

St. Leonard Christian Formation Handbook

**W173 S7777 Westwood Drive
Muskego, WI 53150
262-679-0880**

2026 to 2027



OUR MISSION

**Growing as Catholics in the image of Jesus Christ through Worship,
Formation and Community.**

Table of Contents

Staff Contact Information	2
Inclement Weather Policy	2
Sunday Mass / Mass Reflections	3
General Information	4 – 8
Calendar of Classes	9
Elementary (Gr. 1 - 6)	10 – 11
Youth Ministry (Gr. 7 - 9)	12
Confirmation (Gr. 10 & 11)	13
Completion of Requirements / Athletic Eligibility	14
Home Study	14
Service Hours	15
Family Faith in Action/Enrichment Events	16
Jr. Leo's (K3 / K4 / K5)	17
Little Leos Nursery Program	17
Related Groups / Fund Raisers	18
Sacramental Life	19 – 21
Vine and Branches Special Needs Program	22

Contacts

Director of Child Ministry: Lisa Jachimiec

Nursery through Grade 6: lisa.jachimiec@stleonards.org

262-679-0880, ext. 52

Director of Youth Ministry: Position currently open

Grades 7 – 11:

262-679-0880

Administrative Assistants

262-679-0880, ext. 22

For general correspondence

STLCFO@stleonards.org

Vine & Branches - Christian Formation for Students with Disabilities

Age 6 through age 22

Absences:

To report an absence please either only email STLAbsences@stleonards.org or call

262-679-0880, ext. 22 only

Website: www.stleonards.org (click on Christian Formation tab)

Inclement Weather Policy

If there are weather conditions (*snow, ice, etc.*) or an emergency that necessitates the cancellation of the Christian Formation Program or events, the appropriate information will be posted to the **Christian Formation website** at: www.stleonards.org and our voicemail will be updated.

Local news channels WTMJ and WISN should also be notified.



Sunday Mass

The **Catholic Church** tells us that we have an *obligation to go to Mass* every Sunday. It is an obligation that most of us fulfill willingly, but many people don't understand why the Church requires this of us.

In the **Third Commandment**, God tells us to “***Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.***”

For the Jews, the Sabbath was Saturday; Christians, however, transferred the Sabbath to Sunday, the day of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. The Church tells us that we have an obligation to fulfill this commandment by refraining from unnecessary work on Sunday and by participating in the Mass, our chief form of worship as Catholics.

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have understood that being a Christian isn't a private matter. We are called to be Christians *together*; while we can and should engage in the private worship of God throughout the week, **our primary form of worship is public and communal**, which is why Sunday Mass is so important.



Mass Reflections

Mass attendance is an integral part of our faith journey and formation. Classroom instruction and activities rely on students regularly attending Mass. When students are not familiar with the structure of the Mass, prayers, etc., it reduces the quality of our classroom experiences.

Each student in grades two through eleven are required to complete eight Mass Reflections throughout the year.

With our new platform, we will be releasing details on how to check in at Mass in the coming weeks. We apologize for the delay as we work toward a streamlined process to make things very easy for students and their parents.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Parking Lot Safety

To ensure the safety of all children, please observe the following procedures. When dropping off children, make sure that children have safely entered the building before leaving the parking lot.

Note: No pick up or drop off is allowed at the **South Entrance** to the school building for the protection of all of our children. Enter the parking lot at the **north** driveway (*Church side*) and exit by the **south** (*School / Youth Center*) driveway. Please drive slowly and be aware of pedestrians, especially in the evenings.

Attendance

Regular attendance at classes is essential for any measure of success in a Christian Formation Program. Weekly attendance enables children to grow in the knowledge of the Faith, to develop a sense of belonging to the parish community, and, through regular prayer to build a relationship with God. 100% attendance is **preferred** – but the required attendance is as follows:

Grades 1 – 6*: **15 of 20** classes (*up to five absences *makeup work available upon request for illness or family emergency related absences*)

Grades 4 - 9: **Enrichment Event** (*with a parent - see page 18*)

Grades 7 - 9: **13 of 16** classes (*up to three absences*)

Confirmation 10-11: **14 of 16 classes** (*up to two absences*)

- **Ushering or Altar Serving at Mass is NOT a substitute for attending class and are not to be scheduled during class time.**
- ***Students with more than allowed absences have not “Completed Requirements” which will affect eligibility for Athletics.***
- **If your child(ren) will be absent, please call before class begins (262-679-0880). *Calling in your missing student does not negate the absence.***
- **Due to space restrictions and attendance tracking, *students are not able to attend class on another day.***
- **Missing class for any St. Leonard Athletic event, practice, game or team Mass is not permitted.**

Grades 4 – 9 Attendance Specifics

All students in Grades 4 – 9 are required to attend **one *Enrichment Event*** with their family. (*An **Enrichment Event** schedule will be emailed to parents in October and the most current schedule can be found online at www.stleonards.org. Click on the ‘**Enrichment Events**’ tab.*)

Late Arrival / Early Release of Students

For the safety of students and volunteers, the building is locked after the bell rings. This also includes the indoor access door between the Church and Formation Office.

Those arriving after the bell - or - leaving prior to the ending bell:

- Parent(s) and student(s) come to the **SCHOOL Office** (*ring bell outside entrance*) ~ *parent signs child in as a **late arrival***
- Parent(s) comes to the **SCHOOL Office** (*ring bell outside entrance*) and *signs out child as an **early departure***

As always, students are not allowed to leave early for any St. Leonard Athletic event (games, tournaments, practices or team Masses).



School Office Entrance – RING BUZZER

Code of Conduct

Students in Christian Formation are expected, at all times, to be respectful, courteous, and honest to the faculty, staff, and fellow students.

In class, students are expected to...

- Arrive on time and report directly to classroom **(please be aware of the time if you are attending Hospitality Sunday) – food or drink is to be consumed prior to entering classrooms**
- Be prepared for class with their homework and supplies
- Respect the property of the school and other students
- Listen to the catechist (*teacher*) and follow directions
- Show respect, through words and actions, to the catechist and to other students
- Not call out in class or leave their seats unless asked to do otherwise
- Not be a distraction to or disrespectful toward other students

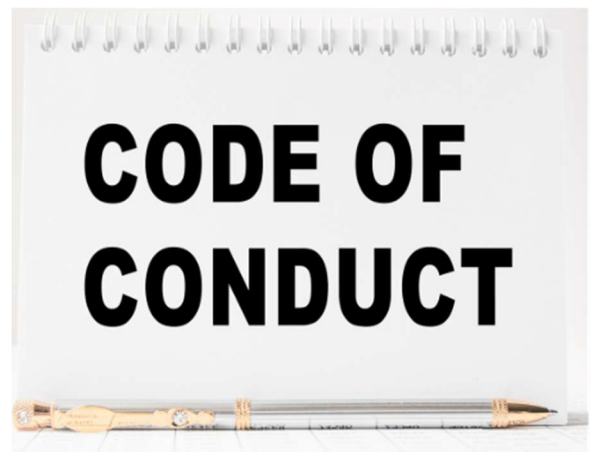
If a student does not follow the above guidelines...

- **1st Incident** – child is sent to the Christian Formation Office
- **2nd Incident** – child is sent to the Christian Formation Office – and – contact is made with the parents
- **3rd Incident** – a parent of the child is **required** to sit in class with the student until the teacher feels the child is ready to be on his or her own again.

Dual Household Reporting

In cases where parents and / or legal guardians do not reside in the same household, **the names and addresses of both parents should be listed on the registration form.** The Christian Formation Office should have custodial information indicating to which parent the child should be released after class.

Unless otherwise instructed, information commonly made available to parents of any student in attendance will be provided to both parents whenever possible.



Emergency Contact Information

At registration, parents/guardians are asked to provide an email address, home and work phone numbers, as well as any other phone number which would be used in case of an accident or emergency. **Should any of this information change during the year, please notify the Christian Formation Office.** *Email addresses are required at the time of registration for direct communication for non-emergency issues throughout the year.*

Emergency Response

At the beginning of each Christian Formation semester, we will be explaining our emergency procedures. The response for the emergency procedures will be as follows:

Fire – All students will take their coats and proceed in an orderly fashion with their teachers to the nearest exit to the front parking lot. They will remain there until it is safe to return to the building.

Tornado or Weather emergency – All students and their teachers will go to the cafeteria. They will sit on the floor until the danger has passed.

Lockdown – Students will remain in their classrooms with the teacher unless instructed otherwise.



Sacramental Preparation

To fully participate in the Sacramental life of the Church, all students should complete the Christian Formation programs for grades 1-9 or attend a Catholic school for grades 1-9 and be fully prepared for the reception of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Baptism: All students must receive the Sacrament of Baptism prior to receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

******If a child is seven or older and is not baptized – or – is baptized but delayed in the reception of Eucharist, please contact the **Christian Formation Office** and we will connect with the staff to assist us in creating a plan for your child – 262-679-0880

In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist normally occurs during a child's second grade year with one full year of faith formation as a foundation prior to this year.

To meet the Archdiocesan requirements, St. Leonard policy requires children be enrolled in Christian Formation either here or at another Catholic church or school for one full year before they can begin their preparation for these two sacraments. This ensures each child begins to develop a foundation in faith formation and the understanding that the celebration of the sacraments is a **lifelong** process.

First Reconciliation: Preparation for First Reconciliation is completed in the fall semester of a child's second year of formation (*please see above statement on preparation*). This study culminates in **all** second-year students attending a reconciliation prayer service in December. **Attendance at this service is a required part of the program.** You and your child determine if he or she is ready to receive the sacrament at the end of the service. A required informational parent meeting will be held. (See page 9 for meeting date.)

First Eucharist: Preparation for First Eucharist occurs in the spring semester of the second year of formation. An informational parent meeting is held in mid-January and one parent is **required** to attend this important meeting.

Confirmation: Preparation for Confirmation. Details can be found under the Confirmation Preparation section of this handbook.



See more information in the Delayed Sacraments/SALA section of this handbook

2026 to 2027 CALENDAR OF CLASSES

Grades 1 - 11

Students **MUST** attend both Fall and Spring Sessions

Elementary and Youth Ministry Class times:

Sunday **10:15 - 11:30 am** / Monday **6:15 - 7:30 pm**

Elementary Year One – Grade 6

***Required Meeting to be held in person**

FALL SESSION

September 13/14

September 20/21

September 27/28

October 4/5

October 11/12

October 18/19

No classes October 25/26

November 1/2

November 8/9

November 15/16

November 22/23

SPRING SESSION

January 3/4

January 10/11

January 17/18

January 24/25

January 31/February 1

February 7/8

February 14/15

No classes February 21/22

February 28/March 1

March 7/8

March 14/15

Youth Ministry Grades 7 – 9

FALL SESSION

September 27/28

October 4/5

October 11/12

October 18/19

No classes October 25/26

November 1/2

November 8/9

November 15/16

November 22/23

SPRING SESSION

January 17/18

January 24/25

January 31/February 1

February 7/8

February 14/15

No classes February 21/22

February 28/March 1

March 7/8

March 14/15

Confirmation Grades 10 – 11

Class times: Sunday **6:30 - 8:00 pm**

***Mandatory Parent Meeting first day of class – one parent is required to attend**

FALL SESSION

September 27

October 4

October 11

October 18

No Classes October 25

November 1

November 8

November 15

November 22

SPRING SESSION

January 17

January 24

January 31

February 7

February 14

No classes February 21

February 28

March 7

March 14

Elementary Grades 1 – 6

Requirements for students in Grades 1 – 6 are as follows:

- All Grades: **required Attendance** in class (*15 of 20 classes*)
- Grades 2 – 6: Complete **eight Mass Reflections** (*new process to be finalized*)
- Grade 2 – Attend a **Reconciliation Prayer service**
- Grades 4, 5, 6: complete **one Enrichment Event** (see *Family Faith in Action/Enrichment section*)

Our **Elementary Program** is open to children in grades one through six. It includes teachings on the Tradition, Scriptures, Prayer and Social Teachings of the Catholic Church.

Enrichment Events

In order to increase our contact time with students in grades 4 – 6, these students are **required** to complete one of the *Enrichment Events* scheduled throughout the year. An adult 18+ needs to accompany students. (*A Enrichments Event schedule will be emailed to parents in October and the most current schedule can be found online at www.stleonards.org. Click on the 'Enrichment Event' tab.*)

HOME STUDY See *Home Study* section with details on Home Study options



Elementary *continued*

Watch for information, sent via email, on the following:

- **Class Assignments** about ten days prior to the start of the program
- **Home Study Pickup Date** (*after all in-person programs have begun, usually around the first weekend in October*)
- **Spring Session** information
- **First Reconciliation Parent Meeting**
- **First Communion Parent Meeting**
- **Parent newsletters** - will be emailed when published and be available on the website: www.stleonards.org

FIRST RECONCILIATION

FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING: (parents only please)

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 @ 6:30 pm in Church

FIRST RECONCILIATION PRAYER SERVICE: (Attendance required)

Saturday, December 5, 2026 @ 10:00 am – 11:30 am in Church

***FIRST COMMUNION**

FIRST COMMUNION PARENT MEETING – parents only, please

Wednesday, January 20, 2027, 6:30 pm Church

**Sign up for your First Communion date will happen after this required meeting. You and your child are required to attend the rehearsal for the date of First Communion Mass you select.*

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT (Required parent / child attendance.)

Saturday, February 27, 2027, 8:45 – 11:30 am

OR

Saturday, March 6, 2027, 8:45 – 11:30 am

Separate Scheduled First Communion Mass

Sunday, April 18, 2027, 1:30 pm

Required Rehearsal Date: *Wednesday,*
April 14, 2027, 6:30–7:45 pm

Sunday, April 25, 2027, 1:30 pm

Required Rehearsal Date: *Wednesday,*
April 21, 2027, 6:30 – 7:45 pm

Regularly Scheduled Parish Mass

Saturday, May 1, 2027, 5:00 pm

Mass

Required Rehearsal Date: *Friday,*
April 30, 2027, 6:00 pm



Youth Ministry ~ Grades 7 - 9

Requirements for students in grades 7 – 9 are as follows:

- Attend at least 13 of 16 classes
- Attend one **Enrichment Event** with a parent*
- Grades 7 – 9 **complete service hours** - (see page 15)
- Complete **eight Mass Reflections** - (new check-in process to be provided once finalized)

The goal for attendance is 100% for classes and *one Enrichment Event with a parent*. All families have obligations they must attend. It is our hope that families make Christian Formation a priority. In order to work collaboratively with the needs of busy families, we allow three absences for the year.

***Enrichment Events** are meant to enhance spiritual formation in a non-classroom setting. These opportunities are meant for parents to spend time with their children in an environment that can enrich their faith journeys. *(An Enrichment Event schedule will be emailed to parents in October and the most current schedule can be found online at www.stleonards.org. Click on the 'Enrichment Events' tab.)*

Service hour requirements:

Grade 7: Two hours
Grade 8: Five Hours
Grade 9: Ten Hours

See **Service Hour section** for more details.

The Christian Formation Office can be called or emailed at any time to verify the status of student requirements.

Curriculum for Youth Ministry is meant to be a more in-depth study of the Catholic faith. Students review what they have already learned in elementary Christian Formation and become more involved in their faith.

Make-up work is not available.

Due to space considerations and attendance tracking, students are not able to attend class on another day.



Confirmation Program ~ Grades 10 & 11

Requirements to receive the sacrament of Confirmation are as follows:

- Complete the ***Christian Formation program*** in grades 1-9 – OR – attend a ***Catholic school in grades 1-9***
- Complete a ***two-year Confirmation Program with required attendance*** (*Catholic High School students, Junior year only*)
- Complete ***eight Mass Reflections*** each year
- Complete ***15 service hours Junior year / 10 service hours Sophomore year*** (see *Service Hours* section)
- Attend a ***one day retreat Sophomore year*** (see below)
- Attend a one day ***Confirmation retreat Junior year*** (see below)
- Write a ***letter to the Archbishop*** – OR – fill out ***Confirmation Candidate Questionnaire for the Bishop*** presiding at the Confirmation Mass (*Junior year*)
- Complete a ***Confirmation interview*** (*Junior year*)

Home Study is not available for Grades 10 and 11

One **parent MUST** attend with your student **on the first night of class**

More information about the Confirmation and Sophomore Retreats will be provided when available. Please mark your calendars with these dates.

Sophomore Retreat date

One day long retreat (8:45 am – 6:00 pm) held at St. Leonard
Saturday, November 14, 2026

Confirmation Retreat date

One day long retreat (8:45 am – 6:00 pm) held at St. Leonard
Saturday, January 16, 2027

Confirmation Interview dates

Sunday, January 31, 2027

CONFIRMATION DATE

The Archdiocese has posted our assigned Confirmation date:

Friday, April 9, 2027, 7:00 pm

REHEARSAL DATE: Wednesday, April 7, 2027, 6:30 pm in Church



Completion of Requirements / Participation in Athletics Programs Annual Expectations



- **Required attendance in class**
(students may not attend class on another day)
- **First Reconciliation Prayer Service attendance** (Grade 2)
- Complete and submit **Eight Mass Reflections** (Grades 2 -11)
- **Enrichment Event attendance** (Grades 4 - 9)
- Required **Hours of Service** (Grades 7 - 11)
- **Acceptable Behavior** - If a student reaches a third incident, participation in Athletics will be suspended.

Athletics Participation *

In order to be eligible to participate in St. Leonard Athletics Programs, *students in K4 - 11th grade must fulfill all requirements for the year of participation by the deadline. **All students have a completion date of April 15, 2027 to maintain Athletic Eligibility for the 2027 to 2028 year*** .

*****Per Christian Formation Eligibility Standards**, students must be current with requirements throughout the year – and – complete the requirements for the current year in order to maintain their eligibility to participate.*** At the beginning of each sport season (volleyball, basketball, soccer and track), eligibility will be reviewed.

Students may not leave class early or miss class due to a St. Leonard Athletics event, practice, game or activity. Participation in the St. Leonard Athletics program is a privilege for students who continue to complete all requirements in Christian Formation.

Sacramental Reception

An important part of your child's formation experience includes preparation to receive Sacraments. **When a child is not fully prepared through attendance / participation in class and completion of the requirements, his or her readiness to receive the Sacraments will be reviewed and potentially delayed.** Discussion with Director(s), Pastor, and parents along with your child, will determine what additional instruction and formation needs to be completed.

***Students with missing Sacramental preparation are expected to complete the appropriate program / materials and be ready for the reception of the Sacrament(s) within the first two years of enrollment in Christian Formation to maintain Athletic Eligibility.**

Home Study

Students benefit greatly from the classroom experience which cannot be duplicated at home. Families are encouraged to make the necessary accommodations for this. For the families who cannot attend classes due to a legitimate conflict, St. Leonard Christian Formation offers a Home Study alternative on an exception basis only.

Home Study participants are required to meet with the coordinator/Director. All completed materials are due according to the provided schedule. The completion of eight Mass Reflections by the final due date is required for students in Grades 3-9.

Elementary (Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, & 6)

Families will be given a student textbook, online access to parent over-reviews, and a schedule of due dates for the chapter reviews. Students in grades 4 - 6 are required to attend **one Enrichment Event with a parent.**

Due to the extensive Sacramental Preparation, **Home Study is not available for second year formation.**

If you have questions or would like additional information on our Home Study program for Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, please contact Lisa Jachimiec at 262-679-0880.



Youth Ministry (Grades 7, 8, & 9)

All Home Study participants are required to complete coursework and attend *Enrichment Event with a parent*. Students are asked to participate in community service. These requirements become part of the student record and are a component of "Eligibility" status.

Confirmation (Grades 10 & 11)

Home Study is not available for the Confirmation program.

If you have questions or would like additional information on our Home Study program for Grades 7, 8, and 9, please contact the Christian Formation Office.



Service Hours

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

1 Peter 4:10

As Catholics, we are required to perform service to others. As a child grows, we firmly believe having students complete service hours helps bring them closer to God.

Youth ministry students in grades 7- 11 must complete service hours.

Grade 7 – **Two Hrs.** Grades 8 – **Five Hrs.** Grade 9 – **Ten Hrs.**

Grade 10 – **Ten Hrs.** Grade 11 – **Fifteen Hrs.**

If you are a member of the organization that benefits from, or are under obligation to perform the activity, the work does not count toward this Christian Formation requirement.

Community service hours performed to satisfy a court order may not be used toward Christian Formation requirement.

Service Hour submission processes will be discussed as the new platform is rolled out.

Service opportunities that are available through St. Leonard:

- ❖ **Labor of Love** (LOL) – ongoing
- ❖ **World Series to Strike Out Hunger**
- ❖ **Souper Bowl of Caring** – February
- ❖ **Mission Trip** – Summer
- ❖ **VBS** – Summer
- ❖ **Family Night Events** - multiple times
- ❖ **Church Decorating** - multiple times
- ❖ **Knights of Columbus** activities - multiple times
- ❖ **Little Leo’s** and **Jr. Leo’s** during 9:00 am Mass
- ❖ **Additional opportunities are presented weekly during class time and will be listed on our website**



“Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world”

- Howard Zinn

Enrichment Events

Learning about our faith is the way we create a foundation. However, putting our faith to work is how we come to ‘*know*’ Jesus on a personal level. These events are designed to inform the participants about different non-profit organizations and complete a service project to benefit the speaker’s ministry. Pick one of the events to attend with your child(ren) throughout the year. ***A schedule of opportunities will be emailed in October.***

RSVP’s are required by five days prior to the event.

Events may include in-person, interactive speakers, or activities. More events will be added throughout the year. ***For the most up-to-date schedule*** of Enrichment events, watch your **Parent newsletters** or check the Christian Formation website at: www.stleonards.org.



LITTLE LEO'S NURSERY PROGRAM

Do you have young children you bring to Mass each week? Our ***Little Leos Nursery program*** is for you!! Held during 9:00 am Mass, we offer a unique opportunity for children, ***ages six months through four years***, to experience God at their level. Staffed by two adults and two youth, there are toys, games, videos and coloring with a connection to the Sunday readings. Little Leos is currently held most weekends of the year. The Nursery is located near the restrooms in the Gathering Space and is totally free!!



For more information, or if you would be interested in volunteering in Little Leos, please contact Lisa Jachimiec in the Christian Formation Office.

Jr. Leo's – K3, K4 and K5

Our Junior Leo's program is designed for children who will be in K3, K4 or K5 this fall (*three years old by September 1, 2026*) and are reasonably on the way to being potty trained. Do you have a child that falls into this category? We would LOVE to have you be a part of ***Jr. Leo's*** this year.

The cost is only \$100 per year, per child to cover materials. We meet during the 9:00 am Mass times beginning in October. ***Pre-registration is mandatory so we can ensure we have the volunteer staff required.*** Don't miss out on this very fun and exciting way to be a part of Jr. Leo's this year!!

CALENDAR OF CLASSES-SUNDAY DURING 9AM MASS

FALL SESSION

October 4, 2026

October 11, 2026

October 18, 2026

October 25, 2026 (No Class)

November 1, 2026

November 8, 2026

November 15, 2026

November 22, 2026

November 29, 2026 (No Class)

December 6, 2026

December 13, 2026

December 20, 2026 (No Class)

December 27, 2026 (No Class)

SPRING SESSION

January 3, 2027

January 10, 2027

January 17, 2027

January 24, 2027

January 31, 2027

February 7, 2027

February 14, 2027

February 21, 2027 (No Class)

February 28, 2027

March 7, 2027

March 14, 2027

March 21, 2027

Groups Related to Christian Formation

LABOR OF LOVE - a youth/family service organization that provides service to residents in the Muskego area.

MISSION TRIP - An annual summer trip to another state for teens and adults to give an immersion experience with worship, prayer and a focus on community service. We work with Catholic Heart Workcamp.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) – Looking forward to VBS 2027!!!

CLAS - Christian Learning And Spirituality is an advisory committee to the Christian Formation Department.

The purpose of catechesis (Christian formation) is to make a person's faith become living, conscious, and active through the light of instruction..."

Catechesis is a lifelong process for the individual and a constant and concerted activity of the Christian Community". The Christian Learning and Spirituality committee seeks to carry out its above stated purpose through program design and instruction, support of the work of the directors, and fundraising.

Fund Raisers

SCRIP is just like cash – it's money you would spend anyway without costing anything extra. Check our website for a SCRIP order form with a complete listing of retailers. Pay face value and the parish gets a percentage of the sale!



MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISERS

- **Stock Sale** - \$10.00 per share. Profits to go to the group as a whole.

Sacramental Life

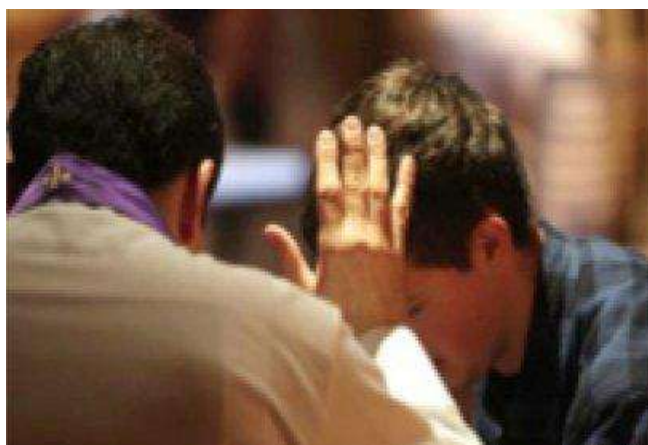
As Roman Catholics, sacraments are a key part of both our formational and worship experiences. Receiving a sacrament (*and its accompanying grace*) is one way we draw closer to God throughout our lives.

Understanding the reception of a sacrament is an integral part of your child's development through our Christian Formation programs. Because the Church feels so strongly about our Sacramental life, we are outlining the preparation process for **First Reconciliation**, **First Eucharist**, and **Confirmation**. These processes are begun with the understanding that your child has been baptized in a Catholic (*or other Christian*) religion. If your child is **NOT baptized** or is delayed in their reception of a sacrament (*other than what is listed*) please see the **Sacraments at a Later Age** section for more information on how we can work with your individual family needs.

Children who have completed the first year of formation (*typically while in First Grade*) enter their second year beginning preparation for the reception of two sacraments.

First Reconciliation

Our fall semester prepares your child to receive Reconciliation (*Confession*) in his or her second year of formation.



First Eucharist

Our spring semester of second year formation focuses on preparing your child to receive Jesus through the Eucharist. Preparation focuses on learning about the Real Presence of Christ as well as the actions and prayers we share during this special time.

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation is held in the spring of the candidate's Junior year of high school. Preparation for Confirmation is a two-year program. Candidates must complete both years of Christian Formation classes **and** the requirements for both years to be adequately prepared for Confirmation.

Requirements to receive the sacrament of Confirmation are as follows:

- Complete the **Christian Formation program in Grades 1-9** ~ OR
~ attend a **Catholic school in Grades 1-9**
- Complete a **two-year Confirmation Program** with required attendance
- for *Catholic High School students, Junior year only*
- Complete **Eight Mass Reflections** each year
- Complete **15 service hours Junior year / 10 service hours Sophomore year**
(see *Service Hours* section)
- Attend a **day long retreat Sophomore year**
- Attend a **day long Confirmation retreat Junior year**
- Write a **letter to the Archbishop** – or – complete **Questionnaire for the Bishop**
presiding at the Confirmation Mass (*Junior year*)
- Complete a **Confirmation interview** (*Junior year*)

* For Sophomores, all requirements must be completed by **April 15, 2027**.

* For Juniors, all requirements must be completed by **December 1, 2026** - except for the Retreat and Reconciliation which must be completed by **March 1, 2027**.



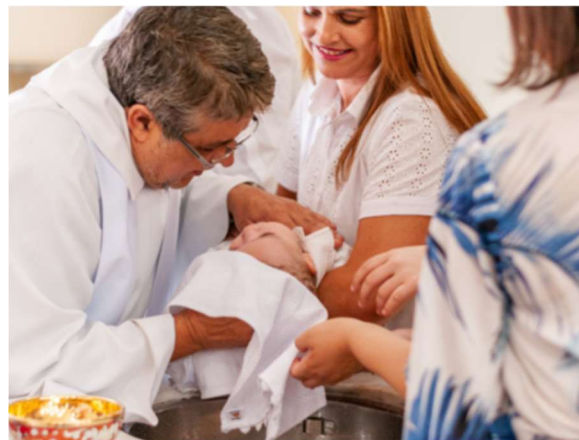
Junior year of high school tends to be an extremely busy year for most youth. Please encourage your child to start working on their service hours and Mass reflections for their Junior year during the summer months. Both service hours and Mass reflections may be turned in starting **July 1** for the upcoming year.

Sacraments at a Later Age (SALA)

There are as many reasons as there are children as to why someone is not prepared to receive a Sacrament at the “usual age.” Each situation is unique — and we have experienced an increase in our students receiving Sacraments at a later age in recent years. We want to work with you to prepare your child to receive missing Sacraments. If your child is **in third grade (and Baptized)** or **over the age of seven (and not Baptized)**, we have a program to assist in preparation.

Baptized—Grade Three and Higher

Students entering Third Grade or higher (*and Baptized*) will be placed in their appropriate level formation year and spend that year learning along with their peers. During the second year of formation, students will continue the classroom instruction and additionally, meet with staff outside of classroom time for small group study focused on the sacramental preparation needed.



Not Baptized—Age Seven or Older

Students who have reached the *Age of Reason* (age seven) and are **not Baptized** will follow a similar two-year process. During the first year of your child's formation, he or she will attend classroom instruction with peers. During the second year of formation, in addition to grade level classroom instruction, preparation for full initiation into the Church will be completed. **Full initiation (reception of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) will take place at the Easter Vigil—held Holy Saturday evening (the night before Easter Sunday).**

Please plan accordingly.

Students with missing Sacramental preparation are expected to complete the appropriate program within the first two years of enrollment in our Christian Formation programs in order to meet Athletic Eligibility Requirements.

Christian Formation for Students with Disabilities



Jesus calls us all to live in Him, to realize our full potential as members of the Christian Community. **Vine and Branches** is a program which answers that call by providing a program of faith development and religious education to persons with intellectual disabilities for whom standard Christian Formation programs are a challenge.

Children/teens from area parishes (*ages 6 - 18*) and adults (*up to age 22*) who have any type of cognitive developmental disability are invited to join us.

Vine and Branches meets on a similar schedule for our formation programs at St. Leonard Catholic Church, Muskego in the Youth Center Building at the south end of the campus.

Participating parishes will be asked to pay a stipend therefore no individual tuition is charged. Students from other parishes are always welcome

*This program is sponsored in part by the **Knights of Columbus***

