



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

L.I.G.H.T. GUIDEBOOK

2019-2020



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

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

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 L.I.G.H.T. program has been redesigned to include Teen Alpha to help teens learn more about Christianity in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. 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.

L.I.G.H.T. now starts with Teen Alpha which focuses on building a relationship with Jesus. After completing this ten-week session, teens will have a faith conversation about their own beliefs and discipleship with our priests or faith mentors. The L.I.G.H.T. mini-course program follows by encompassing four "Basic" faith themes: Profession of Faith, Sacraments of Faith, Life of Faith, and Prayer in the Life of Faith. Through thought-provoking discussion and 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.

These faith-filled sessions, 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 this redesigned program. A listing of our courses and activities is also provided as well as the registration information for courses. 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 any questions 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!

Faith formation is a life-long journey!

Sincerely 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's New With the L.I.G.H.T. Program...

Teen Alpha is now a part of the L.I.G.H.T. program!!! Teen Alpha replaces the required Faith and Life elective courses. If you are entering the L.I.G.H.T. program this fall the suggested steps are:

1) Teen Alpha – NEW!

Teens start with Teen Alpha which gives them the opportunity to establish a relationship with Jesus in a relaxed, friendly setting. Teen Alpha meets once a week for 10 weeks beginning September 22nd (including the Alpha Overnight). Teens have the option to meet on Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:45 a.m. or Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:15 p.m. Sessions begin with a meal, followed by a short video/talk, and time to discuss the faith topic. Teen Alpha is designed to help teens grow in their basic Christian faith as well as grow as a community – while having fun and meeting new people! Attending the Teen Alpha sessions will provide the teens with the foundation they need for the Basics of our Catholic Faith mini-courses.

2) Faith Conversations – NEW!

After completing Teen Alpha, teens will have an informal conversation about their own faith journey and discipleship with one of our priests or a faith mentor. Teens can then go on to learn more about their Catholic faith by registering for the L.I.G.H.T. basic courses.

3) “Basics of Our Catholic Faith” Mini-Courses

Teens will attend and participate in four Basic mini-courses: Morality and Justice, Prayer and Worship, Meeting Jesus in Scripture and Being Catholic. These Basic courses are 4-week sessions and are held in the Parish Life Center. Our focus is on flexibility and content of specific faith topics that will help teens grow in their faith. Basic courses are held January through May each year. Please refer to the course descriptions section in this guidebook for further information on these mini-courses.

4) Service and Discipleship Projects

Serving others is a fundamental part of our Catholic faith and the L.I.G.H.T. program. Service projects help us live out the call of Jesus to serve those in need. Another important goal of the L.I.G.H.T. program is to empower the high school teens to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. L.I.G.H.T. enables teens to be disciples through involvement in ministry and leadership projects that help them share their faith through teaching, learning, and doing. Teens are required to complete three service projects/credits and three discipleship projects/credits before entering the Confirmation Preparation Program. More details about the service and discipleship projects can be found in this guidebook.

5) Teen Bible Study

Teens are invited to learn about the Holy Word of God through these interactive studies held through the year. We will meet on Tuesdays (time TBA) in the Youth Center. In addition to studying the scripture, teens will meet new people and grow in their faith. Any teen is welcome to attend.

6) 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. These are some of the activities that are planned throughout the year:

Catholic Teen Night (held at other churches)
Chili Bowl Flag Football Tournament
Teen Friendsgiving Dinner & Christmas Party

Teen Nights (Youth Group)
Movie Nights
Other various events & trips-TBA

Sacrament of Confirmation Program Requirements

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

- ❖ Teen Alpha & Overnight – NEW
- ❖ Faith Conversation with Mentor – NEW
- ❖ All 4 "Basics of Our Catholic Faith Mini-Courses": *Being Catholic, Morality and Justice, Meeting Jesus in Scripture and Prayer and Worship*
- ❖ 3 Service elective projects which are focused on serving others.
- ❖ 3 Discipleship elective projects 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 five sessions of the Confirmation Preparation Course (offered in Term 3). 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 gifts and charisms 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 (July 10-12, 2020).
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.

**FOR STUDENT USE TO KEEP TRACK OF
REQUIREMENTS COMPLETED**

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.

| | |
|--|---|
| Teen Alpha completed (Date _____) | Alpha Overnight completed (Date _____) |
| Faith Conversation completed (Date _____) | |
| Basics of Our Catholic Faith Courses completed: <i>(all 4 are required)</i> Being Catholic (Date _____) Morality and Justice (Date _____) Prayer and Worship (Date _____) Meeting Jesus in Scripture (Date _____) | |
| Service Elective Projects Completed <i>(3 projects/credits required)</i> 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ | Discipleship Elective Projects Completed <i>(3 projects/credits required)</i> 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ |
| Returned Confirmation Letter of Intent (Date _____) | |

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

| | |
|---|--|
| Confirmation Opening Session-Seder Meal Completed on _____ | Preparation Course (5 sessions) Completed on _____ |
| Harvest Saturday Food Drive & Collection Completed on _____ | Discovery Retreat Completed on _____ |
| Interview (Candidate and Sponsor) Completed on _____ | |

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/credits.

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/credits 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 3 Discipleship projects/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 three (3) projects/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>Retreat Team Leader 1 Discipleship Credit for each retreat worked Teens can serve as a retreat leader for the Alpha Overnight and/or Discovery Retreats. The teen must have already attended the Alpha Overnight or Discovery 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 helps high school teens take a greater ownership in their faith and helps them prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation and the call to discipleship. It also provides the teens with the opportunity to participate in faith discussions and prayer experiences with other teens as well as reflect on their personal gifts and strengths.

- ❖ **Alpha Overnight:** The Alpha Overnight is part of the Teen Alpha series held in the fall. Teens are asked to attend this overnight to deepen their understanding of prayer and the Holy Spirit in their lives. The retreat includes fun activities, video and discussion, prayer services including adoration and the sacrament of Reconciliation.

- ❖ **Discovery Retreat:** The Discovery Retreat helps the teens see that God is present in their lives. This retreat is part of the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation and is required in order to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Teens must have enrolled in the Confirmation preparation program (Letter of Intent) and have attended the 5 week prep course before they can attend this retreat.

Family Mass

There will be 3 Family Masses held throughout the year (1 in each Term). Our high school teens from each Prayer & Worship Mini-Course will be leading the ministries at these masses. 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, February 9, 2020, at the 9:00 a.m. mass

Sunday, March 15, 2020, at the 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. masses

Sunday, May 17, 2020, at the 10:45 a.m. mass

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 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/>

"Basics of Our Catholic Faith" Course Descriptions

The "Basics" mini-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.

All mini-courses are 4-weeks and will have a minimum of 8 students/maximum 15 students with the exception of Being Catholic course which is limited to 12 students (and their parents) due to classroom size.

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, social media, 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 | Term | Course | Dates | Day/Times |
|--------|------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 19-101 | 1 | Morality & Justice | 1/12, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9 | Sun 9:00-10:30 am |
| 19-102 | 1 | Morality & Justice | 1/12, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9 | Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm |
| 19-103 | 2 | Morality & Justice | 2/23, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15 | Sun 9:00-10:30 am |
| 19-104 | 2 | Morality & Justice | 2/23, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15 | Sun 6:45-8:15 pm |
| 19-105 | 3 | Morality & Justice | 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/17 | Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm |

Prayer and Worship

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: the 4th class is a Family Mass)**

Dates offered:

| Code | Term | Course | Dates | Day/Times |
|---------|------|------------------|--|----------------------|
| 19-201 | 1 | Prayer & Worship | 1/12, 1/26, 2/2, Family Mass on 2/9 at 9:00 am | Sun 9:00-10:30 am |
| 19-202 | 2 | Prayer & Worship | 2/23, 3/1, 3/8, Family Mass on 3/15 at 9:00 am | Sun 9:00-10:30 am |
| 19-203 | 2 | Prayer & Worship | 2/23, 3/1, 3/8, Family Mass on 3/15 at 10:45 am | Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm |
| 19--204 | 3 | Prayer & Worship | 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, Family Mass on 5/17 at 10:45 am | Sun 11:30-1:00 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 | Term | Course | Dates | Day/Times |
|--------|------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 19-301 | 1 | Being Catholic | 1/12, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9 | Sun 9:00-10:30 am |
| 19-302 | 1 | Being Catholic | 1/12, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9 | Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm |
| 19-303 | 2 | Being Catholic | 2/23, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15 | Sun 9:00-10:30 am |
| 19-304 | 2 | Being Catholic | 2/23, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15 | Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm |
| 19-305 | 3 | Being Catholic | 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/17 | 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 | Term | Course | Dates | Day/Times |
|--------|------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 19-401 | 1 | Meeting Jesus in Scripture | 1/12, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9 | Sun 9:00-10:30 am |
| 19-402 | 1 | Meeting Jesus in Scripture | 1/12, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9 | Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm |
| 19-403 | 2 | Meeting Jesus in Scripture | 2/23, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15 | Sun 9:00-10:30 am |
| 19-404 | 2 | Meeting Jesus in Scripture | 2/23, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15 | Sun 6:45-8:15 pm |
| 19-405 | 3 | Meeting Jesus in Scripture | 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/17 | Sun 11:30 am-1:00 pm |



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, 3 service projects/credits, and 3 discipleship projects/credits) by the end of Term 2, 2020 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, 2020 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 15, 2020 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM in the PLC.

Confirmation Preparation Courses

Teens will need to attend the Confirmation Preparation course during Term 3. This five- 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, 2020***

Discovery Retreats

The Discovery retreat is one of the final steps in preparing to receive the sacrament and is held in the summer at a location off-site. Attendance at this retreat is required before the sacrament can be administered. **This retreat will be held on Friday-Sunday, July 10-12, 2020 at Dixon Valley Retreat Center in Newark.**

**** Teens can register for this retreat on the Confirmation Preparation Course/Discovery Retreat Registration Form beginning January 1, 2020.***

Other Details

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

Mini-Course & Retreat 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 Basics Courses Per Term

The maximum number of courses that a student can register for each term is 2. However, they may be involved in service, discipleship, retreat and social events with no limit.

Basics 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



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. Attendance will be taken at each session. The table below summarizes the maximum number of allowable absences per mini course 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 week session Basic Course | 1 absence allowed* |
| Confirmation Prep Course | 1 absence allowed* |
| Retreat or Overnight | 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:***

- ❖ ***February 16, 2020 for Term 1 courses***
- ❖ ***March 22, 2020 for Term 2 courses***
- ❖ ***May 31, 2020 for Term 3 courses***

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 (<https://olmercy.com/formation/light/>) 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!** If a student is seen using their cell phone 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 Basic mini-course and Elective workshop

\$125.00 Discovery Retreat Fee (Paid with Confirmation registration form)

\$100.00 Confirmation Sacramental Course Fee (Paid with Confirmation registration form)

No Fee for attending Teen Alpha or the Overnight

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-pick-up date TBD. 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 Alpha, Mini-Courses & Retreats...

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

1. **All families NEW 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 this meeting or in the Youth Ministry Office.) The Information Meeting is Tuesday, August 27th, at 7:00 p.m.
2. **TEEN ALPHA REGISTRATION:** Registration for Teen Alpha is required. We will be doing ONLINE registration for Alpha. Go here to sign-up for a Sunday morning or evening session beginning Sept. 22nd: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B094FACAB2AAA8-teen3>
3. **BASIC MINI-COURSE REGISTRATION:** Please use this form (found at the end of this guidebook) to register for specific Basics courses. 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 course at a time or all of them at once (suggested).
4. **Please note that NO more than 2 courses can be taken in any term.** We recommend teens take at least one course a term, but we allow for flexibility in the program so they may take up to 2 courses in term 1, 2 courses in term 2 and 2 courses in term 3.
5. **Course Changes, Cancellations and Deadlines:** You may change to another course at anytime up to the term 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> | |
|---|-------------------|
| Teen Alpha | October 18, 2019 |
| Term 1 | December 30, 2019 |
| Term 2 | February 10, 2020 |
| Term 3 | March 30, 2020 |

6. **Sacrament of Confirmation Preparation Registration:** Once teens have completed their requirements for the Confirmation program they may enroll in the immediate Confirmation Preparation course which is held in Term 3 and the Discovery Retreat (held on July 10-12, 2020). A **“Sacrament of Confirmation Letter of Intent and Preparation Course/Discovery Retreat Registration form”** must be returned by February 24, 2020 to officially enroll in this program. This form will be available online beginning January 1, 2020. The Confirmation Opening Session/Seder Meal (held on March 15th) will be for the teen (or candidate) as well as their sponsor and parents.
7. Please return Course Selection Forms 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.

L.I.G.H.T. Quick Reference Sheet for 2019-2020

Teen Alpha—Register ONLINE here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b094facab2aaa8-teen3>

| Dates | Day/Times |
|--|-----------------|
| 9/22,9/29,10/6,10/13,10/20,10/27,11/10,11/17, & 11/24 (ALPHA Overnight Retreat: 11/2-11/3) | Su 9:00-10:45am |
| 9/22,9/29,10/6,10/13,10/20,10/27,11/10,11/17 & 11/24 (ALPHA Overnight Retreat: 11/2-11/3) | Su 6:30-8:15pm |

DEADLINE TO REGISTER ...

| Term 1 Mini-Courses | Term 2 Mini-Courses | Term 3 Mini-Courses |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Dec 30, 2019 | Feb 10, 2020 | Mar 30, 2020 |

Term 1 Mini-Courses

| Code | Course | Dates | Day/Times |
|--------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 19-101 | Morality/Justice | 1/12,1/26,2/2,2/9 | Su 9:00-10:30am |
| 19-102 | Morality/Justice | 1/12,1/26,2/2,2/9 | Su 11:30-1:00 pm |
| 19-201 | Prayer/Worship | 1/12,1/26,2/2,2/9 | Su 9:00-10:30am |
| 19-301 | Being Catholic* | 1/12,1/26,2/2,2/9 | Su 9:00-10:30am |
| 19-302 | Being Catholic* | 1/12,1/26,2/2,2/9 | Su 11:30-1:00 pm |
| 19-401 | Meeting Jesus in Scripture | 1/12,1/26,2/2,2/9 | Su 9:00-10:30am |
| 19-402 | Meeting Jesus in Scripture | 1/12,1/26,2/2,2/9 | Su 11:30-1:00 pm |
| 19-RO1 | Reach Out Discipleship | 1/12,1/26,2/2,2/9 | Su 9:00-10:00am |

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

Term 2 Mini-Courses

| Code | Course | Dates | Day/Times |
|--------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 19-103 | Morality/Justice | 2/23,3/1,3/8,3/15 | Su 9:00-10:30am |
| 19-104 | Morality/Justice | 2/23,3/1,3/8,3/15 | Su 6:45-8:15 pm |
| 19-202 | Prayer/Worship | 2/23,3/1,3/8,3/15 | Su 9:00-10:30am |
| 19-203 | Prayer/Worship | 2/23,3/1,3/8,3/15 | Su 11:30-1:00 pm |
| 19-303 | Being Catholic* | 2/23,3/1,3/8,3/15 | Su 9:00-10:30am |
| 19-304 | Being Catholic* | 2/23,3/1,3/8,3/15 | Su 11:30-1:00 pm |
| 19-403 | Meeting Jesus in Scripture | 2/23,3/1,3/8,3/15 | Su 9:00-10:30am |
| 19-404 | Meeting Jesus in Scripture | 2/23,3/1,3/8,3/15 | Su 6:45-8:15 pm |
| 19-RO2 | Reach Out Discipleship | 2/23,3/1,3/8,3/15 | Su 9:00-10:00am |

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

Term 3 Mini-Courses

| Code | Course | Dates | Day/Times |
|--------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 19-105 | Morality/ Justice | 4/19,4/26,5/3,5/17 | Su 11:30-1:00 pm |
| 19-204 | Prayer/Worship | 4/19,4/26,5/3,5/17 | Su 11:30-1:00pm |
| 19-305 | Being Catholic* | 4/19,4/26,5/3,5/17 | Su 9:00-10:30am |
| 19-405 | Meeting Jesus in Scripture | 4/19,4/26,5/3,5/17 | Su 11:30-1:00 pm |
| 19-RO3 | Reach Out Discipleship | 4/19,4/26,5/3,5/17 | Su 9:00-10:00 am |

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

L.I.G.H.T. INFORMATION MEETING:

Tuesday, August 27, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

* ALL families NEW to the program must attend this information meeting before signing up for Teen Alpha.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Sept. 22, 2019 | Teen Alpha Begins |
| Jan. 26, 2020 | Teen & Parent Speaker Night |
| Feb 9, 2020 | Family Mass @ 9:00 am (Required for Term 1 Prayer & Worship course) |
| Mar 15, 2020 | Family Mass @ 9:00 & 10:45 am (Required for Term 2 Prayer & Worship courses) |
| Mar 15, 2020 | Confirmation Seder Meal Kick-Off from 2-5 PM |
| May 17, 2020 | Family Mass @ 10:45 am (Required for Term 3 Prayer & Worship course) |
| July 10-12, 2020 | Discovery Retreat at Dickson Valley Retreat Center in Newark. |

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

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

Teens who have already started L.I.G.H.T.

All teens who have already started the L.I.G.H.T. program during the 2017/18 OR 2018/19 year, you have the following options for meeting the requirements to enter the Confirmation Preparation Program:

Option One

- ✓ Attend Teen Alpha & Overnight in the Fall – highly recommended.
- ✓ Complete the four “Basics” mini-courses.
- ✓ Complete 3 service projects and 3 discipleship projects.

Option Two

- ✓ Complete the four “Basics” courses.
- ✓ Complete two “Electives of Faith” 500 level courses.
(NOTE: If you still need to take your two elective courses, special workshops are scheduled on February 2nd from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and on March 8th from 2:00-5:00 p.m. More details about these workshops will be available on the L.I.G.H.T. website.)
- ✓ Complete the youth ministry Lock-In (date TBA) or a retreat with another local church. (This replaces the Search Retreat requirement.)
- ✓ Complete 3 service projects and 3 discipleship projects.

For Office Use Only:

Amount Due _____

Amount Paid _____

Balance Due _____

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church Senior High Youth Ministry

**2019-2020 L.I.G.H.T. Registration Form
For "Basics of Our Catholic Faith" Mini-Courses**

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 term. Please see below for the fee per course. All fees are expected at the time of registration. Teens may take no more than 2 mini-courses in a term. Students can register for the Confirmation preparation class and Discovery Retreat beginning January 1st – (Letter of Intent and Registration form available Jan. 1)

STUDENT #1

First _____

Last _____

CELL _____

EMAIL _____

Sex M / F

Birth Date ____/____/____

H.S. Grade in Fall 2019 9 / 10 / 11 / 12

School Name _____

Baptism Y / N

1st Rec./Penance Y / N

1st Eucharist Y / N

Confirmation Y / N

Special Education Needs:

“Basics” Mini-Course selected by Term
(Use course code)

Term 1: _____

Term 2: _____

Term 3: _____

STUDENT #2

First _____

Last _____

CELL _____

EMAIL _____

Sex M / F

Birth Date ____/____/____

H.S. Grade in Fall 2019 9 / 10 / 11 / 12

School Name _____

Baptism Y / N

1st Rec./Penance Y / N

1st Eucharist Y / N

Confirmation Y / N

Special Education Needs:

“Basics” Mini-Course selected by Term
(Use course code)

Term 1: _____

Term 2: _____

Term 3: _____

STUDENT #3

First _____

Last _____

CELL _____

EMAIL _____

Sex M / F

Birth Date ____/____/____

H.S. Grade in Fall 2019 9 / 10 / 11 / 12

School Name _____

Baptism Y / N

1st Rec./Penance Y / N

1st Eucharist Y / N

Confirmation Y / N

Special Education Needs:

“Basics” Mini-Course selected by Term
(Use course code)

Term 1: _____

Term 2: _____

Term 3: _____

**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 “Basics” mini-course |
|---------------------------|--|