Relationships

This course deals with the many issues and relationships that shape a teen's life (family, friends, boyfriends/girlfriends). It addresses how our faith affects our relationships and the importance of building healthy relationships. This course also focuses on the importance of being healthy, spiritually as well as physically. Topics that are relevant to today's teens will be addressed, such as stress, teen suicides, self-esteem, drug and alcohol abuse, bullying, etc.

Dates offered:

Code	Quarter	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-501	Fall	Teen Issues/ Relationships	11/13,11/20,12/4,12/11	Tues 6:45-8:15 pm

Movie and a Message

This course will observe messages on Catholic and Christian morals and teachings as portrayed in a current movie. By watching this movie, the students will learn about different morals held by Catholics and other Christians, and how they can carry out God's will outside of the Church.

Dates offered:

Code	Quarter	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-502	Fall	Movie & Message	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm

She's Got A Way About Her

This workshop focuses on the important role that the Blessed Virgin Mother plays in the Catholic Church. Students will be introduced to the teenage girl whose "yes" to God forever changed her life. They will gain an understanding of what it meant to be the Mother of God by exploring some of the many joys and sorrows that Mary experienced while gaining a deeper appreciation of the prayers that honor Mary.

Dates offered:

Code	Quarter	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-503	Winter	She's Got A Way	3/3 (one day workshop)	Sun 9:00 am-noon

Bible Unplugged

This workshop is designed to help the students look at how Catholics interpret the Bible and how it influences our life and beliefs. The students will examine how the Bible presents Jesus as the fulfillment of the hope for a messiah. They will learn how to search for wisdom in the Bible and apply it to their life.

Dates offered:

Code	Quarter	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-504	Winter	Bible Unplugged	3/3 (one day workshop)	Sun 2:00-5:00 pm

Jesus, Just Like Me

This course explores the human side of Jesus – solving the puzzle on how He is just like us! What was Jesus like as a child? What would He post to His facebook? Who would follow Him on Twitter? How does He connect with me today?

Dates offered:

Code	Quarter	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-505	Spring	Jesus, Just Like Me	4/7,4/14,4/28,5/5	Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Character Counts

This course focuses on the importance of having "character." It looks at how to make the Christian values of honesty, loyalty, forgiveness, and trust an integral part of our lives and why they are so important.

Dates offered:

Code	Quarter	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-506	Spring	Character Counts	4/7,4/14,4/28,5/5	Sun 6:45-8:15 pm

Download: Filtering Media Choices

This workshop is designed to help the student think critically about everything they see and hear in the media today. With so many media choices out there, it's critical for teens to be equipped with the tools that will help them make wise choices.

Dates offered:

Code	Quarter	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-507	Summer	Download Media	6/23 (one day workshop)	Sun 9:00 am - noon

Search Retreats

The Search Retreat will help teens explore ways that they can surrender their lives to God and live a life that focuses on service, commitment and discipleship. The retreat starts on Friday night and goes until late morning on Saturday and is held in the Parish Life Center. Teens can spend the night or they may go home Friday and return in the morning. *Retreat size: maximum 60.*

Dates offered:

Code	Dates	Day/Times
RET 18-101	January 25-26, 2019	6:30 PM Friday to 11:30 AM Saturday @ PLC
RET 18-102	February 8-9, 2019	6:30 PM Friday to 11:30 AM Saturday @ PLC



Confirmation Preparation Program

The Confirmation Preparation program is for teens who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and take on a greater role as a disciple of Jesus Christ. A teen must complete the Confirmation Requirements (4 Basic courses, 2 Faith elective courses, 3 service projects, 4 discipleship projects, and Search Retreat) by the end of the Winter 2019 quarter before they can attend the immediate preparation for the sacrament.

Letter of Intent and Preparation Course/Discovery Retreat Registration

Once teens have completed the above requirements, they may complete and return a Letter of Intent and Preparation Course/Discovery Retreat registration form. These will be available starting January 1, 2019 and MUST be returned by the indicated deadline.

Opening Session/Seder Meal

All teens will need to attend (with their chosen Sponsor and parents) the Opening Session/Seder Meal on Sunday, March 10, 2019 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM in the PLC.

Confirmation Preparation Courses

Teens will need to attend the Confirmation Preparation course during Spring Quarter. This four-week course is offered on the following days and times:

Sunday morning	9:00-10:30 am or 11:30 am-1:00 pm
Sunday evening	6:45-8:15 pm

**** Teens can register for this course on the Confirmation Preparation Course/Discovery Retreat Registration Form beginning January 1, 2019.***

Discovery Retreats

The Discovery retreat is one of the final steps in preparing to receive the sacrament and usually held in the summer months at a location off-site. Attendance at this retreat is required before the sacrament can be administered. More details on the date and location TBD.

Other Details

- Interviews for candidate/sponsor: TBD
- Confirmation Rehearsal: TBD
- Celebration of the Sacrament: TBD



Course Policies and Procedures...

The following policies and procedures will assist in keeping the L.I.G.H.T. program flexible and focused on faith growth.

Maximum Courses Per Quarter

The maximum number of courses that a student can register for each quarter is 3. However, they may be involved in service, discipleship, retreat and social events with no limit.

Course Times and Locations

- ❖ Sunday Mornings: 9:00-10:30 am
- ❖ Sunday Mornings: 11:30 am-1:00 pm
- ❖ Sunday Evenings: 6:45-8:15 pm
- ❖ Tuesday Evenings: 6:45-8:15 pm
- ❖ Sunday Workshops: 9:00 am-Noon or 2:00-5:00 pm



All mini courses will be held in the Parish Life Center-meeting rooms unless noted otherwise.

Attendance Policy

Full-time attendance is required at all basic mini courses and faith and life elective mini courses. Attendance will be taken at each session. The table below summarizes the maximum number of allowable absences per mini course, elective or retreat. Absences greater than the number allowed will require that the student re-take the course.

Type of Course	Allowable absences per course
4 session Basic Course	1 absence allowed*
4 session Elective Course	1 absence allowed*
Confirmation Prep Course	1 absence allowed**
Workshop Elective Course	No absences allowed
Retreat	No absences allowed
Family Mass	No absences allowed

****A makeup assignment will be given by the facilitator and must be completed in order to receive credit for the course. All makeup assignments should be turned in to the youth ministry office by the following deadlines:***

- ❖ ***December 16, 2018 for Fall Quarter courses***
- ❖ ***March 3, 2019 for Winter Quarter courses***
- ❖ ***May 19, 2019 for Spring Quarter courses***

*****Confirmation Prep Course – only 1 absence is allowed and this absence must be made up at the designated make-up session held on May 19, 2019.***

Emergency Closings

In the event of severe or inclement weather, the Director of Youth Ministry will determine if classes should be held or cancelled. To determine if classes are in session, please check the youth ministry website (www.olmyouthministry.weebly.com) or the Emergency Closing Center information by the following means: Radio Stations: WGN 720 Radio AM and WBBM 780 AM or Television Stations or www.EmergencyClosings.com.

Conduct and Discipline

- ❖ All students are expected to conduct themselves according to Christian values in regard to attitude, behavior, language, and dress. In the event that a student's behavior results in the facilitator asking him or her to leave class, the parent/guardian will be called with an explanation of the situation and to request them to come pick up the student. A second occurrence will result in the student being removed from the class. A meeting with the Director of Youth Ministry will be required to reinstate the student in the course.
- ❖ **NO CELL PHONES or electronics.** If a student is seen using their cell phone or device during class time, it will be taken away and held by the facilitator until the end of class.

Tuition and Fees

- \$30.00 Tuition per mini-course (Basic and Faith Elective)
- \$30.00 Search Retreat fee
- \$70.00 Discovery Retreat Fee
- \$100.00 Confirmation Sacramental Course Fee

Refunds and Changes

You may change or drop a mini-course up to the registration deadline. A credit will be applied to your account and can be used towards another course/event. **No refunds or credits will be issued for changes or cancellations made after the registration deadline, except under special circumstances.** Please contact the youth ministry office with any questions.

Course Cancellations

In the event that the minimum number of students do not sign up for a mini-course, that course will be cancelled. This decision will be made usually within three days after the registration deadline. You will be notified of this cancellation and be given a credit or the option of signing up for another available course.

Course Supplies

Every student will receive a Catholic Teen Bible, folder and journal/notebook at the start of the L.I.G.H.T. program. These are an important part of the L.I.G.H.T. curriculum and students are expected to bring these items to every class.

Parking Restrictions

All parking restrictions noted in the parking lot will be enforced during L.I.G.H.T. classes. Please observe these restrictions when dropping off and picking up students.



How to Register for L.I.G.H.T. Courses & Retreats...

The following will assist in the registration process for all L.I.G.H.T. basic and elective courses as well as the sacrament of Confirmation and retreats. Please note that all L.I.G.H.T. students and their parents must be members of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

1. **All NEW families to the L.I.G.H.T. program are required to attend an Information Meeting to learn about the program before you register.** (Registration may be done at these meetings or in the Youth Ministry Office.) There will be 2 meetings scheduled before the start of the fall quarter. 2018-2019 Information Meetings Dates: September 11, October 16.
2. **COURSE & RETREAT SELECTION FORM:** Please use this form (found at the end of this guidebook) to register for specific courses/events. Use the course code found in the Course Descriptions section (5 digit number) when registering for a course or retreat. *We will fill courses on a first come, first serve basis.* We will make every effort to schedule teens in the courses selected, based on the class size and availability. You will be contacted if we cannot honor your course requests. Please return these forms to the youth ministry office. You may register for one quarter at a time or all of them at once (suggested).
3. No more than 3 courses/retreats can be taken in any quarter. We recommend teens take at least one course a quarter, but we allow for flexibility in the program so they may take up to 3 courses in a quarter (fall, winter, spring and summer).
4. **Course Changes, Cancellations and Deadlines:** You may change to another course at anytime up to the quarter deadline (based on course availability). You may cancel a course at anytime before the deadline. Refunds will be issued as a credit towards a future course/event. Deadlines are as follows:

L.I.G.H.T. Registration Deadlines	
<i>Courses are closed after the deadline.</i>	
Fall Quarter	October 22, 2018
Winter Quarter	January 22, 2019
Spring Quarter	March 18, 2019
Summer Quarter	May 28, 2019

5. **Sacrament of Confirmation Preparation:** Once teens have completed their requirements for the Confirmation program they may enroll in the immediate Confirmation Preparation course and Discovery Retreat which is held in the Spring and Summer 2019 quarters. A **"Sacrament of Confirmation Letter of Intent and Preparation Course/Discovery Retreat Registration form"** must be returned by February 25, 2019 to officially enroll in this program. This form will be available online beginning January 1, 2019. The Confirmation Opening Session/Seder Meal (held on March 10th) will be for the teen (or candidate) as well as their sponsor and parents.
6. Please return the Course & Retreat Selection Form and full tuition/fee payment to the R.E./Youth Ministry Office located in the Parish Life Center. Please contact us at 331-707-5375 or JeanR@olmercy.com with any questions.
7. Our **L.I.G.H.T. Kick-Off Sessions** for the 2018-2019 year will be in the Church on **Saturday, October 27th, at 9:00 am or Tuesday, October 30th, at 7:00 pm** for teens and parents! Please choose 1 session to attend. The official Student Course Schedule, folder, bible and journal/notebook will be handed out at these sessions.

L.I.G.H.T. Quick Reference Sheet for 2018-2019

FALL 2018 QUARTER

Code	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-101	Morality/Justice	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Su 6:45-8:15pm
18-102	Morality/Justice	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Su 11:30-1:00 pm
18-201	Prayer/Worship	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Su 9:00-10:30am
18-202	Prayer/Worship	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Su 11:30-1:00 pm
18-301	Being Catholic*	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Su 9:00-10:30am
18-302	Being Catholic*	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Su 11:30-1:00 pm
18-303	Being Catholic*	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Su 6:45-8:15pm
18-401	Meeting Jesus in Scripture	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Su 9:00-10:30am
18-402	Meeting Jesus in Scripture	11,13,11/20,12/4,12/9	Tu 6:45-8:15 pm
18-501	Teen Issues/Relationships	11,13,11/20,12/4,12/9	Tu 6:45-8:15 pm
18-502	Movie & A Message	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Su 11:30-1:00 pm
18-RO1	Reach Out Discipleship	11/11,11/18,12/2,12/9	Su 9:00-10:30am

**one parent must attend EACH session with their student*

WINTER 2019 QUARTER

Code	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-103	Morality/Justice	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Su 9:00-10:30am
18-104	Morality/Justice	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Su 11:30-1:00 pm
18-203	Prayer/Worship	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Su 9:00-10:30am
18-204	Prayer/Worship	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Su 11:30-1:00 pm
18-205	Prayer/Worship	2/5,2/12,2/19,2/26	Tu 6:45-8:15pm
18-304	Being Catholic*	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Su 9:00-10:30am
18-305	Being Catholic*	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Su 11:30-1:00 pm
18-403	Meeting Jesus in Scripture	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Su 9:00-10:30am
18-404	Meeting Jesus in Scripture	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Su 11:30-1:00 pm
18-503	She's Got A Way	3/3	Su 9:00 am-Noon
18-504	Bible Unplugged	3/3	Su 2:00-5:00 pm
18-RO2	Reach Out Discipleship	2/3,2/10,2/17,2/24	Su 9:00-10:30am

**one parent must attend EACH session with their student*

SPRING 2019 QUARTER

Code	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-105	Morality/ Justice	4/7,4/14,4/28,5/5	Su 9:00-10:30 am
18-206	Prayer/Worship	4/7,4/14,4/28,5/5	Su 11:30-1:00 pm
18-306	Being Catholic*	4/7,4/14,4/28,5/5	Su 9:00-10:30am
18-405	Meeting Jesus in Scripture	4/7,4/14,4/28,5/5	Su 11:30-1:00 pm
18-505	Jesus, Just Like Me	4/7,4/14,4/28,5/5	Su 11:30-1:00 pm
18-506	Character Counts	4/7,4/14,4/28,5/5	Su 6:45-8:15 pm
18-RO3	Reach Out Discipleship	4/7,4/14,4/28,5/5	Su 9:00-10:30 am

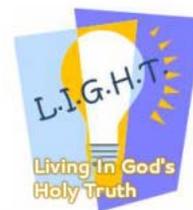
**one parent must attend EACH session with their student*

SUMMER 2019 QUARTER

Code	Course	Dates	Day/Times
18-106	Morality & Justice	6/4,6/11,6/18,6/25	Tu 6:45-8:15pm
18-406	Meeting Jesus in Scripture	6/4,6/11,6/18,6/25	Tu 6:45-8:15pm
18-507	Download Filtering Media	6/23	Su 9:00 am-Noon

SEARCH RETREATS

Code	Dates	Day/Times
RET 18-101	Jan. 25-26,2019	6:30 pm Friday to 11:30 am Saturday @ PLC
RET 18-102	Feb 8-9,2019	6:30 pm Friday to 11:30 am Saturday @ PLC



DEADLINE TO REGISTER ...

Fall Quarter	Winter Quarter	Spring Quarter	Summer Quarter
Oct 22, 2018	Jan 22, 2019	Mar 18, 2019	May 28, 2019

L.I.G.H.T. INFORMATION MEETINGS: 7:00-7:30 PM

Tuesday, September 11th
Tuesday, October 16th

* ALL families NEW to the program must attend an information meeting before enrolling in a course/retreat.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

September 9	Teen Alpha Begins (10 weeks) 6:30-8:30pm
October 27	L.I.G.H.T. Kick-Off for ALL teens; 9:00-10:00 am in PLC
October 30	L.I.G.H.T. Kick-Off for ALL teens; 7:00-8:00 pm in PLC
December 16	Family Mass @ 5:30 PM (Required for Fall Prayer & Worship courses)
March 3	Family Mass @ 5:30 PM (Required for Winter Prayer & Worship courses)
March 10	Confirmation Seder Meal Kick-Off from 2-5 PM
May 19	Family Mass @ 5:30 PM (Required for Spring Prayer & Worship courses)

Please check the website to sign-up for Service and Discipleship Projects.

Go to <https://olmercy.com/formation/light/>

For Office Use Only:

Amount Due _____

Amount Paid _____

Balance Due _____

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church Senior High Youth Ministry

2018-2019 L.I.G.H.T. Registration Form

Mini-Course and Retreat Programs

Family Information

MOTHER First _____ Last Name _____ FATHER First _____ Last Name _____

FAMILY ADDRESS _____
Street _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Home PHONE _____ Mother WORK _____ Mother CELL _____

Father WORK _____ Father CELL _____

E-MAIL Mother _____ E-MAIL Father _____

(Important information will be sent via email so please include a valid email address and let us know if this changes during the year.)

Medical Permission

I grant permission for the administration of First Aid to my children, by the people in charge of **OLM Religious Education** event, and those transporting my child to and from the event as their judgment deems advisable, and to make the necessary referrals to qualified physicians for treatment of illness or accident of a more serious nature. I understand I will be promptly notified in the event of any serious illness or accident and prior to any major surgery, except when delay in such communication would endanger life. In case of medical emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact the parent/guardian of the participant. In the event that I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission to the physicians selected by the adult staff to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for, and to order injection, anesthesia or surgery, if deemed necessary for my child.

Student Name:	Allergies? Y/N	If yes, please describe:	Medication(s) currently taking:

Insurance Information

Policy in the name of: _____

Insurance Company: _____

Policy Number: _____

Identification Number: _____

Authorized Physician: _____ Phone: _____

Videotaping and Still Photographs

Video and still photographs may be taken during this event. This authorization form constitutes permission for my child's participation in the videotape and/or still photographs, which may be used for future ministry promotional efforts ONLY.

Parent/Guardian
Signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE READ. Student Information and Course Choices: Please enter codes from the course guidebook into the boxes at the bottom by quarter. Please see below the fees associated with courses and retreats. All fees are expected at the time of registration. Teens may take no more than 3 mini-courses in a quarter. Students can register for the Confirmation preparation class and Discovery Retreat beginning January 1st.

STUDENT #1

First _____
 Last _____
 CELL _____
 EMAIL _____
 Sex M / F
 Birth Date ____/____/____
 H.S. Grade in Fall 2018 9 / 10 / 11 / 12
 School Name _____
 Baptism Y / N
 1st Rec./Penance Y / N
 1st Eucharist Y / N
 Confirmation Y / N
 Special Education Needs:

Mini-Courses selected by Quarter (Use course code)

Fall: _____
 Winter: _____
 Spring: _____
 Summer: _____
 Search Retreat Code (if selected) _____

STUDENT #2

First _____
 Last _____
 CELL _____
 EMAIL _____
 Sex M / F
 Birth Date ____/____/____
 H.S. Grade in Fall 2018 9 / 10 / 11 / 12
 School Name _____
 Baptism Y / N
 1st Rec./Penance Y / N
 1st Eucharist Y / N
 Confirmation Y / N
 Special Education Needs:

Mini-Courses selected by Quarter (Use course code)

Fall: _____
 Winter: _____
 Spring: _____
 Summer: _____
 Search Retreat Code (if selected) _____

STUDENT #3

First _____
 Last _____
 CELL _____
 EMAIL _____
 Sex M / F
 Birth Date ____/____/____
 H.S. Grade in Fall 2018 9 / 10 / 11 / 12
 School Name _____
 Baptism Y / N
 1st Rec./Penance Y / N
 1st Eucharist Y / N
 Confirmation Y / N
 Special Education Needs:

Mini-Courses selected by Quarter (Use course code)

Fall: _____
 Winter: _____
 Spring: _____
 Summer: _____
 Search Retreat Code (if selected) _____

**Please return this registration form and full payment to the R.E.
 Office (701 S. Eola Road, Aurora IL 60504).
 Make checks payable to Our Lady of Mercy Parish.**

Tuition & Fees	\$30.00	Tuition per mini-course (Basic & Faith Elective)
	\$30.00	Search Retreat Fee