



OUR LADY
OF CONSOLATION

**FAITH FORMATION
FAMILY HANDBOOK
2018 - 2019**

August 27, 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2018-2019 Calendar	Available Online
Letter to Parents	Page 3
Our Lady of Consolation Education Foundation	Page 4
Faith of the Parents	Page 5
Registration	Page 6
Policies and Procedures	Page 7
Stewardship/Volunteer Opportunities	Page 10
Sacrament Preparation	Page 11
Good Shepherd Elementary (Grades 1-5) Kindergarten and Spanish Immersion	Page 13
Middle School (Grades 6-8)	Page 15
High School (Grades 9-12)	Page 16
Parish Faith Events/ Domestic Discipleship	Page 17
All Volunteers	Page 17

Our Lady of Consolation Parish

Children's Education & Formation / Youth Ministry

Dear Parent/s:

This handbook is designed to help you in your Christian parenting responsibility of passing on our Catholic faith. By providing information in this handbook, we hope to assist you in your journey of faith and parenting.

Today's society demands that we consider not only educational and religious subject matter, but also legal issues and pastoral concerns. Therefore, you will notice information that addresses each of these topics.

This handbook provides much information and many guidelines. May it be a starting point for a meaningful and fruitful journey of faith for you and your family. On behalf of Our Lady of Consolation Parish, we thank you for your time and talents in passing on the faith to your family.

May God Bless You and Your Family!

The Faith Formation Staff:

Anne Marie DeSantis
Director of Faith Formation
adesantis@olcparish.net
616-866-2577 ext 210

Amy Oatley
Adult Formation/RCIA
aoatley@olcparish.net
616-866-2577 ext 220

Joshua Hanson
Middle School Coordinator
jhanson@olcparish.net
616-866-2577 ext 217

Luke Grant
High School Coordinator
Confirmation Coordinator
616-866-2577 ext 212

Rebecca Chicklon
Director of Elementary
Faith Formation & First Eucharist
616-866-2577 ext 211

Administrative Assistant
616-866-8577 ext 213

4865 Eleven Mile Rd • Rockford, MI 49341 • 616-866-2577 • Fax 616-866-3668

Email olcformation@olcparish.net

OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The following information may be helpful as you prayerfully consider your pledge to Our Lady of Consolation Education Foundation.

The annual pledge period is 12 months long and runs from September 1 through August 31.

Approximate yearly educational costs:

\$4,400.00 per child attending Our Lady of Consolation School
\$100.00 per person for each Adult Bible/Book Study, RCIA, Adult Formation Sessions, Vacation Bible School, Preparation for Sacraments
\$830.00 per child attending weekly Faith Formation programs.

Parents are told that there are certain requirements expected of them if they wish to enroll their child (children) at OLC. Those requirements are:

1. You must attend church regularly. (Not necessarily OLC).
2. Parents are expected to volunteer 10 - 20 hours per year of their own personal time, this can be to the Parish, school, Faith Formation or to Foundation activities which can be accomplished in a variety of ways.
3. There must be a demonstration of a Christian attitude by parents & children.
4. Parents are informed that the annual cost of educating a student in Faith Formation is approximately \$830.00 and that they should give prayerful consideration to the amount they are able to contribute.

Parents are asked to consider a Gospel tithe model for sacrificial giving. Such a model might be 5% to the OLCEF and 5% to OLC Church. This Foundation covenant encompasses only the Foundation portion of the tithe. This model emphasizes equal sacrifice not equal giving. Those who earn more can give more so that those who earn less can still afford a Catholic education.

No minimum pledge amount is required. Even with a pledge of zero, parents are expected to comply with the non-financial components of the covenant.

5. Parents are required to sign the Parents' Covenant (completed above) indicating their understanding of the covenant. Students cannot be admitted to OLC Faith Formation without parental signatures on the Parents' Covenant.

Donations to OLC Education Foundation are tax deductible in accordance with an IRS letter of July 6, 1993.

Donations to OLC Education Foundation can be made in one lump sum donation or made semi-annually, quarterly, or monthly.

Periodically, for budget purposes, a review is made of donations received. Should some appear to be falling behind in their commitment, contact may be made to discuss the particular situation. However, in any event, no child will be asked to withdraw from OLC school or Faith Formation Programs should their parents fail to comply with their financial pledge made nor will any undue pressure, either direct or implied, be placed upon any family.

Unlike the financial pledge, the non-financial components of the covenant do require compliance. The requirements for regular attendance at church, and at parent sacramental meetings are not optional. In addition, the volunteer hours and the demonstration of Christian attitude by both parents and their students are expected.

Any pledge made is considered to be the parents' good-faith intention of giving to the Foundation. A pledge is not a legal obligation. Unforeseen situations may make necessary modifications to the pledged amounts.

Pledged amounts may be paid by third parties, e.g. grandparents. Use of company matching fund programs is encouraged. Activity & Retreat fees are not part of the pledge, are required, and are in addition to the covenant, but may be paid through the electronic credit/debit card process. Electronic giving is the preferred mode of payment for pledges.

This giving-based Foundation program enables us to offer Catholic education to a wide range of people, regardless of their financial means. Our hope is that people will maintain their giving to the Foundation even when they no longer benefit directly from parish educational programs. Only through continued financial commitment to sacrificial giving can we preserve the benefits of the Foundation and the cause of Catholic education for years to come.

FAITH OF THE PARENTS

Parents hold a privileged role and responsibility in family life (CCC 2221-2230). Before the Christian community, parents present and name their child and ask the Church for Baptism—the gift of faith and life of grace. In doing so, they accept the responsibility of “training them in the practice of the faith, to bring them up to keep God’s commandments [and to] love God and our neighbor”. Only after acknowledging this responsibility do parents sign their infant child with the cross of salvation, claiming the child for Christ. Through this sacrament, parents ritually express their personal commitment to God, to the community of faith and to their child. They can do so only because they first have faith. It is the promise of this living tradition, of God present in the community of faith—as parish and as domestic church—that is the foundation of hope and our ability to transmit faith from generation to generation.

For our children to have faith, our parents must first have faith (General Directory for Catechesis 226). The adage, “faith is caught, not taught,” is true especially for the domestic church. Simply put, parents teach most effectively by example. They profoundly affect the faith of their children by attending first to their own faith and religion. Each parent is obliged to live the baptismal vocation as priest, prophet and servant-ruler in the home, in the workplace and in the marketplace.

Parents with children and youth participating in our programs are challenged to live as stewards of God’s bounty. Once we accept that God has given us everything we have, we must then begin the journey of returning a portion of our gifts back to God. This not an easy thing to do, especially in a society that places endless demands on our time and our resources. Steps along the stewardship journey include:

- Striving to spend more time with God in prayer, Mass attendance, and Eucharistic adoration so that we will have a fuller understanding of how God wants us to use our many gifts.
- Seeing the parish as a place where we can serve, rather than a place meant to serve us.
- Determining the percentage of our income that we currently return to God, so that we can accurately know how much we really give.
- Making a commitment to put God first on our calendar and in our budget.

REGISTRATION FOR FAITH FORMATION

Your child's registration does not automatically roll over from year to year. You must register your child for classes with each new school year. Student registration is online for Faith Formation at the church website: www.olcparishrockford.com.

REGISTRATION FEE

There are several changes happening this year that I would like to share with you. Along with new staff members and new program changes for High School and Confirmation there will be an enrollment fee for all Faith Formation programming.

Our parish is blessed to have the OLCEF so why is there an enrollment fee for Faith Formation? This is a great question. First, it is important for us all to remember the purpose of the Education

Foundation here at Our Lady. Its purpose is to supplement the education of all our parishioners at the parish. So, the foundation supports, adult faith formation, youth ministry, faith formation of children, and the school. The OLCEF does not receive enough money to support fully each ministry listed above. As a result, the foundation supplements each. This is why we need an enrollment fee for Faith Formation. For example, it costs about \$830 per student in Faith Formation, and so our **enrollment fee \$75.00 per student or \$100.00 per family helps support the costs of each student to the parish.** This is the same expectation for the school, which has an \$800 enrollment fee, a fraction of what it costs to educate each student. The mentality, however, is the same. The OLCEF is here as a blessing to supplement the costs. In the end, the foundation helps keep the costs of these ministries/programs down for our families.

We believe that the education of our children here truly is a great investment. And we hope, that not only will you be happy with the education your child receives in Faith Formation, but that your pledge to OLCEF, in addition to the enrollment fee, will make this investment worth it.

We realize that families are busier now than ever before with a society that places endless demands on our time and resources. Here at OLC faith formation we listen to our family needs and we strive to meet our families where they are at by offering new and updating our programming.

As parents you are stewards of God's most wonderful gift- the life in Christ of your children. The parish faith formation program exists to support you in your role and it is a privilege to partner with you in the faith development of your family.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE

Parents are responsible for their child's attendance to the Faith Formation programs. Since regular attendance is one Important condition for the Catechetical Program to be effective, parents are urged to see to it that their child attends every class and come prepared.

1. Please notify the Faith Formation Office when your child is unable to attend class.
2. The program coordinator will contact parents/guardians when a student has two (2) consecutive absences.
3. Continued unexcused absences may require that the Director of Faith Formation contact the Family.
4. Please sign your child into class before the bell rings so he/she is prepared to gather in the hallway for opening prayer. If you arrive after the bell rings, please stay with your child in the hallway and pray. Once prayer completed, proceed to the classroom to sign in your child.
5. If your child does not attend school during the day due to an illness, please keep him/her home from Faith Formation to rest and recuperate.

COMMUNICATIONS

In the case of an unscheduled special event, or change of schedule, notification will be sent home in advance through a Faith Formation email, on the parish app and our text app Remind.

- **To sign up for for Elementary Remind text -@olcf to 81010**
- **To sign up for High School Faith Formation Remind notifications, text @kg4ed to 81010**
- **To sign up for Middle School Faith Formation Remind notifications, text @d3338f to 81010**

DROP OFF AND PICK UP POLICY

Parents of Elementary students are required to sign in their students upon arrival to class and to sign out their child at class dismissal. Only those individuals you have listed on your student's dismissal form will be permitted to sign out your child/children.

TRAFFIC CONTROL

Your child's safety is very important to us. With an average of 300 students attending on class nights, please drive slowly and carefully in the parking lots. Entrance into the church building is as follows:

Elementary school students please enter and exit the building at the main church entrance. No elementary student is allowed to enter or leave our building before or after classes without the escort of an adult. Students must be escorted to and from their classrooms by a parent or the adult in charge of their carpool. Sign-in and sign-out is required. Parents are asked to be punctual picking up children. The building will be secure during class times.

Middle school students who attend on Sundays need to enter the building through the doors located on the north side of the building (near the outside statue of Mary in the courtyard); all other entrance doors will be locked. Those who attend on Wednesdays will go to the Kateri Lodge.

High school students attend Faith Formation classes on Sunday afternoon at the Kateri Lodge.

Kateri Lodge students on Wednesday evenings, please observe the orange cones and line up along side of the building. If you have multiple children in our program, please pick up your elementary students first then proceed to the Kateri Lodge to pick up your middle school students.

CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE

When a student fails to act in a socially acceptable and Christian manner, The Catechist/Small Group Leader is responsible for taking immediate action. If the student's personal conduct does not improve, the Catechist/Small group leader will notify the Program Coordinator who will proceed according his/her discretion. Continued incidents of a disruptive nature will be reported to the Director of Faith Formation.

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

1. If Rockford Public Schools close or dismiss early because of severe weather, all Faith Formation classes are cancelled for the remainder of the day. A "Class Cancellation" sign will be posted at all the entrance doors. In the event of severe weather the decision to cancel Faith Formation classes will be made by 3:00PM.
2. When under a "severe weather watch", we will be monitoring conditions. Families should use their own discretion on class attendance. When under a "severe weather warning" classes will be cancelled.
3. Announcements will be made over local news stations WOOD-TV8 and WZZM-13 (listed on their websites and television stations). For WOOD-TV8 website closing listings, go to www.woodtv.com/weather/closings, and look under "churches". For WZZM-13 website closing listings, go to www.wzzm13.com/closings/, and "church/school/other" closings are all listed together. A text alert will go out on our text app, Remind.
4. Should severe weather develop during class time, students will be kept in the building until picked up by parents or until the severe weather passes.
5. Many announcements are also posted in the church bulletin and on our website at www.olcparishrockford.com.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Student health information is kept strictly confidential. ***Please make every effort to alert us to special needs or family situations which might adversely affect a child's ability to learn and enjoy a positive experience.*** Only those things necessary to a student's success in the classroom are shared with the teacher. In the event of an emergency, parents will be contacted by phone at the emergency phone number provided on the student's class registration.

DISPENSING OF MEDICATION

If a student is required to take prescription medication during Faith Formation class time hours a parent/guardian must be present to administer it. During middle school/high school retreats, only the program coordinators may administer medication in compliance with the following:

1. Written authorization by the parent or guardian including the name of the medication, the specific dosage and exact time the dosage is to be given, and a list of possible side effects and any restrictions.
2. The medication must be in the prescription container and must contain the physician's name and office phone number.
3. Please refer to retreat communications for further medication procedures.

ACCIDENT REPORTS

If any student, teacher, parent/guardian or sibling is injured on our property, such accident must be reported immediately to the Program Coordinator and a written report filed with the Michigan Catholic Conference.

STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many ways you can help and participate in our Faith Formation programs. Volunteers are needed at every level and with every age group. Volunteer time can be anywhere from 90 minutes a week to serving once a month, or helping with special projects and workshops. Please prayerfully consider sharing your time and talent with one of the opportunities listed below.

Elementary:

- Weekly K-5 Catechist
- Childcare during class time
- First Eucharist Workshop
- Office tasks during class time
- Faith in Action events
- Substitute classroom aide
- Special needs aide for youth
- Monthly rosary leader during class time
- Service project coordinator
- RCIC Catechist
- Photographer for special events
- Afternoon Spanish Immersion Aid
- First Eucharist Trunk Sale Volunteer
- Vacation Bible School

Sunday Liturgy:

- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Reader/Lector
- Communion Minister
- Altar Server
- Usher
- Greeter
- Sacristan
- Music/Choir

Special Events:

- Annual OLCEF Fundraiser
- Vacation Bible School
- Childcare for Meetings & Studies
- Volunteer Appreciation
- Parish wide Events
- Lenten Stations of the Cross
- Hospitality for Domestic Discipleship
- Set up/Clean up

Middle School:

- 6-7 Grade Small Group Leader
- Confirmation Prep Small Group Leader
- Substitute Small group leader
- Photographer
- Retreat Chaperone
- Service Project Chaperone
- Aide for youth with special needs

High School:

- Weekly Small Group Leader
- Setup/Clean up Special Events
- Retreat Chaperone
- Special Events Photo/Video

Adult:

- RCIA Catechist
- RCIA Sponsor

Aides to assist youth with special needs: We have a special request for Aides to assist youth with special needs. Would you like to assist a child and be an aide in the classroom? Please contact Anne Marie DeSantis, Director of Faith Formation for more information.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

The Director of Faith Formation, Pastor, Sacramental Coordinators, and Catechists are responsible for planning and implementing programs that assist parents in fulfilling their role as primary educators in the Religious Education of their children. **If your child has not been Baptized please contact Anne Marie DeSantis, Director of Faith Formation.**

PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AND EUCHARIST IS A TWO-YEAR PROGRAM AND BEGINS IN THE FIRST GRADE. Students will need to complete all first grade work before being placed in a second grade class.

If your child is older than 7 years old and needs to prepare for their first Sacraments please contact Anne Marie DeSantis, Director of Faith Formation at 616-866-2577 ext 210.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The catechesis of children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation precedes the reception of First Eucharist. The Sacrament normally, but not exclusively, takes place during the second grade level.

THE SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST

The catechesis of children preparing for the Sacrament of Eucharist will usually, but not exclusively, take place during the second grade level, and will be separate from the catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

PROVISIONS FOR BOTH FIRST SACRAMENTS

Children must complete the first grade curriculum.

Children must attend weekly classes.

Parental involvement in the preparation program is essential and required.

Readiness for the celebration for sacrament will be determined by the

Parents, Catechist and Pastor in consultation with one another.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The *National Directory for Catechesis* reminds us that "persons with disabilities, especially children, are particularly beloved of the Lord and are integral members of the Christian community just as with each of God's human creations, each person with a disability has catechetical needs that the Christian community must recognize and meet. All baptized persons with disabilities have a right to adequate catechesis and deserve the means to develop a relationship with God." [49]

We welcome all children to our Faith Formation programs. They may be prepared for reception of the sacraments as readiness is discerned. Understanding your child's needs is the first step as we walk with your child on their faith journey. ***Please contact the Director of Faith Formation, Anne Marie DeSantis at 616-866-2577 ext 210 to set up a meeting time to insure that your child has the opportunity to learn about our faith to his/her fullest potential SACRAMENTS***

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

Preparation for the sacraments of initiation for children and youth at Our Lady of Consolation Parish is a comprehensive program designed to help guide young people as they continue their journey of Christian Initiation into the Church. Preparation for sacraments is not only about cognitive learning, but also about a time of spiritual preparation for the entire family.

SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION AND EUCHARIST

Preparation for Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist is a **two year program and begins in the first grade**. Students will need to complete all first grade work before being placed in a second grade class. In addition to weekly classroom preparation, students and their parents will gather several times throughout the year for parent/child sessions and workshops. These mandatory events will cover additional information and activities to insure that each child is fully prepared to celebrate the Sacraments of 1st Reconciliation and 1st Eucharist.

The Sacramental Calendar listing all of the dates and times of these Parent/Child Sessions and Workshops can be found on the Parish website: www.olcparishrockford.com.

1ST & 2ND GRADE ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please notify the Faith formation Office ahead of time if your child is going to be absent for any reason. Any class work that your child has missed will need to be made up at home and checked in by your child's catechist the following week. If a child has **more than three absences** in a semester and fails to turn in make up work, a meeting with one of the priests may be requested. At this meeting, it will be determined whether the child has an understanding of the material they have missed and if there are any further steps that will be taken to be sure they are fully prepared to participate in the Sacraments.

If you have any questions or concerns about Reconciliation or First Eucharist, please contact Rebecca Chicklon in the Faith Formation Office at 866-2577, ext. 211

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, a person celebrates the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and a renewed commitment to the tenets of the Catholic Church. We strongly believe that Confirmation is a milestone along the lifelong journey into an ever-deepening, maturing faith, rather than the culmination of religious formation. At Our Lady, **8th grade** is considered a preparation year that consists of three components: Students meet on **Sunday nights only 6:00–7:30 pm for "Growing in the Spirit" sessions** where Candidates further explore the Holy Spirit in Scripture and as God's presence in their daily lives. There are a series of interactive **on-line modules** for all Candidates to complete at home and there are four **"Gather sessions"** throughout the year for Sponsors and Candidates to attend together. These Gather Sessions are offered on Sunday night or Monday night, please check the Confirmation calendar. **Confirmation preparation begins with a PARENT and Candidate Orientation.**

In addition to attending ALL required sessions, Candidates must attend one retreat and complete service hours.

Confirmation Retreat (TBD): This day retreat will have both small and large group activities, discussions, and reflection all focused on the "stories: of Mercy in Scripture, the Mass, and in our lives as committed Catholic Christians. This is an engaging, dynamic retreat that serves to deepen the Candidates' resolve to commit themselves to a life of merciful action in the name of Jesus, Our Redeemer

If you have any questions or concerns about Confirmation, please contact Luke Grant at 866-2577, ext. 212 or email: lgrant@olcparish.net

For Sacrament Calendars please visit our church website: www.olcparishrockford.com. On left side click forms and scroll down to FF calendar.

GOOD SHEPHERD & ELEMENTARY (Grades K-5)

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The program is for children ages 4-6 years of age.

The children must be 4 years of age by September 1 and completely potty-trained.

The program meets weekly following the Elementary Faith Formation calendar on Wednesdays from 4:45-6:15 p.m. The Atrium is located in the Guadalupe Room.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori approach to the religious formation of children. The program is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. The program is based on the conviction that God and your child are already in a relationship.

The program uses simple, yet beautiful materials to provide an orientation into the life of the whole Church. The atrium is a place of simplicity and order which promotes prayer, work and community amongst the children. Presentations based on the teaching of Church traditions, sacred scripture, and the Liturgy help the children absorb the most essential proclamations of the Catholic faith. The program is a sensory rich experience for young children. The children are provided the opportunity to grow in love and knowledge of God.

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION CLASS TIMES

Our program is offered Wednesday. Two sessions are offered: from 4:45-6:00 p.m. or 6:30-7:45 p.m. Due to space and volunteers available to teach class size is limited.

KINDERGARTEN FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation for Kindergarten students is offered on Wednesday afternoons and evenings at a 4:45- 6 pm session and 6:30-7:45 pm session. The Blest Are We Kindergarten curriculum is used. The year will focus on learning about all aspects of God's Love. The weekly activities touch the children's hearts with the message of Scripture and lay a firm foundation for young learners.

1ST—5TH ELEMENTARY FORMATION

To ensure that the beliefs of our faith are introduced and reinforced for the young people as they grow, develop, and mature as Catholics the **BLEST ARE WE curriculum has been chosen for grades 1, 3, 4 and 5. Second grade will study the GO SEEK AND FIND curriculum from St. Mary's Press.** Our Catholic faith tradition and its foundational elements are the basis of the scope and sequence. The doctrinal content is organized according to the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*—Creed, Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer. The entire scope and sequence is available in the faith formation office or online at <http://blestarewe.com/scope-sequences>.

1ST GRADE SPANISH IMMERSION FAITH FORMATION CLASS

Class for Spanish Immersion students are offered on Wednesday afternoons at the 4:45- 6 pm session. The students will use the same Blest Are We curriculum as the other grade classes. The books have the complete text in both Spanish and English side by side. The student book has 20 Chapters that follow a 3-step lesson. This program introduces the children to the Scriptures, doctrine, and tradition of the Catholic Church. Space is limited.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Each week the students work with one lesson from the textbook. Additional activity pages, crafts, or other special projects often accompany the book work. Once a month the students will take part in a Faith in Action event.

Second grade students will receive a back pack with their Bible and student worksheets that will be brought back and forth between home and class.

BOOKS

Students are issued one copy of the textbook at the beginning of the year. Parents may request access to on-line eBooks for grades 1, 3, 4 and 5th. Students are expected to bring their book/Bible to and from class and complete the Home Activities assigned to them. Parents are asked to see to it that students take responsibility for bringing the textbook or other required materials to class.

HOME ACTIVITIES

Catechists may send home a weekly home activity. Or the program coordinator may assign a chapter to be completed at home. Parents are urged to get involved with their children in these activities. Parents are encouraged to make a firm commitment to participation in the Sunday Liturgy as a family so that children may witness faith alive and active in their own home and parish. The same commitment is emphasized in regard to receiving the Sacramental of Reconciliation on an ongoing basis.

PRAYERS

Catechists introduce and review prayers according to the diocesan curriculum guidelines. The help of parents by praying with their children at home will insure success with learning of prayers. Once children have mastered the prayers, they will be able to participate more fully in our community worship. Each textbook contains the prayers for that specific faith level.

WORKS OF MERCY

Christians are called to care for their neighbor's. Jesus tells us there are 14 Works of Mercy—selfless acts of love and care. Catholic social teachings are an integral part of the curriculum. During class time, children may participate in several service projects that embrace both Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEKLY PROGRAMS

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Middle school students' grades 6-7 are invited to join us on either (or both) Sunday nights from 6-7:30 PM or Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:45pm. On Sundays we meet in the Holy Family Center and on Wednesdays we meet at Kateri Lodge.

Middle school students in the 8th grade meet on Sunday nights only from 6:00-7:30 pm. in the Holy Family Center. Students will go deeper into the Sacrament of Confirmation using the Called to Mercy curriculum by St. Mary's Press. They will learn about the Holy Spirit in Scripture, the lives of the Saints, and have a segment on Theology of the Body. On occasion they will join the other middle school student for special events and parties.

Our 6th and 7th grade Middle School Faith Formation program is designed to bring the youth into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ through a small group format. Using the Life Teen curriculum, each week we will explore different aspects of our Roman Catholic Faith. Our weekly focus will cover a wide range of topics including the Mass, the Blessed Mother, the Saints, vocations, current events, and social issues today's youth may face. Each night of Middle School Faith Formation will include prayer, either a game, ice breaker, or fun activity to get the youth acquainted with the topic, a talk, small group discussion, and time to grow together in fellowship.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREATS

NET Retreat (December 2, 2018): NET Ministries USA will be returning to OLC to put on a one day retreat for our middle school youth! The theme is "In His Image" & will teach the youth about finding their identity in Jesus! This retreat will include Mass, Confession, skits, ice breakers, music, and food! Please check the website and bulletin for permission forms & more information!

Overnight Retreat (TBD): The overnight retreat is a longer retreat designed to further deepen our middle school youths' relationship with Jesus Christ. The extra time on an overnight retreat gives youth an opportunity to get away from the busy world in order grow with one another in our faith. This retreat will include Mass, Confession, great speakers, music, praise & worship, small group time, ice breakers, games, & more! Please check the website and bulletin for permission forms & more information!

Confirmation Retreat (TBD): This day retreat will have both small and large group activities, discussions, and reflection all focused on the "stories: of Mercy in Scripture, the Mass, and in our lives as committed Catholic Christians. This is an engaging, dynamic retreat that serves to deepen the Candidates' resolve to commit themselves to a life of merciful action in the name of Jesus, Our Redeemer

OTHER MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS

Various social events and service project opportunities will be offered throughout the year. Please watch the bulletin and parish website for these events.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

GRADES 9-12

All high school students are invited to join us for Mass on Sundays mornings at 11:00 am. Immediately following the Mass we will meet at Kateri Lodge from 12:30 – 2:30 pm for lunch and our Youth Group programming.

Our High School Youth Ministry program is designed to help high school teens (grades 9-12) engage in both exciting and contemplative ways with Christ and their Catholic faith. Our goal is to help encourage the development of their Catholic faith through providing meaningful Catholic community and strong theological formation. Each month will focus on a specific theme that will be addressed through theological formation, community service, social, and worship events. Providing a broad explanation and intensive examination of that month's topic.

HIGH SCHOOL RETREATS

Retreats are an amazing way for teens to experience and invite Jesus Christ into their lives without the distractions of their daily routines. These unique experiences promote true encounters with Jesus for many people and allow for an amazing spiritual growth.

The Presence Kalamazoo (February 2019): this retreat will be held at Hackett Catholic Central High School in Kalamazoo. This retreat is completely centered on the presence of the Jesus in the Eucharist. With perpetual adoration, amazing speakers, fun breakout activities and daily Mass, this retreat helps teens become fully engrossed in the presence of Christ in their lives.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Peer Ministry:

Peer ministry is an amazing service group that helps plan and lead HSFF lessons, assists at retreats for both high school and middle school and serve as mentors to their peers both in the high school faith formation program and at school. Peer ministry is not for the weak of heart though. This ministry requires attendance at several meetings as well as participation in several events. Please prayerfully consider the time commitment of this ministry before applying.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

There will be several Christian Service opportunities offered throughout the year. Christian service is a very important part of our faith that we promote and encourage greatly in our High School Program.

TEENS ON A MISSION

To be announced as plans are being developed.

OTHER YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

Graduation Mass & Brunch

We will begin our celebration at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday May 19, 2019. Graduating seniors are celebrated at this amazing Mass & brunch. Juniors are expected to help serve the seniors as well.

DYMO Camp

DYMO Camp is a weeklong Catholic summer camp that is filled with the Holy Spirit. You can learn more at www.dymo.org.

PARISH FAITH EVENTS

DOMESTIC DISCIPLESHIP- FAMILY/ PARISH WIDE CATECHESIS

Domestic Discipleship provides families of all ages a time and place to engage in their faith through hands on activities. Families will gather on **the second Tuesday of each month from 6:00-7:30 pm** for a potluck meal, catechesis and hands on activities. These evenings will help parishioners to understand their faith better and to deepen your relationship with Christ. As a community, families will have time to pray and learn about our faith while being present with each other.

It is a supplement for OLC school families, regular Faith Formation classes and families who choose to home school their children.

For those families working at home with their children, Blest Are We student textbooks will be provided along with a syllabus. Work can be completed on line.

The Domestic Discipleship monthly themes for 2018-2019 are:

- October: Introduction to Domestic Discipleship
- November: Saints & the Beatitudes
- January: Knowing & Walking with Jesus
- February: Liturgy & the Sacraments
- March: The Eucharist
- April: Morality & the Ten Commandments
- May: Feasts of the Blessed Mother

Please contact the Faith Formation Office for more information.

FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

VIRTUS TRAINING – PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN

Any volunteer over the age of 18 who has regular contact with children/youth must attend a Protecting God’s Children Awareness session. This training session only needs to be taken once and is good for any area you may want to volunteer with our youth. This includes youth ministry volunteers, chaperones for retreats, small group leaders, catechists, nursery workers, coaches and much more. Sessions are offered on a regular basis at various parishes in the diocese. For more information go to www.virtus.org or contact the Faith Formation office.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

A background check is required for all volunteers 18 years old and older.