"To join two things together there must be nothing between them or there cannot be a perfect fusion. Now realize that this is how God wants our soul to be, without any selfish love of ourselves or of others in between, just as God loves us without anything in between."

St. Catherine of Siena

Dear Parents,

The first Confirmation Preparation session went well. Lots of students!!! We have 92 students in the 7th and 8th grades combined at the parish, which is awesome!!! The new youth minister, “Big Joe” Costello, is doing his best to learn the names of the staff and students.

As we continue to prepare for Confirmation, we will be looking at all baptismal certificates on file and in the OLMC data base.  If your child has not been baptized Catholic, he/she must make a Profession of Faith to the pastor, Fr. Behrend, before Confirmation. Please let me know if this is the case.  Also, if your family is not registered at OLMC Parish you have two options to choose from before Confirmation: one is that you register at OLMC which is done by calling the rectory (440.585.0700) and making an appointment to do so; the second option is to request permission from the pastor at the church at which you are registered to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at OLMC.

For the 8th graders, saint reports are due on Tuesday, October 24th. Instructions for this report are in the packet you received or online at [olmcwickliffe.org](http://olmcwickliffe.org/).  Please give your completed posters to your religion teacher.  They will be set out for display the weekend of All Saints (November 4-5th) in Goretti Hall for parishioners to see.  Here is a great website to check out for saint names for Confirmation:

<http://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>

Parish Covenants for 7th and 8th graders are due October 24th. Please read, sign and turn in by that date.

The Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Prayer Challenge paragraphs are about 85% in! Thank you to all families who took this responsibility to heart and turned in the report by the Confirmation Prep session.  For the other 15% of you, please turn them in as soon as possible. Here are a few pointers about the ones received so far:

~perform ***either*** a Corporal ***or*** a Spiritual Work of Mercy, not both,

~identify which Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy you performed (i.e., which work of mercy is “putting my brother to bed” or "collecting recycling to help save the

  planet”?),

~do not do an intercessory prayer *each month* (i.e.,"I prayed for my grandma this month’ and then the next month “I prayed for my neighbor”); look at the list and   do other types of prayer,

~do not *explain* the type of prayer for the Prayer Challenge. ***do*** that type of prayer,

~do *both* a Prayer Challenge *and* a Work of Mercy each month,

~please type/write these two paragraphs on one sheet of paper.

God bless,

Mrs. Gulden

**WHAT IS CONFIRMATION IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?**

Growth is vital to human life; the body and mind must grow to stay alive. Catholics believe that the soul also needs to grow to maturity in the life of grace, just as the human body must grow through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. Catholics believe the Sacrament of Confirmation is the supernatural equivalent of the growth process on the natural level. It builds on what was begun in Baptism and what was nourished in Holy Eucharist. It completes the process of initiation into the Christian community, and it matures the soul for the work ahead.

So what occurs during a Catholic Confirmation? The Holy Spirit is first introduced to a Catholic the day that she’s baptized, because the entire Holy Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — are invoked at the ceremony. During Confirmation, God the Holy Spirit comes upon the person, accompanied by God the Father and God the Son, just as he did at Pentecost.

This sacrament is called Confirmation because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong. Sometimes, those who benefit from Confirmation are referred to as *soldiers of Christ*. This isn’t a military designation but a spiritual duty to fight the war between good and evil, light and darkness — a war between the human race and all the powers of hell.

Confirmation means accepting responsibility for your faith and destiny. Childhood is a time when you’re told what to do, and you react positively to reward and negatively to punishment. Adulthood, even young adulthood, means that you must do what’s right on your own, not for the recognition or reward but merely because it’s the right thing to do. The focus is on the Holy Spirit, who confirmed the apostles on Pentecost (Acts 2:1–4) and gave them courage to practice their faith. Catholics believe that the same Holy Spirit confirms Catholics during the Sacrament of Confirmation and gives them the same gifts and fruits.

Traditionally, the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit are charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, long-suffering, mildness, faith, modesty, continency, and chastity. These are human qualities that can be activated by the Holy Spirit. The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. These gifts are supernatural graces given to the soul.