

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Community

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

CONTACT US!

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ABOUT Religious Formation

We do not consider our youth to be merely “the future of the church,” but the *current* church, alive & active! When it comes to Religious Formation, we get our mission straight from Jesus Christ...

“Go, therefore, & make disciples of all nations!”
(Matthew 28:19)

Our number one goal is to form authentic relationships with, not only the youth, but their parents as well, in order to walk with them on their faith journey & lead them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Our focus is not only *what* one knows, but *Who* one knows. We don’t think of our volunteers as “teachers” but as “witnesses” of their own faith. We empower children, youth & their families to use the gifts & talents that God has entrusted them with, & always strive to increase their involvement & presence in every aspect of parish life.

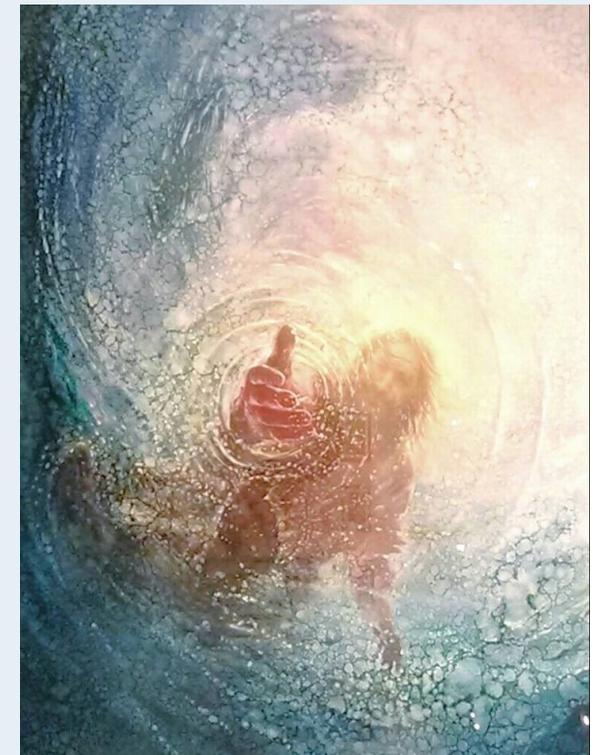
Together we can bring God’s love to a world that so desperately needs it.

In the words of Saint John Paul II,
“It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness. He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you.”

It is our joy & mission to inspire the young church in a radical way... by bringing them closer to Jesus and mentoring them on their journey to becoming disciples.

Parish Mission Statement

We, the people of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Community, believe we are called by God to live our faith and to bring others to Christ by our words and actions.



Free Family Dinner

Everyone Welcome (Parents, kids, grandparents...)
Wednesdays @ 5-5:30pm in the Social Hall
Students in Grades 5 & under
must be accompanied by a parent.

We want to support your family! Our goal of these dinners is to have one less thing for you to worry about on Wednesday nights, & to give you a chance to form & strengthen good friendships with fellow-Catholics. It's also a great chance to get to know your children's teachers and classroom aides and talk to them about ideas or questions you have.

Family Mass

1st Sundays of the Month—10am Mass

Each grade will have an opportunity to lead ministries at one of the Sunday 10am Masses at the parish. Many ministries can be done with parents or siblings too (like greeting). Students love this opportunity for leadership! **Children's Liturgy is also offered every Sun @ 10am Mass.**

Preschool

Ages 3-5 (& younger siblings)
Wednesdays @ 5:30-6:30pm

Lessons are planned for ages 3-5, but any children younger than Kindergarten age are welcome! At least one parent must accompany children. They hear an exciting Bible story and short lesson that goes along with it. Then you help your child make a fun craft to take home. They also get their wiggles out with learning catchy, new Bible songs and dances. They also get to perform at the Christmas Pageant. Each child receives their own hard-cover children's Bible at the end of the year.

Elementary Program

Grades K—5
Wednesdays @ 5:30-6:30pm

Each week your children will be led through different prayer experiences, a lesson and activities or crafts.

Each class will put their faith into action by participating in one of more service projects throughout the year as well. You will see things sent home regularly to help you continue learning as a family at home, including a Faith+Family page that summarizes the lesson they covered that week. They also get to perform at the Christmas Pageant. In Grade 5 your child will receive a Teen Bible.



First Communion & First Reconciliation

Grade 2 or older (Prerequisite: Baptism)

Preparation for First Reconciliation begins in the fall, & continues through First Communion in the spring. Parents are involved in the preparation process through attending Masses with the Rite of Enrollment, special parent sessions and helping their children complete lessons at home. Students are also prepared in Religious Formation classes on Wed nights, during Religion class for those in the OLL School, & during retreats for each Sacrament.

Middle School Program—EDGE

Grades 6-8
Wednesdays @ 6:30-8pm

EDGE nights look nothing like your typical classroom. We provide a safe and fun place for youth to find solid Catholic community, get answers to their questions about faith, and, most importantly, to encounter Jesus in a profound and personal way.

EDGE resources speak to the physical, psychological, cognitive, relational and spiritual maturation of middle school youth. In a typical EDGE night youth do high-energy, fun games & activities, get Catholic topics presented to them in new and creative ways, experience different types of prayer, & are part of a family... a small group where they go deeper and apply topics to their own personal life. You children will truly be excited to come to these Wed nights!

High School Program

Grades 9-12
Wednesdays @ 6:30-8pm

We seek to meet the specific needs of a high school youth by utilizing the best and most current youth ministry resources that speak to their physical, psychological, cognitive, relational & spiritual needs. Their sessions will be a combination of fun & engaging activities, teachings/presentations given by a wide variety of witnesses who are living out a vibrant faith themselves, small group processing with a relatable mentor who can help them apply the Catholic teachings to their own life, & prayer experiences which lead them to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

We put a great focus on the teens forming positive relationships with their peers & adult mentors. Here, they will get answers to their questions about the Catholic faith, they will encounter Jesus, & they will be part of a community & a family, that holds each other accountable to living out the Catholic life to the full.

Trips, Events & Retreats

There are a number of things we offer throughout the year which we intentionally schedule to help our youth go to a deeper level of faith and form a strong relationship with Jesus. There are a few retreats throughout the year for middle and high school students, the Diocesan Youth Rally in the spring, Extreme Faith Camp and Steubenville Conferences in the summer, NET Retreats, and we host a week of the Totus Tuus summer program.

We support and encourage small discipleship groups and welcome the launching of new groups if parents are seeking something deeper for their children who are hungering for more.

Confirmation

Grade 11 or older
Wednesdays @ 6:30-8pm
(Prerequisite: Baptism, Reconciliation & Communion)

Confirmation candidates are expected to be active members of the parish who are involved in the Religious Formation program in the years leading up to Confirmation, & after. *Remote preparation* & discernment begins in 9th grade, and *immediate preparation* is in 11th grade & the following summer. The Sacrament is received in the fall of 12th grade.

Students will be invited into a deeper relationship with Christ than ever before by entering more fully into the life of the Church, developing a daily habit of prayer & reflection, & by hearing from many different witnesses who will share about how God has worked in their life.

Parents will be very involved in the preparation process, & will get to experience formation opportunities themselves, to strengthen faith of the whole family.

Candidates will have an opportunity to participate in Catholic spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Individual spiritual direction will be done with each candidate throughout the year leading up to Confirmation, to help them discern receiving the Sacrament & guide them in increasing their faith.