Dates and Deadlines for Confirmation 2026-2027

First Day of Class

- *September 23, 2026*

End of 1st Semester

- *December 16, 2026*

Second Semester begins

- January 13, 2027

Last Day of Class

- *April 28, 2027*

Confirmation Date

TBA – We request three days in the month of May, but the bishop's office decides our actual date. The Diocese of Brownsville will try to give us the dates requested, but it depends on Bishop's schedule. We will let you know our Confirmation date when informed by the Bishop's office. Typically, our date is given to us in late January early February.

Documents Needed

*If your child was **NOT** baptized or did not do their First Communion at Our Lady of Sorrows, please turn in a copy of your child's **baptism certificate** to the parish office. You can e-mail it to ccd@oladyofsorrows.org, lhuggins@oladyofsorrows.org, or bring it to the parish office **no later than January 11, 2027**.*

Parent Classes

Three parent classes are required for parents of children who will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation this year. All classes are from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Classes will take place on these following dates.

- ***1st Class:** **Wednesday, January 13, 2027 in the conference room at 6:30 p.m. Class will be in English. Thursday, January 14, 2027 in the CCD Annex (Blue Room) at 6:30 p.m. Class will be in Spanish***
- ***2nd Class:** **Wednesday, January 20, 2027 in the conference room at 6:30 p.m. Class will be in English. Thursday, January 21, 2027 in the CCD Annex (Blue Room) at 6:30 p.m. Class will be in Spanish.***
- ***3rd Class:** **Wednesday, January 27, 2027 in the conference room at 6:30 p.m. Class will be in English. Thursday, January 28, 2027 in the CCD Annex (Blue Room) at 6:30 p.m. Class will be in Spanish.***

Sponsors for Confirmation:

A sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age, and a practicing Catholic who has all of their initiation sacraments (Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation). Confirmation students can have a married couple. One male and one female, and the couple needs to be married by the Catholic Church. **Couples from other faith denominations are not eligible to be sponsors for Confirmation. If the couple is married civilly and not by the Catholic Church, they are also not eligible to be sponsors for Confirmation.** A divorced Catholic who is living a single life (not married civilly or living with someone) can be a sponsor.

- Deadline for Sponsor(s) name(s), address, is **Monday, January 11th.**
- Please have a conversation with your children about who their sponsor will be. The choice of a sponsor should be for them to choose and not chosen for them.

Ministry Involvement:

All students receiving Confirmation this year are invited to serve in a ministry in the church connected to the Sunday liturgy.

- **Altar Server**
- **Lector**
- **Choir**

For our older students, an additional opportunity is available:

- **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:** Students in 11th or 12th grade may serve in this role. This important ministry requires a brief interview to ensure the student is prepared for this responsibility.

Service projects and youth events within the Church Confirmation candidates will be **required** to participate in the life and mission of the Church. We have different opportunities to serve and participate in various capacities.

- Join us for our **Youth gatherings** on Wednesday before C.C.D. class from 5:00 p.m. to 6:25 p.m.
- Serve on our **team for our fall retreat** on Saturday, **October 24th** (Date subject to change). If a Spring Retreat is scheduled, they will have an opportunity to serve on the retreat.
- Help set up for our **Youth Café Night** on **Saturday, November 7th** and join us for the evening from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Parents' help is

much appreciated with food or dessert donations and/or attendance at the event.)

- Helping with our **Christmas toy drive** at weekend Masses on:
    - **November 21st and 22nd**
    - **November 28th and 29th**
    - **December 5th and 6th**
    - **December 12th, and 13th**
    - **December 19th, and 20th**

- The collection of toys will begin the weekend of November 28th and 29th and end on the weekend of December 19th and 20th.
- Toy sorting will take place **Monday, December 21st beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room.**
- Distribution of toys will take place **Tuesday, December 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Conference room.**
- **Good Friday Service, March 26th.**
    - Students are asked to participate in our **Good Friday service** by leading a procession around the church with a statue of the crucified Jesus. Practice will be held by Fr. Labus on **Good Friday** in the morning. Time will be announce at a later date. After practice, we will head to **Mama's Pizzeria for lunch at noon.**
- The Service will take place at **3:00 p.m. in the main church.**

- **Confirmation Retreat Dates**
    - Students who did not attend our fall or spring retreat last year will be required to attend our **fall retreat to make up for missing last year's retreat.**

    - Second year Confirmation required retreat dates (students only attend one date).
        - **First date is Friday through Sunday. February 19th, 20th, and 21st, at the retreat house on the grounds of the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan Del Valle.** We will be spending the night Friday and Saturday evening and the retreat will end on Sunday. Pick up will be at 9:30 a.m. at the retreat house. We ask that you go directly to Our Lady of Sorrows and attend the 11:00 a.m. Mass. The retreat concludes after the Sunday liturgy. Students on retreat will sit together during the Mass.
        - **Second date is Friday through Sunday. February 26th, 27th, and 28th at the retreat house on the grounds of the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan Del Valle.** We will be spending the night Friday and Saturday evening and the

retreat will end on Sunday. Pick up will be at 9:30 a.m. at the retreat house. We ask that you go directly to Our Lady of Sorrows and attend the 11:00 a.m. Mass. The retreat concludes after the Sunday liturgy. Students on retreat will sit together during the Mass.

- We will have a parent meeting with retreat information and what the process will be to register your child. The date for retreat information will take place on two different days. Please pick a date that works best for your schedule and you will only need to attend one meeting.
  - First meeting will take place Saturday, January 9th at 11:00 a.m. in the Conference room.
  - Second meeting will take place Saturday, January 23rd
- The cost of both retreats is $170.

- **Class Attendance**
  Confirmation **students cannot have more than five absences** for the entire CCD year to be eligible for the sacrament of Confirmation. Please let us know with a call to the CCD office when your child will not be attending.

- **Mass Attendance**
  Sunday Mass is vital part of the formation of all of our Confirmation students. If Mass is not being attended, the sacrament cannot be administered to the student. This is a non-negotiable element of your child's Confirmation journey. Although we do not take attendance to confirm that your child is going to Mass, we will start taking attendance if we notice that students are not coming. Going to Sunday Mass as a family should be a part of who we are as Catholics and not looked on as something we have to do.

Lastly, receiving the sacrament of Confirmation is not graduation from religious studies of the faith. Although it is the last of the initiation sacraments, it is just the beginning of a life long journey of faith with Christ and the church. The sacrament helps strengthen us by receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit! The same Holy Spirit we received at our Baptism. We are excited about this year, and we look forward to the journey ahead. Please know that you have our prayers and support! Let the journey begin!