

2025-2026

Welcome to Catholic Formation!

Dear Lumen Christi Families,

It is our deepest desire to engage students in their faith, help them recognize God's presence in their life and discover how to enter into a relationship with Him. At every age, and in both the Joys & Challenges of life, one thing remains constant: our faith, rooted in Jesus Christ who established this Church we belong to, calls us into deeper relationship with Him, and is ever present in the Eucharist.

Included in this packet you will find:

- 1) Overview & Formation Description for different grade levels
- 2) Formation Calendars for the year
- 3) Service Form for Middle & High School Students

Join our Team! Over 375 children attend Catholic Formation grade K4-11th. Many of our catechists are dedicated parish members without children in the program – and many are parents like you! We anticipate needing 20-30 more adults this year to serve as catechists, small group leaders, aides, hall monitors, and substitutes. The lesson plans are set for you, all materials are provided, and we offer support throughout the year. Catechists receive free tuition for 1 child for the year. There are only a few requirements for volunteers: a commitment to your own faith, Mass on Sundays and a desire to receive the Grace to share your faith through the Holy Spirit. This is fun, rewarding and enriches your own faith as you help our students to develop their own. Please reach out to one of our staff for more information.

Parent Safe Environment Session: We ask all parents to attend a Safe Environment Session (or stay current on their recertification). This is a requirement to volunteer with children at the parish in any capacity and will allow parents to help out as needed at any time. Information to sign up for a session is on the Lumen Christi webpage or email Karen Bersch berschk@lumenchristiparish.org Thank you!

Upcoming Dates: July 30th 9am St. James Hall; September date TBD

We are here to serve all families. If you have any questions, please contact one of the staff below:

Meaghan Turner Director of Catholic Formation turnerm@lumenchristiparish.org
Kate Heinzman Child Ministry Coordinator heinzmank@lumenchristiparish.org
Kayla Rothering Middle School Youth Minister kayla@lumenchristiparish.org
Olivia Brotherhood High School Youth Minister olivia@lumenchristiparish.org
Karen Bersch General Assistant for CF berschk@lumenchristiparish.org

CM Catholic Formation | Grades 4K - 5

Catholic Formation in Child ministry (4K-5th grade) has 3 components:

Mass Attendance, Formation, and Family Sessions.

Through these we hope to support parents as the first catechist for their children and together grow in understanding who God is, who they were created to be and how to develop a personal relationship with God.

WEEKLY SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE is expected of our children and families.

Regular participation in the Mass on Sundays helps children to be rooted in the importance of the Sacraments and recognize the outward expression of their faith.

Lumen Christi offers 4 Mass times: Sat 4:30pm; Sun 7:30am, 9:00am and 11:00am. Out of town? www.masstimes.org will help you find a local Catholic Mass.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month during the 9:00am Mass and serves children ages 3K through 1st grade.

CATHOLIC FORMATION CLASS meets about three times a month on Sundays from 10:00am - 11:00am. Classes have 10-15 students, are formed by grade and by school, and follow Call to Faith curriculum by Our Sunday Visitor. Our catechists are dedicated parish members and commit to the entire year and often accompanied by an aide.

Parent Safe Environment Session: We ask all parents to attend a Safe Environment Session (or stay current on their recertification). This is a requirement to volunteer with children at the parish in any capacity and will allow parents to help out as needed at any time. Information to sign up for a session is on the Lumen Christi Webpage or email Karen Bersch berschk@lumenchristiparish.org Thank you!

Upcoming Dates: July 30th 9am St. James Hall; September date TBD

Catechists & Aides needed: Over 175 children attend Child Ministry Catholic Formation on Sunday mornings, with 2-3 classes per grade. Many of our catechists are dedicated parish members without children in the program – and many are parents like you! We anticipate needing 5 more catechists and 4 more aides this year. Please consider joining our team! The lesson plans are set for you, all materials are provided, and Kate offers support throughout the year. Catechists receive free tuition for 1 child for the year.

FAMILY SESSIONS - Family Sessions are intended for the entire family- parents and all siblings. There are 5 Family Sessions this year. Each are a little different in structure, timing, and theme with the intention to celebrate special seasons of the Church and cultivate faith as a family. These are an important component to Catholic Formation. 'Save our Spot' registration for these sessions will be sent out all at once in September, so that you can save the dates & we can plan appropriately for food and materials. There is no additional cost. See next page for dates

FAMILY SESSIONS information continued

- Oct 4th Noon-3:30pm Pilgrimage to the Catholic Ecology Center This special event for families is in honor of the Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope and St. Francis' Feast Day. We will caravan out to the CEC for an afternoon of outdoor activities centered around the theme Pilgrims of Hope for Creation. This takes place from Noon-3:30pm with an invitation to attend 4:30pm Mass at Holy Hill.
- Nov 1st & 2nd The Solemnity of All Souls Attend any weekend Mass and participate in the celebration of All Souls following each Mass. 9 & 11am Mass includes a procession to the cemetery, prayers for the faithful departed, and hospitality.
- Dec 5th & Jan 9th Encounter Night 5:30-7:00pm These evenings include dinner 5:30-6pm; followed by a 'teaching' Holy Hour geared towards families. There will be a breakout session for children ages 2-8. Other dates include: Nov 7, Feb 6, March 6, April 10, May 1
- Feb 21/22 Family Session Attend either Feb 21 includes 4:30pm Mass, dinner & Family Session OR Feb 22 9:00am Mass, snacks & Family Session (choose one)
- April 19 Potluck Family Session 11:00am-1:30pm attend the 11:00am Mass with a potluck family session to follow. This session will equip your family to celebrate the faith throughout the spring and summer.

SACRAMENTS - First Eucharist and First Reconciliation preparation begins in first grade and continues through second grade. For those who are older than second grade or have special needs, preparation is done individually with Kate Heinzman who directs the Child Ministry programs. Please email Kate to request more information.

Important Date: September 14 First day of Formation Classes

Child Ministry Team:

Kate Heinzman Child Ministry Coordinator heinzmank@lumenchristiparish.org

Julia Wren Child Ministry Assistant wrenj@lumenchristiparish.org

YM Catholic Formation | Middle School | Grades 6-8

Middle school students are walking the boundary between childhood and high school, they are exploring independence, and finding their own identity in their interests, friend groups, and faith. We strive to provide an environment where middle school students can have the space to talk about their questions and doubts, and a place and atmosphere where they can encounter a personal relationship with our Lord, commit to that relationship with Him, and live as His disciple.

Catholic Formation in Middle School (6-8th grade) has 4 components:

MASS ATTENDANCE | Weekly Sunday Mass attendance is expected of our teens and families.

- Lumen Christi offers 4 Mass times: Sat 4:30pm; Sun 7:30am, 9:00am and 11:00am
- St. Francis Borgia, Sun 6:00pm | Gesu Sun 11:30am, 4:00pm and 6:00pm.
- Out of town? www.masstimes.org will help you find a local Catholic Mass.

FORMATION Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm | LC School September - May

6 & 7th Grade – <u>WONDER SERIES</u> God is bigger and better than we can possibly imagine. Even if we read every book on earth, we couldn't fully understand Him. We can, however, hear about and know God through reading scriptures, recognizing Him in nature, learning from the lives of the Saints, and witnessing the love of the Blessed Virigin Mary. We will dive deeper into the meaning of the Mass and explore the wonderful ways to encounter Jesus' love and mercy through the sacraments. We invite our 6th & 7th graders to experience the Wonder of God through the Beautiful Catholic Faith in our WONDER SERIES.

8th Grade - <u>The Chosen</u>: The Chosen is the first TV series that walks through Jesus' ministry. Season one highlights how Jesus calls his first disciples and impacts their lives. As we go through this season, we will compare the show to the scripture passages and our own experiences of being called by Jesus to a life of mission. Special emphasis will be placed on preparing students to be leaders in their schools and parish.

RETREAT Retreats are an incredible opportunity to encounter the Lord in ways we haven't yet and hear His voice a bit clearer. We ask that students attend their grade specific retreat hosted at Lumen Christi. The retreat details and registrations will be provided throughout the year.

- Jan 16, 2026 5:30-8:30pm 6th & 7th Grade Retreat (6th Grade students pick Jan or Feb date)
- Feb 20, 2026 5:30-8:30pm 5th & 6th Grade Retreat (6th Grade students pick Jan or Feb date)
- April 26, 2026 3-7:30pm 8th Grade Retreat (extends into CF Formation Night)

SERVICE We encounter Christ through the persons we encounter when we serve. This is why we challenge our students to go beyond *volunteering* and look at how they can SERVE.

Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the prisoners, bury the dead, give alms to the poor...love one another as I have loved you [John 13:35]

We ask that middle school students focus less on hours and more on opportunities to serve their neighbor keeping in mind the Corporal Works of Mercy. Middle School students should participate in 4-6 opportunities of service in the year, at least 2 of which serve with or for Lumen Christi Parish. Families are encouraged to serve together. Please reference the service form & weekly CF Update email for upcoming opportunities.

YM Catholic Formation | 9th & 10th Grade

We know high school students are met with daily challenges, have high academic goals, and participate in competitive extracurricular activities. With this in mind, it is our goal to meet students where they're at and show them how a lived relationship with Jesus Christ can be their unchanging and unshakeable foundation no matter what life brings. We don't aim to compete as just another activity in their busy lives, but to offer them solid Catholic teaching on a way of life that will lead them know who they are and why they were created, how to recognize the worth of true and authentic friendships, and most importantly, how to have a personal encounter with Our Lord and cultivate a real and lasting friendship with Him.

9th & 10th Grade Catholic Formation has 4 components:

MASS ATTENDANCE Weekly Sunday Mass attendance is expected of our teens and families.

- Lumen Christi offers 4 Mass times: Sat 4:30pm; Sun 7:30am, 9:00am and 11:00am
- St. Francis Borgia, Sun 6:00pm | Gesu Sun 11:30am, 4:00pm and 6:00pm.
- Out of town? www.masstimes.org will help you find a local Catholic Mass.

FORMATION Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm | LC Church September - May

The theme for **9th Grade** is **Identity**: Who am I? Who is God? How do I relate to Him? How should I live? These are questions that the students will dive into with their small groups as they engage in discussion, activities, games, Scripture study, retreat, and personal prayer.

The theme for **10th grade** is **Calling**: Students will explore life's purpose, their individual calling, what discipleship is, their role in the Church, and dependence on God to grow in greatness. Together with their small groups they will choose a path of deeper learning in the second half of the year. The formation experience will include discussion, activities, games, Scripture, witnesses, retreat, and personal prayer.

RETREAT Retreats are an incredible opportunity to step away from the hectic pace of everyday life to encounter the Lord in ways we haven't yet and hear His voice a bit clearer. We offer a 9th grade retreat day and a 10th grade retreat day. We ask that students prioritize attending. Please see the calendar for retreat dates; details and registrations will be provided throughout the year.

SERVICE We encounter Christ through the persons we encounter when we serve. This is why we challenge our students to go beyond *volunteering* and look at how they can SERVE.

Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the prisoners, bury the dead, give alms to the poor...love one another as I have loved you... [John 13:35]

We ask that students focus less on hours and more on opportunities to serve their neighbor keeping in mind the Corporal Works of Mercy. High School students should participate in 10-12 opportunities of service in the year, at least 5 of which serve with or for Lumen Christi Parish. Service can include opportunities that students are already involved in through school and the community. We do regularly communicate opportunities in the parish and community, but ultimately it is the responsibility of each teen to set up his/her own opportunities to serve. Please reference the service form & weekly CF Update email for continued updates and details.

**9th & 10th grade Formation is a prerequisite for students not attending Catholic Schools to be confirmed in 11th grade

YM Catholic Formation | 11th Grade Confirmation Preparation

What is Confirmation? "Confirmation roots us more deeply in our identity as sons and daughters of God; it unites us more firmly to Christ; it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us; it strengthens our bond with the Church; and it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross." – Catechism of the Catholic Church #1303

Preparation for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation builds on the foundation that was established for students in 9th and 10th grade. 11th grade formation retains the same four components: Mass attendance, Formation, Retreat, and Service. During this year of preparation, our desire is for students to grow in a personal commitment to Christ within the context of the whole Faith Community, the Church. Christ has said, "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you, and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain." (John 15:16) Confirmation is not the "Sacrament of Graduation", but Christ's choosing of individual souls to be His *lifelong disciples*, sharing in His Mission through the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

MASS ATTENDANCE Weekly Sunday Mass attendance is expected of our teens and families.

- Lumen Christi offers 4 Mass times: Sat 4:30pm Sun 7:30am, 9:00am and 11:00am
- St. Francis Borgia, Sun 6:00pm | Gesu Sun 11:30am, 4:00pm and 6:00pm.
- Out of town? <u>www.masstimes.org</u> will help you find a local Catholic Mass.

FORMATION Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm | LC Church September - May

The theme for Confirmation preparation is, fittingly, *Mission*. Within their small groups, students will come to a deeper understanding of the Great Mission of Jesus, the Apostles, the Church, and the Saints, and how they too will share in this Mission as Confirmed Catholics. Prayer will light the way and the Holy Spirit will be the guide! The year involves engaging in discussion, forming strong bonds with sponsors, attending a retreat, hearing witnesses, diving into Scripture, and entering into deep personal prayer.

Confirmation is not graduation from formation in the Catholic Faith, and we offer ongoing activities and groups after Confirmation so that teens can take the Graces they've received and continue deepening their faith through ongoing community and prayer, supporting them in this lifelong Mission!

RETREAT Retreats are an incredible opportunity to step away from the bectic pace of everyday life

RETREAT Retreats are an incredible opportunity to step away from the hectic pace of everyday life to encounter the Lord in ways we haven't yet and hear His voice a bit clearer. We offer three Confirmation Retreat weekends to choose from. A specifically Confirmation-focused retreat is required before Confirmation. Details and registration will be provided in September. Confirmation retreat dates:

- October 25-26, 2025 at Lumen Christi
- December 5-7, 2025 at St. Benedict Abbey in Benet Lake, WI
- January 23-25, 2026 at St. Benedict Abbey in Benet Lake, WI

SERVICE We encounter Christ through the persons we encounter when we serve. This is why we challenge our students to go beyond *volunteering* and look at how they can SERVE.

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We ask that students focus less on hours and more on opportunities to serve their neighbor, keeping in mind the Corporal Works of Mercy. **Confirmation students should participate in 10-12 opportunities of service in the year, at least 5 of which serve with or for Lumen Christi Parish.** Service can include opportunities that students are already involved in through school and the community. We do regularly communicate opportunities in the parish and community, but ultimately it is the responsibility of each teen to set up his/her own opportunities to serve. Please reference the service form & weekly CF Update email for continued updates and details.

Save the Dates:

 Orientation for Confirmation Parents & Students (this is a required meeting) Thursday, September 18th, 2025 7:00pm

• Confirmation Mass Saturday May 9th, 2026 9:00am Rehearsal & 10:00am Mass

Olivia Brotherhood

High School Youth Minister

olivia@lumenchristiparish.org

CHILD MINISTRY | 2025-2026 CALENDAR

CM Formation 21 **CM Formation**

	SEPTEMBER 2025								
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APRIL 2026

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18

CM Formation CM Formation CM Formation

Family Session- Catholic Ecology Center Pilgrimage

12 CM Formation

19 CM Formation 26 CM Formation

	OCTOBER 2025							
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CM Formation

Pot luck family Session

1/2 Family Session - All Souls **Day Celebration**

CM Formation

15 Capuchin Food Pack

16 CM Formation

	NOVEMBER 2025							
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MAY 2026 S M T W Th F S 2 6 8 9 11 12 13 14 **15** 10 16 18 19 20 21 22 17 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

27 28 29 30

Family Session -**Encounter Adoration Night**

CM Formation

14 CM Formation

	DECEMBER 2025								
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JUNE 2026 T W Th M F 2 3 4 5 6 8 9 10 11 12 13 17 18 19 20 14 15 16 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

CM Formation Family Session -

Encounter Adoration Night

CM Formation

18 CM Formation

JANUARY 2026								
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Key:

Blue - Formation

Orange – Family Service Opportunity Family Sessions – Details for each are in the formation packet, register in advance

CM Formation CM Formation 21/22 Family Session-Attend One Date

	FEBRUARY 2026							
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Grades 4K - 5 Sundays 10:00-11:00AM Lumen Christi School

Attend the 9:00AM Mass before class as a family or the 11:00AM Mass after class as a family

Children's Liturgy of the Word 1st and 3rd Sunday at 9AM Mass

Report Absences to 262-512-8983 | Please State Name and Grade for each child. Thank you!

YOUTH MINISTRY | 2025-2026 CALENDAR

12 Middle School Youth Group

14 YM Formation

7pm ConfirmationOrientation – grade 11students & parents only

28 YM Formation

	SEPTEMBER 2025							
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MARCH 2026 W Th Т M 2 3 4 5 6 7 12 9 10 11 13 | 14 16 17 18 19 20 21 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 30 31

8 9th grade retreat
8 YM Formation

20 MS Youth Group22 YM Formation

4 Catholic Ecology Center Family Pilgrimage

10 MS Youth Group

12 YM Formation

25-26 Confirmation Retreat Option #1 (on site)

26 YM Formation

OCTOBER 2025								
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APRIL 2026 T W Th 2 1 3 4 9 10 11 6 7 8 12 14 15 16 17 18 13 20 21 22 23 24 25 27 | 28 | 29 | 30

12 YM Formation 17 MS Youth Grou

26

26

3

9

MS Youth Group YM Formation

8th grade retreat

1/2 All Souls Celebrations

9 YM Formation

14 MS Youth Group

15 Food Pack/Poverty Simulation

16 YM Formation

	NOVEMBER 2025								
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MAY 2026 M T W Th S F S 2 5 7 6 8 9 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 15 16 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

YM Formation

Confirmation! Rehearsal - 9:00am Mass - 10:00am

15 MS Youth Group

5-7 Confirmation Retreat Option #2 (off site)

12 MS Youth Group14 YM Formation

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JUNE 2026 S M T W Th S F 2 3 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 29 30 28

MS Youth Group

11 YM Formation

16 MS Youth Group Retreat23-25 Confirmation Retreat

Option #3

25 YM Formation

JANUARY 2026								
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Key:

Blue - Formation night

Red - Confirmation (Grade 11 only)

Green - Middle School Youth Group

Yellow – Retreats

Orange – Family Opportunity

1 YM Formation
7-8 HS Girls Retreat
(optional) off site
13 MS Youth Group
20 5th, 6th grade retreat
22 YM Formation
22 10th grade retreat

FEBRUARY 2026								
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YM Formation 6:00-7:30pm

Middle School in School High School in Parish Building Middle School Youth Group 6:00-8:00pm

Meet in St. Cecilia Hall unless noted otherwise

Lumen Christi Catholic YM Formation Service Form

Due: May 3, 2026

We encounter Christ through the persons we encounter when we serve. This is why we challenge our students to go beyond volunteering and look at how they can serve.

Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the prisoners, bury the dead, give alms to the poor....

Love one another as I have loved you.... (John 13:35)

We ask that students focus less on 'hours' and more on opportunities to serve your neighbor keeping in mind the Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy and Catholic Social Teaching.

- **High School Students:** participate in **10-12 opportunities** of service in the year, at least 5 of which serve with or for Lumen Christi Parish.
- Middle School Students: participate in 4-6 opportunities of service in the year, at least 2 of which serve with or for Lumen Christi Parish.

We will provide a list of Liturgical Ministries available for students to sign up for in the beginning of the year, and throughout the year share parish service opportunities in our email communications as they arise. Service can include opportunities that students are already involved in through school and the community. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of each teen to set up his/her own opportunities to serve.

Recording Service: Students are asked to record their service on the attached form sharing the date, service & brief description of what they did, and 1-2 sentences of where they recognized God. After all of the service opportunities are completed, students should write a reflection on their service experience using the prompt at the end of the form. Students can return the form to the Catholic Formation Office, email a scanned copy to Mrs. Bersch (berschk@lumenchristiparish.org), or use the online link.

Service Forms are due: May 3rd, 2026

Example:

DATE	SERVICE [WHERE & BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE]	WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD?
10/1/23	Children's Liturgy of the Word - helped lead CLOW, lead a prayer & helped a small child participate	In the child I helped - she enjoyed being able to be a part of the activity and her joy brought me joy.

Lumen Christi Catholic YM Formation Service Form

Name _____ Grade ____ 2025-2026

DATE	SERVICE [WHERE & BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE]	WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD?

Reflection: What service was the most impactful to you this year? How did you Encounter God?