

# FAITH FORMATION NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

FAITH FORMATION TEAM

**Grades 1-6:**  
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Mary Federico  
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CLICK [HERE](#) FOR A LINK TO 2025-2026 FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR



## PARISH WIDE UPDATES:

Mass Schedules:

### ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18th, 8:30a.m. Mass, 4:30 p.m. Prayer Service with Ashes, 6:30 p.m. Mass

“For centuries, Catholic Christians have marked the beginning of the season of Lent by receiving ash on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday. This tradition has its roots in the Old Testament, where wearing ashes was a common sign of repentance for sins, and a sign of one’s humility before God. Since Lent is a season of penitential renewal through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, it’s appropriate that this ancient sign marks the beginning of the season.” (USCCB [Why Ashes.pdf](#))

### Snow Policy

As winter continues, we wanted to update you all on our snow day policy. If public schools are closed, we do **not** have faith formation. But we will have class if there is school, even in the case of a 2-hour delay. Thank you!

### ***Urgent Request***

We are still looking for a catechist to take over half of our Monday Grade 5 group. We have had someone doing it for the last couple of months with the understanding that a more permanent catechist would be found.

Time commitment is Mondays 3:20-4:45, and I will provide an extra book or teacher’s guide to review the curriculum. If interested, contact Emma Belske or Mary Federico. Thank you and God bless you for considering!

## FAITH FORMATION GRADES 1-6



### **EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN TRAINING**

In compliance with archdiocesan standards, we will be conducting Safe Environment: Protecting God's Children training on February 23, 24, and 25 and March 2, 3, and 4 during regular faith formation classes. The topics to be discussed are "Boundaries: You Have Rights!" and "Secrets, Surprises, and Promises" More information to follow in a separate email including lesson materials. If you would like to discuss this at home with your child, please contact Emma or Mary for an opt-out form

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### **UPCOMING SACRAMENTS**

**Second Grade Families:** First Reconciliation will be on March 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

**Third Grade Families:** First Communion will be on May 3rd at 11:30 a.m. Mass

More details to follow in an email

All families – Please keep our Second and Third Graders in your prayers as they prepare to receive their sacraments in the spring!

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### **THANK YOU!**

We had a very successful, productive, and fun community service night in January! A huge thank you to our volunteers that helped bring this together. Check out the OLOA Facebook page for some pictures!

Our Lady of the Assumption Church

# LITTLE LAMBS

*Free program for children under age 8 and their families!*



**Music and Art:** Meet up with fellow parishioners for a morning of music and art, followed by free play in our new Montessori-based children's room.

*Dates: January 4, February 1, March 8*

**Outreach:** Join us for a craft and games with residents at Coachman Square to give back to our community.

*Dates: January 17, February 28, March 28*

Scan the QR code for more information and to register!



## GRADES 7-10

### REMINDERS AND UPDATES:

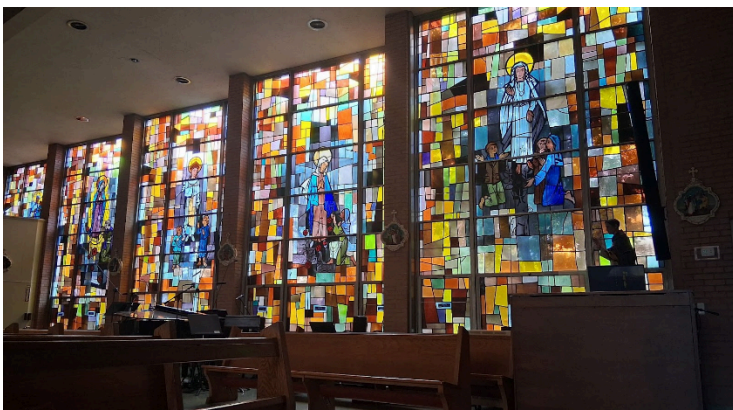
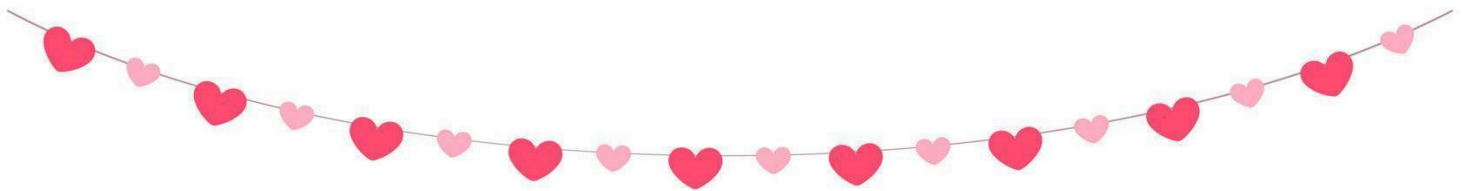
If your child will be absent from class, please email Margo Smith [oloafaithformation9and10@gmail.com](mailto:oloafaithformation9and10@gmail.com)

### **EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN TRAINING**

In compliance with archdiocesan standards, we will be conducting Safe Environment: Protecting God's Children training on February 22 for Grades 7 and 8, and March 1st for Grades 9 and 10 during regular faith formation classes. The topics to be discussed are "Boundaries: You Have Rights!" and "Secrets, Surprises, and Promises" More information to follow in a separate email including lesson materials. If you would like to discuss this at home with your child, please contact Margo or Mary for an opt-out form

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- Confirmation for 10th graders is scheduled for **Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Cathedral in Hartford
- All 10th graders are to attend the 9:30am Parish Mass on Sunday, April 26, 2026 to receive their Confirmation certificates and crucifixes
- Service opportunities are regularly posted outside of the Faith Formation office, and they are open to all 7th-10th graders.
- Please remember to submit your completed and signed Service Report Forms to Margo after you've completed service hours so she can give you credit! Copies of this form are available outside of the Faith Formation office.



### CHOIR NOTES

Children's choir has started and all children are welcome Grades 1-6!  
Rehearsals are Tuesdays 4:45-5:30 pm.  
Adult choir is in session! All new members are welcome!

Please contact Keith Smolinski  
[smolinsk.Keith@snet.net](mailto:smolinsk.Keith@snet.net) if you or your children are interested or have any questions.