

## **OLGC ANTIOCH RETREAT WEEKEND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

### **What is an Antioch Weekend?**

Antioch Weekend is a 2-day "retreat" beginning on Saturday morning and concluding with an afternoon Mass on Sunday. It is a unique teen-led "retreat" that reaches out to the hearts of our young people. It offers our candidates a spiritual experience unlike any other program provided by Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. On this retreat weekend, the Holy Spirit reaches out to our young people, and they are given the awesome opportunity to respond. The Antioch Weekend is administered by experienced and trained teens who are closely supervised (throughout the weekend) by trained adults.

### **Why is this weekend called Antioch?**

Acts of the Apostles 11:26 says, "It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians." During the early Church times the community at Antioch was recognized as a particularly faithful, vibrant, loving, and prayerful people of God.

### **What is the weekend like?**

It is a dynamic weekend, full of sharing, discussions, music, food, fun, games, activities, and more. This weekend is given by experienced youth with the help of parish parents, adult volunteers and priests.

### **Why is it mandatory for my teen to attend in order to be Confirmed?**

Diocesan guidelines require retreats for all Confirmation candidates. We feel this is the most worthwhile retreat experience for our OLGC candidates. The Antioch weekend provides an excellent opportunity for our young people to reflect on their personal faith and what being Confirmed in our Catholic Church really means.

### **Why is there an additional cost for the retreat weekend?**

The fee for the weekend is separate from regular GIFT Ministry/Confirmation costs. The \$50 covers the cost for dinner on Saturday, and various supplies throughout the weekend. OLGC Youth Ministry shares the cost for this retreat. Your registration fee helps cover the cost for your individual child. For families with two children attending the same Antioch weekend the total cost is \$75.

If you have additional questions regarding this retreat, please contact the Youth Ministry Office at [youthministry@goodcounsel.org](mailto:youthministry@goodcounsel.org)

## INFORMATION & ITEMS TO BRING FOR YOUR ANTIOCH WEEKEND

**Date & Time of Arrival:** Candidates should arrive on **Saturday, February 22, 2025** and **Sunday, February 23 @ 11am** at the school building at OLG. **PLEASE EAT BREAKFAST BEFORE YOU ARRIVE.** Personal belongings brought that day will be searched. This includes purses, bags, backpacks etc. *Travel light, this is a spiritual journey!*

**Date & time of closing:** On **Saturday, February 22nd** we will end at approximately **9pm**. Please pick up your student promptly.

**Closing Mass on Sunday, February 23, 2025 @ 2pm.** Mass and Closing Ceremony will last approximately 60 minutes. It is important that parents attend and share in this special time with your student.

**Items to Bring:** Wear layers and bring a jacket as we will spend time outdoors weather permitting. Each candidate should bring their own lunch each day. **We also request each candidate donate a six-pack of soda/juice/water and ONE bag of snacks/cookies/chips TO BE SHARED BY ALL.**

**Items to NOT Bring:** **NO DRUGS, NO ALCOHOL, NO SMOKING** including Vaping on this retreat. **All personal belongings will be searched!** NO WATER BOTTLES. Students can drink the canned beverages, water, or drinks that will be supplied. **NO electronic devices!** This includes gaming devices etc. **Cell phones will NOT be permitted.** All devices will be confiscated during the weekend and cannot be returned until the end of the day! Remember, the whole idea behind "retreat" is getting away from our regular, fast-paced, high-tech lifestyles.

### KEY DATES for Confirmation Candidates attending Antioch Weekend:

Sunday 2/2: **Antioch paperwork**, Palancas & \$50 fee due

Sat-Sun. 2/22-2/23: **Antioch weekend** begins at 11am each day

Sunday 2/23 @ 2PM: **Closing Mass** for parents & candidates

Sunday 3/23: All **Confirmation paperwork** due

Friday 4/18 at 3pm: Confirmation Students attend **Good Friday service**

**Sacrament of Confirmation Mass: Friday, April 25, 2025 at 7 PM**