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## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH

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*all are welcome*

July 1, 2017

Dear Confirmation Candidates and Parents/Guardians,

I hope that all of you have begun to enjoy your summer! This mailing includes a registration form for the 2017-2018 school year. Please read through this letter for lots of important information about the coming year.

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**GENERAL INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE:** Our Lady's prepares candidates for Confirmation over two years, generally during Grades 9 and 10. The program consists of large-group presentations and small-group discussions. We will meet for **8 classes on Sunday nights, from 7:00-8:15pm, plus our opening orientation**. Each class will begin in the Lower Church Halls and then move into small group discussions in the high school building. Candidates are assigned to small groups based on their friend requests and my intention to balance gender (Grade 10 will keep their same small groups from last year). *We do not meet every week, which is why it is so important that you provide an email address and check your email regularly for class reminders.*

In addition to Sunday night classes, there is a retreat component for each grade. Ninth-graders will have an afternoon retreat here at the church, on Saturday, November 18, 2017. Tenth-graders will enjoy an overnight retreat to Cape Cod, scheduled for March 17-18, 2018 (Saturday afternoon to Sunday afternoon).

Please be aware that our first meeting – attendance required – will be **Sunday, September 24, at 5:15pm**. We will meet at 5:15 in the **Lower Church Hall** for a brief orientation, opening announcements, and small group assignments. Parents are very much encouraged to attend. We will then attend the 6pm Mass together (*this is a requirement*), and students will be free to leave when Mass ends at 7pm. The schedule for the entire year is still being finalized, so it will be sent out later in the summer.

**FOR ALL INCOMING 9<sup>th</sup> GRADERS and INCOMING CATHOLIC SCHOOL 10<sup>th</sup> GRADERS, beginning or joining our Confirmation program:** Because Confirmation preparation marks a significant time in the journey of faith and because the program is different from the K-8 program here at Our Lady's, all incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders and any new students are required to have an **introductory meeting** with Kristina during the summer. We will discuss the meaning and importance of Confirmation, along with the program requirements and components, and you will have a chance to ask any questions. Each candidate **MUST** schedule an appointment and at least one parent/guardian must accompany the candidate. Please schedule your meeting as soon as possible.

If you are new to the parish, welcome! Before registering for class, please register as a family with the parish at <https://connectnow.parishsoft.com/Boston/Register.aspx> For all returning families, I ask you to spread the word to any new families and invite them to join our parish and our program!

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**FEE:** The fee for each year of the Confirmation program is \$100.00 per student. If possible, we appreciate you including your payment when you return your registration form. We will never turn anyone away who cannot pay the fee if there is a significant family need. However, please notify Kristina if this is the case. Multiple smaller payments throughout the year are welcome. **Parents who volunteer at EVERY CLASS (small group leader or hall monitor) do not pay tuition.** In addition, there is a late fee of \$25.00 per family for any registrations (from returning families) received after September 18.

Also, because our Religious Education programs run at a deficit each year, we would be grateful for any additional donation to the program, to help cover the fees of those who cannot pay. Any amount would be welcome and greatly appreciated!

**VOLUNTEERS** are an absolute necessity for this program to be successful. I am in need of small-group facilitators and hall monitors. With only eight 75-minute sessions in the year, the time commitment is not great, though the reward is! I give discussion ideas and lots of support each week to help out. There is also a need for help at both retreats. Please indicate on your registration form if you are able to help out. Remember, those who volunteer at every class session do not pay tuition.

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Please return your registration forms as soon as possible so that I can begin to plan the classes, and please include Baptismal and Eucharist certificates if you are new to the program and your child was not baptized at Our Lady's. Forms can be returned via mail or collection basket, or dropped in the Parish Mailbox to the left of the Staff Entrance.

**All students must turn in a registration form regardless of past participation in the program, and Catholic school students must take part in Confirmation preparation at the parish as well. ALL registration forms must be received by Monday, September 18, in order for your son or daughter to begin classes on the first night.** Please don't delay!

Thank you in advance for your attention to all of these matters. Feel free to contact me with any questions. I wish you all a restful summer, and I look forward to seeing all of you again in September!

Peace,

Kristina Preman  
kpreman@sholnewton.org  
617-527-7560 ext.216

**Our Lady Help of Christians Religious Education  
Registration Form (Confirmation Program – typically Gr 9-10) 2017-2018**

**---Class Begins September 24th---**

*Please print clearly and update any missing or incorrect information (especially email addresses).*  
Requests for friends must be received by September 1. Forms must be received by September 18 to begin class on opening day.

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Child's Name	Birth Date	Gender	Grade	If new, previous Rel Ed? (when/where)
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Address, including ZIP	Home Phone
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Name(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)	Parent/Guardian Cell Phone(s)
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Family E-mail Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate E-mail Address (optional but very helpful): \_\_\_\_\_

Name and contact information for non-custodial parent/guardian if different from above:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED** Emergency Contact - NOT PARENT

Name and Relation: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Sacraments Received ( <i>New Students: Please attach copies of certificates for any Sacraments NOT celebrated at Our Lady's</i> )			
Baptism	Y N	Church: _____	Date: _____
Eucharist	Y N	Church: _____	Date: _____

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Child's School: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Classroom Needs or Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

Any Reasons for Irregular Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

ONE FRIEND with whom your child would like to be placed \_\_\_\_\_  
(Grade 9 only – Grade 10 will continue with their same small group)

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**Confirmation Program Fee: \$100 per student. Payments may be made in installments throughout the year.**

**Late Fee: \$25 per family (for returning families only) registering after September 18.**

Note: Our Religious Education program runs at a deficit every year. Please consider assisting other families in need with their tuition, by adding an additional donation to your payment, if you are able. Thank you!

**People who volunteer at each session do not pay for their child's classes. See the included letter for fee information.**

Small Group Facilitator \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Small Group Facilitator \_\_\_\_\_ Teach your own child? Y N

Hall Monitor \_\_\_\_\_ Help with Retreat \_\_\_\_\_ Help with Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_ Help with Special/Service Events \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed form and payment to: Our Lady's Parish, 573 Washington St, Newton, MA 02458, ATTN: Kristina**