



Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church  
1914 Ridgeview Dr.  
Allen, Texas 75013

June 17, 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Middle School Youth Ministry! Registration for 2020-2021 is here with new opportunities for youth and families. With an emphasis on building strong relationships, faith formation for youth AND parents/families will take place **IN A COMBINATION OF** three different settings: 1) **Small Groups** which will most likely meet virtually; 2) **Large Group** which will meet 4 times total in-person, if permitted; 3) **Independent**, practice-oriented learning experiences with the family. *The plans for next year were made in collaboration with all OLA staff members and with the approval of Msgr. Bell. Permission for groups to meet in our buildings at any given time is based on what is allowed by the Diocese of Dallas, civil authorities and whether or not OLA has the resources to adequately maintain facilities based on CDC guidelines.*

In this document you will find:

1. Information on **weekly formation** (p. 2) and **discipleship goals & practices** (p. 3).
2. **Confirmation** information (p. 4-5) – please read, especially if you have a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader.
3. **Calendar** (p. 6) – overview only; details still in the works

The registration process is as follows:

- **Open Registration: Begins June 15** – Open to all parishioners as well as non-parishioners.
- **Please register by August 1** in order to give staff and volunteers adequate time to prepare. By honoring this date, your considerateness of our time and efficiency is greatly appreciated.
- Small Group leaders will determine the day of the week and time which best fits their weekly schedule. Parents will select the day of the week which best fits their child's schedule. Youth will then be assigned to a specific small group in the order in which registrations are received.
- For every 10 youth in each grade, 2 adult Small Group Leaders are needed.

Registration for ALL faith formation is online. To register, go to <https://olayouth.com/msblaze> OR page 2 of this packet. **NOTE:** 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades each have their own, separate form so make sure you fill out the correct form for the grade in which your child will be in the fall of 2020.

Our goal is to *Form Disciples through Authentic Relationships*. We aim to provide quality faith formation and youth ministry opportunities. For the annual registration, a fee of \$75 per child/teen with a maximum of \$300 per family is requested. However, we will always provide full and partial scholarships, as well as payment plans, to families with financial hardships.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Peace,

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# BLAZE (MS Faith Formation)

Mission:

*Love God, Embrace All People, Share the Gospel Joyfully*

Vision:

*Forming Disciples through Authentic Relationships*



BLAZE will use A COMBINATION OF three different settings this year.

When you register your child, you are signing up for all 3 - independent, small group & large group.

1. Small Groups – Youth & Adult Leaders will meet for about 60 minutes each week to build relationships, discuss the week’s topic, and pray. Meetings will most likely take place via video conference & parents are welcome to join. Groups may have the option to meet in homes depending on what’s allowed by parish, diocese and civil authorities. Leaders & Parents of Youth may select preferred meeting day; specific times will be set later, but will be within these ranges:
  - a. Sunday afternoons (1-5pm) or evenings (5-8pm) or
  - b. Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings (5-8pm)

Please make 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> choices. Placements are made based on space and number of adult leaders. Be aware that you may not get your first choice. Thank you for understanding.

On the online registration, you may also list a friend or adult leader with whom your child would like to be in a group. You may also indicate that adult/peer preferences take precedent over day/time selections. Groups will be formed before 9/13!

2. Large Group – Youth & Adult Leaders will meet twice per semester at OLA, if permitted. If not, a virtual experience will be provided. The purpose will be fellowship & prayer with the wider middle school community. Parents are welcome.
3. Independent Experiences – Practice-oriented learning experiences for youth AND parents/families which will incorporate real-life application activities. Resources will be provided.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER A 2020-2021 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADER](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER A 2020-2021 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADER](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER A 2020-2021 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADER](#)

Small Groups will begin the week of  
Sept. 13, 2020

## DISCIPLESHIP GOALS & PRACTICES

S.T.E.P.S. of a Disciple:	Goals	Examples of Youth Ministry & Parish Opportunities...
<u>S</u> erve in Ministry and Missions – be an ACTIVE DISCIPLE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify &amp; appreciate the gifts, passions &amp; personality God has given you</li> <li>2. Identify what types of service you are passionate about (working with children or the elderly, the poor, the lonely, the environment, etc.)</li> <li>3. Share your gifts, time &amp; talents inside (ministry) &amp; outside (mission) the parish walls</li> </ol>	<p>MINISTRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Altar server, usher aid, choir, Lector</li> <li>• Assist at Parish Events</li> </ul> <p>MISSIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bundle Sunday (St. Vincent de Paul)</li> <li>• Family Service Project</li> <li>• Mission Possible</li> </ul>
<u>T</u> ithe through sacrificial giving – be a TRUSTWORTHY DISCIPLE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand that tithing means giving 10% of your earnings</li> <li>2. Understand that tithing is an important sign of your trust in God</li> <li>3. Practice offering money to God and noticing how God blesses you</li> </ol>	Give back to God a portion of what he has blessed you with – from your allowance, job, gifts given to you, etc.
<u>E</u> ngage in formation and small-group relationships – be a RELATIONAL DISCIPLE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have friends at church with whom you feel comfortable sharing fun and faith</li> <li>2. Have frequent, meaningful interactions with at least one adult at church, discussing what matters most to you, as well as the faith</li> <li>3. Grow in your understanding of the faith and how to keep growing</li> </ol>	Faith Formation – BLAZE Confirmation Preparation
<u>P</u> ractice Prayer and Sacraments – be a DEEPER DISCIPLE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Weekly participation in mass</li> <li>2. Explore different ways of praying &amp; pray daily</li> <li>3. Have a deep, personal relationship with Jesus</li> </ol>	Weekly Mass & Holy Days of Obligation Reconciliation Retreats (7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> gr.) Daily 3-Minute Retreat, Loyola Press website Daily Examen Prayer
<u>S</u> hare the Gospel – be a BOLD DISCIPLE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Get to know the people around you by listening to them &amp; putting their needs first, building trusting relationships</li> <li>2. Pray for a specific person who does not have a relationship with Christ</li> <li>3. Explain your faith to someone with whom you have a trusting relationship</li> </ol>	Live your Faith wherever you are, wherever you go: at home, at school, in the community

# Our Lady of Angels Youth Confirmation



## A Two-Year Preparation Process

*Our bishop is tasked with the responsibility to help his flock grow in their faith, so he asks all Diocese of Dallas parishes to provide two years of preparation for those seeking to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

## Preparation looks like this:

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Foundational formation & catechesis
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade – Year 1 Confirmation Preparation
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Year 2 Confirmation Preparation & Continuing Discipleship
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade & Beyond – Continuing Discipleship

However, we recognize that for a variety of reasons there will be unconfirmed high school teens seeking to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who did not participate in the Year 1 preparation the previous year.

## Year 1 Confirmation Preparation is for:

- Any 7th grader.
- Any 8<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> grader who did not participate in Confirmation Year 1 last school year.
- Special: Contact us if you are a high school senior or older and were not in Year 1 last school year.

## Year 2 Confirmation Preparation is for:

- For all 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders who participated in Year 1 preparation last year.
- Special: Contact us if a youth participated in a formation program at another parish last year, to determine equivalence.

## Confirmation

## Preparation

Confirmation is the third sacrament of initiation where we, as Catholics, are given a “special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross” (CCC#1303).

Preparation strives to “awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus” and aims to “lead the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit” (CCC#1309).

Our Confirmation Preparation process is more than a ‘program,’ it is about forming young people to grow as active disciples of Jesus and develop a sense of belonging to the Church.

The Catechism states: *A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in a state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of a disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community (parish) and in temporal affairs (life outside of the parish – school, home, civic community). CCC#1319*

Please put the dates listed below on your calendar as applicable

NOTE: Events which cannot be held in person due to parish/diocesan/civil restrictions will be held online &/or independently. Specifics will be emailed and posted on website & social media.

Year 1 Confirmation Preparation Events – 2022 Candidates

Event	Date & Time
Yr. 1 Parent/Youth Meeting (parents & candidates)	Sun., Aug. 23, 2020, 6:30-8pm

Year 2 Confirmation Preparation Events – 2021 Candidates

Events - Attendance is expected.	Option 1	Option 2
1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Reflection (parents & candidates)	Sept. 26, 2020 1:00-4:30 pm	
Rite of Welcome (parents & candidates)	Sept. 26, 2020, 5:00pm Mass	Sept. 27, 2020, 5:00pm Mass
2 <sup>nd</sup> Day of Reflection (parents & candidates)	Jan. 30, 2021, 9:15 am-12:15 pm	
Rehearsal – TENTATIVE! (parents, sponsors, & candidates)	Fri., April 9, 2021, 6-7:30pm (for 10am mass)	Fri., April 9, 2021, 7:30-9pm (for 1:30pm mass)
Confirmation Mass – TENTATIVE! (parents, sponsor, & candidates)	Sat., April 10, 2021, 10:00 am (Arrive at 9:30 am)	Sat., April 10, 2021, 1:30 pm (Arrive at 1:00 pm)

Also plan to...

Participate in 2 Retreats, by grade, one in Year 1, and one in Year 2:

- 7<sup>th</sup> graders – Awakening Retreat at The Pines Catholic Camp, October 23-25, 2020 (\$215)
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders – Spirit Retreat at The Pines Catholic Camp, November 13-15, 2020 (\$190)
- High Schoolers – TBD

\*\*Full and partial financial aid is available to anyone who needs it and asks.

Experience the Foot S.T.E.P.S of a Disciple, throughout the two-year process:

- Serve in Ministry and Missions
- Tithe through sacrificial giving
- Engage in faith formation and small group relationships *(80%+ attendance expected)*
- Practice Prayer and the Sacraments
- Share the Gospel

## Calendar (see previous page for Confirmation prep dates, not included here)

Full details are still in the works, but here are dates to make note of:

1. Summer BLAZE, "God With Us": June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 22, 29; 6-6:45pm via Zoom
2. Hands From Home, serve others while social distancing: July 12-17,  
<https://sites.google.com/view/handsfromhome2020/home?authuser=0>
3. BLAZE Small Groups: Start the Week of September 13, 2020. After Christmas break, resume the Week of January 10, 2021.
4. BLAZE Large Group gatherings, in-person or virtual: Oct. 18, Dec. 13, Feb. 28, May 2, 6:30-8pm
5. Independent, weekly learning experiences for youth and families will be interwoven throughout the year. \*\*
6. Ash Wednesday: Feb. 17, 2021. Easter Sunday: April 4, 2021.

For calendar updates, go to [www.olayouth.com/ym-calendar](http://www.olayouth.com/ym-calendar).



\*\*If you only want to participate via independent learning with the family, you must still register your child. You will be required to select small group day preferences, but in the box for Friend/Adult Leader requests, indicate independent learning only.