

# **St. Leonard Christian Formation Handbook**

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



## **OUR MISSION**

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

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## Contacts

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Mass Reflections and Service Hour Forms:

[stlchristianformation@yahoo.com](mailto:stlchristianformation@yahoo.com)

Phone: 262-679-0880

Website: [www.stleonards.org](http://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](http://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.** Forms for Grades 2/3, 4/5/6, and 7-11 can be found on our website (<https://www.stleonards.org/Mass-Reflection-Sheets>). ***Paper copies will no longer be available.***

Please have your child use the appropriate grade level form. Email completed forms to: [stlchristianformation@yahoo.com](mailto:stlchristianformation@yahoo.com)

***Forms will only be counted if you have completed a reflection from a Catholic Mass. Non-Catholic services are not a Mass. Only Mass reflections submitted on the appropriate forms can be accepted for credit.***

## 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: **14 of 18** classes (*up to four absences*)  
 Grades 4 - 9: **Family Faith in Action 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. Calling in your missing student does not negate the absence.***
- ***Due to space considerations and attendance tracking, students are not able to attend class on another day.***
- ***Missing class for a St. Leonard Athletic event is not permitted.***

### Grades 4 – 9 Attendance Specifics

**All students** in Grades 4 – 9 are required to attend *one Family Faith in Action Event with their family.* (A Family Faith in Action Event schedule will be emailed to parents in October and the most current schedule can be found online at [www.stleonards.org](http://www.stleonards.org). Click on the ‘Family Faith in Action 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 Christian Formation Office (*ring bell outside entrance*) ~ *parent signs child in as a **late arrival***
- Parent(s) comes to the Christian Formation 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, or practices).***



**St. Leonard Christian Formation Office Entrance**



## 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*)
- 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...

- **1<sup>st</sup> Incident** – child is sent to the Christian Formation Office
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Incident** – child is sent to the Christian Formation Office – and – contact is made with the parents
- **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 prepare for the reception of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation, all students should complete the Christian Formation programs for grades 1-9 or attend a Catholic school for grades 1-9.*

**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 delayed in the reception of Eucharist, please contact Bridget Klawitter at the **Parish Office:** 262-679-1773.

*In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist normally occurs during a child's second grade year.*

**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 second grade. 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.



# 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

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

#### **FALL SESSION**

\*September 18/19  
 September 25/26  
 October 2/3  
 October 9/10  
 October 16/17  
 October 23/24  
 Oct. 30 / Oct. 31 - **no classes**  
 November 6/7  
 November 13/14  
 November 20/21

#### **SPRING SESSION**

January 15/16  
 January 22/23  
 January 29/30  
 February 5/6  
 February 12/13  
 February 19/20 - **no classes**  
 February 26/27  
 March 5/6  
 March 12/13  
 March 19/20

### Youth Ministry Gr. 7- 9

#### **FALL SESSION**

September 25/26  
 October 2/3  
 October 9/10  
 October 16/17  
 October 23/24  
 Oct. 30 / Oct. 31 - **no classes**  
 November 6/7  
 November 13/14  
 November 20/21

#### **SPRING SESSION**

January 22/23  
 January 29/30  
 February 5/6  
 February 12/13  
 February 19/20 – **no classes**  
 February 26/27  
 March 5/6  
 March 12/13  
 March 19/20

## 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 25 (**\*parent's night / large grp**)  
 October 2  
 October 9  
 October 16  
 October 23 (**large group in church**)  
 October 30 - **no classes**  
 November 6  
 November 13  
 November 20

#### **SPRING SESSION**

January 22  
 January 29  
 February 5  
 February 12 (**2- 3:30 pm – large group**)  
 February 19 – **no classes**  
 February 26  
 March 5  
 March 12  
 March 19 – (**Sophomores only**)

## Elementary Grades 1 – 6

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

- All Grades: **required Attendance** in class (*14 of 18 classes*)
- All Grades: Complete a grade level appropriate **Prayer Experience**
- Grades 2 – 6: Complete **eight Mass Reflections** (see *Mass Reflections* section)
- Grade 2 – Attend a **Reconciliation Prayer service**
- Grades 3 – 6: Attend a **Youth Holy Hour** (see *Youth Holy Hour* section)
- Grades 4, 5, 6: complete **one Family Faith in Action Event** (see *Family Faith in Action* section)

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

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.

### Prayer Experience

Learning prayers and facts is a central part of your child's faith development. Watch for communication from our office when these become available.

### Family Faith in Action Event

In order to increase our contact time with students in grades 4 – 6, these students are **required** to complete one of the *Family Faith in Action Events* scheduled throughout the year. An adult needs to accompany students. (A *Family Faith in Action Event* schedule will be emailed to parents in October and the most current schedule can be found online at [www.stleonards.org](http://www.stleonards.org). Click on the '**Family Faith in Action 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
- **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](http://www.stleonards.org)

### **FIRST RECONCILIATION**

**FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING:** (*parents only please*)

Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 6:30 pm in Church

**FIRST RECONCILIATION PRAYER SERVICE:** (*Attendance required*)

Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 10:00 – 11:15 am in Church

### **\*FIRST COMMUNION**

#### **FIRST COMMUNION PARENT MEETING**

**Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 6:30 pm Church**

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

#### **FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT** (***Required** parent / child attendance.*)

**Saturday, February 18, 2023** 8:45 – 11:30 am **OR**

**Saturday, March 4, 2023** 8:45 – 11:30 am

#### **Separate Scheduled First Communion Mass**

**Sunday, April 23, 2023, 1:30 pm**

Rehearsal Date: *Wednesday, April 19, 6:15–7:45 pm*

**Sunday, May 7, 2023, 1:30 pm**

Rehearsal Date: *Wednesday, May 3, 6:15-7:45 pm*

#### **Regularly Scheduled Parish Mass**

**Saturday, April 29, 2023 5:00 pm Mass**

Rehearsal Date: *Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023*  
@ 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 ***Family Faith in Action Event*** with a parent\*
- Grades 7 – 9 ten ***service hours*** - (see page 15)
- Attend a ***Youth Holy Hour*** - (see page 13)
- Complete ***8 Mass Reflections*** - (see page 2)

The goal for attendance is 100% for classes and *one Family Faith in Action 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.

**\*Family Faith in Action 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. (*A Family Faith in Action Event schedule will be emailed to parents in October and the most current schedule can be found online at [www.stleonards.org](http://www.stleonards.org). Click on the 'Family Faith in Action Event' 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. Below is the focus for each year.

**Seventh & Eighth Grades – *The Chosen***

**Ninth Grade – *Morality***

**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 **8 Mass Reflections** each year (see *Mass Reflections* section)
- Attend a **Youth Holy Hour** each year (see *Youth Holy Hour* section)
- 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*)

**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.*

## Confirmation Retreat dates

One day long retreat (9:00 am – 6:00 pm) held at St. Leonard  
*Saturday, November 19, 2022 – OR – Saturday, December 3, 2022*

## Sophomore Retreat dates

One day long retreat (9:00 am – 6:00 pm) held at St. Leonard.  
*Saturday, November 5, 2022 – OR – Saturday, November 12, 2022*

## Confirmation Interview dates

*Sunday, January 29, 2023 (between 3pm & 5pm) – OR –  
 Sunday, February 5, 2023 (between 4pm & 6pm)*

## **CONFIRMATION DATE**

The Archdiocese has posted our assigned Confirmation date:

***Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 10:00 am with Bishop Schuerman***

**REHEARSAL DATE:** ***Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 4:00 pm in Church***





## Completion of Requirements / Participation in Athletics Programs Annual Expectations

- **Required attendance in class**  
(students may not attend class on another day)
  - **K4/K5** participants must be enrolled in the **in-person Jr. Leo's program** for Athletic eligibility
- Complete the Grade Level online **Prayer Experience** (Grades 1 – 6)
- **Youth Holy Hour attendance** (Grades 3 - 11)
- **First Reconciliation Prayer Service attendance** (Grade 2)
- Complete and submit **Eight Mass Reflections** (Grades 2 -11)
- Required **Hours of Service** (Grades 7 - 11)
- **Family Faith in Action Event attendance** (Grades 4 - 9)
- **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.* **Per Christian Formation Eligibility Standards**, students must complete the requirements for the current year in order to maintain their eligibility for the following year. **All students have a completion date of March 30, 2023 to maintain Athletic Eligibility for the 2023 - 2024 year.**

Students **may not leave class early or miss class** due to a St. Leonard Athletics event 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 caught up within the first two years of enrollment in Christian Formation to maintain Athletic Eligibility.**

## Holy Hour

Reconciliation Services for students in grades \*3 – 10 have been replaced by the **Youth Holy Hour**. This hour-long service consists of prayer, Eucharistic Adoration and the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

*\*Grade 2 students attend a special First Reconciliation Prayer Service in December. Grade 11 Students attend a Holy Hour during their Retreat.*

Annual celebration of Reconciliation (*forgiveness, mercy, repentance, confession*) encourages children and youth to **understand and experience** that *reconciling with God, with others, and with oneself* is central to the message of Jesus in the Gospels.

## Important Dates for 2022 - 2023

Grade 2: Prayer Service (**attendance required**) – Saturday, December 3, 2022  
10:00-11:15 am in Church. Individual reception of Sacrament available after service.

Grades 3 -10: Youth Holy Hour – **Students will be REQUIRED to attend ONE of the services listed below with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament.**

Grade 11: Confirmation Candidates will attend a Holy Hour during their daylong Retreat

### Youth Holy Hour / Parish Reconciliation Services

- **Wednesday, October 19, 2022** (*Holy Hour*)
- **Tuesday, December 13, 2022-** 6:30 pm in Church  
(*Parish oriented*) **at St. Joseph, Big Bend**
- **Thursday, January 12, 2023 – 6:30 pm** (*Holy Hour*)
- **Tuesday, January 31, 2023 – 6:30 pm** (*Holy Hour*)
- **Wednesday, March 22, 2023 – 7:00 pm in Church**  
(*Parish oriented*)



## 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.* Students have access to the audio-visual aides and / or craft projects by contacting the Christian Formation Office.**

### 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. **All** Home Study students are required to attend the appropriate **Prayer Experience**, so please review the schedule when it is completed and plan accordingly. Students in grades **3 - 6** are also required to attend **one Youth Holy Hour** (see page 13 for the schedule). Students in grades **4 - 6** are required to attend **one Family Faith in Action Event with a parent**.



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

**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 *one Family Faith in Action Event with a parent*. Each student is also required to attend a Youth Holy Hour (see page 13). Students are asked to participate in community service (see page 15). 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 Bethanne Maus-Schaefer at: 262-679-0880.**

# 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.**

Only Service Hours that are **submitted on the Service Hour form** will be accepted for credit.

*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 sheets are available on our website (*under Christian Formation and the “**All Forms...**” tab*). Completed Service Hour sheets should be emailed to: [stlchristianformation@yahoo.com](mailto:stlchristianformation@yahoo.com)

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
- ❖ Veggie Tales - multiple times
- ❖ Church Decorating - multiple times
- ❖ Knights of Columbus activities - multiple times
- ❖ Little Leo’s and Jr. Leo’ 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*



## Family Faith in Action

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 Family Faith in Action events, watch your **Parent newsletters** or check the Christian Formation website at: [www.stleonards.org](http://www.stleonards.org).



Elmbrook Humane Society shared information on protecting the rights of animals. Students and their parents made cat toys for the shelter’s feline residents.



A group of students and their families created over 20 blankets which were sent overseas to aid Ukrainian refugees.

## 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, 2022*) and are reasonably on the way to being potty trained.

Do you have a child that falls into this category? Join us either online or in person. During the 2021-22 school year, we emailed a weekly activity overview for parents of this age group and we will continue this year. You have the option to stay in this at home program - or - come to the in-person classes (**registering in advance**) for either semester or both. We would LOVE to have you be a part of **Jr. Leo's** this year.

The cost is only \$75 per year, per child to cover materials if you choose the in-person option. 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

**Jr. Leo's: K3 / K4 / K5** (*In-person meets during the Sunday 9:00 am Mass*)

October 2, 9, 16, 23 (**no class Oct. 30th**)

November 6, 13, 20

December 4, 11 (*Nativity Party*)

(**no class Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, & 25<sup>th</sup>**)

January 8, 15, 22, 29 (**no class Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>**)

February 5, 12, 26 (No class Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>)

March 5, 12, 19, 26

April 2, (\**Resurrection party*)

### 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 offered 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.



Our new facility is 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.**



## 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)** – is our Summer Bible Adventure at St. Leonard Catholic Church. VBS is open to grades K4 - 5 for participants and grades 6 and up for service hour opportunities as assistants! A different theme each year offers fresh, new material as well as exciting activities. **VBS is scheduled for June 12-14, 2023 from 1:00 – 4:30pm.**

**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.
- **Wall O Money** - Select an envelope with a dollar amount from \$1-\$200. Place that dollar amount in the envelope (*tentative*).

# 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
- Attend a **Youth Holy Hour** 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 **March 30, 2023**.

\* For Juniors, all requirements must be completed by **December 1, 2022** - except for the Retreat and Reconciliation which must be completed by **March 1, 2023**.

## **NEED A PICTURE WE CAN USE OF CONFIRMATION**

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 **past third grade** (*and Baptized*) or **over the age of seven** (*and not Baptized*), we have a program to assist in preparation.

### **Baptized—Grade Four and Higher**

Students entering Fourth 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 our Pastoral Associate outside of classroom time for small group study focused on the sacramental preparation needed.

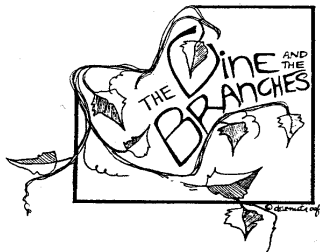


### **Not Baptized—Age Seven or Older**

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. 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.**

# Vine and Branches Special Education Formation



I AM THE VINE,  
YOU ARE THE BRANCHES  
ALL WHO LIVE IN ME AND I IN  
THEM WILL PRODUCE ABUNDANTLY  
FOR APART FROM ME  
YOU CAN DO NOTHING

(John 15:5)

Jesus calls us all to live in Him, to realize our full potential as members of the Christian Community.

***Vine and Branches Special Christian Formation Program*** answers that call by providing a program of Faith development and religious education to persons with disabilities.

Children (*ages 7 and up*) and adults who have any type of Special Needs are invited to join us.

Vine and Branches meets 16 times a year at St. Leonard Catholic Church, Muskego in the Youth Center Building. The member parishes of Vine and Branches are:

**St. Matthias, Milwaukee ~ St. Joseph, Big Bend ~ St. Leonard, Muskego**

Member parishes pay a stipend therefore no individual tuition is charged. Students from other parishes are welcome.

*This program is sponsored by the **Knights of Columbus**.*

For more information contact: Deacon Rick Wirch 414-233-3586