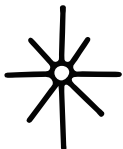




**BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH
FAITH FORMATION HANDBOOK
2026-2027**



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**CORINNE
CATHCART**

**DIRECTOR OF FAITH
FORMATION
&
COORDINATOR OF
CHILDREN'S FAITH
FORMATION
&
ELEMENTARY
SACRAMENTS**



**corinnec@blessed-
midland.org**



**(989) 835-6777
EXT. 232**

**My favorite light
scripture:**

**"...God is light and
in him there is no
darkness at all."
1 John 1:5**



**BOB
KLINAR**

**COORDINATOR OF
MIDDLE SCHOOL
YOUTH MINISTRY
&
CONFIRMATION
PREPARATION**



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midland.org**



**(989) 835-6777
EXT. 227**

**My favorite light
scripture:**

**Your eye is the
lamp of your body.
When your eye is
healthy, your whole
body is full of light.
Luke 11:34**



**MELISSA
KATO**

**COORDINATOR OF
HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH MINISTRY**



**melissak@blessed-
midland.org**

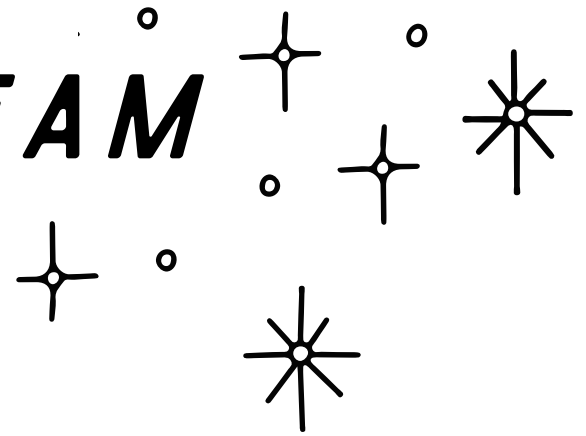


**(989) 835-6777
EXT. 263**

**My favorite light
scripture:**

**"...let your light shine
before others, that
they may see your
good deeds and
glorify your Father in
heaven."
Matthew 5:16**

FORMATION TEAM



**CHRISTY
GRANDA**

**COORDINATOR OF
ADULT FORMATION
&
ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN
INITIATION OF
ADULTS (OCIA)**



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midland.org



(989) 835-6777
EXT. 233

My favorite light
scripture:

"The light shines in
the darkness, and
the darkness has
not overcome it."
John 1:5



**SUNNY
CLARK**

**FAITH FORMATION
OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL**



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midland.org



(989) 835-6777
EXT. 241

My favorite light
scripture:

"You, Lord keep my
lamp burning, my
God turns my
darkness into light."
Psalm 18:28

"The world
looks to
you [young
people] to
announce
a message
of
TRUE HOPE

and to
promote

PEACE."

-Pope Leo
XIV

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Families,

It's time to begin another exciting year of Faith Formation here at Blessed Sacrament! Welcome back! We're so glad you're here! This year's theme is "Shine," and we'll spend our year exploring Catholic Social Teaching and the Corporal Works of Mercy. We'll learn how we are each called to "Shine" with God's light and share God's love out in the wide world!

Fun and fellowship with our parish family is a part of what makes Blessed Sacrament a special place. Our Family Fun Events, open to parishioners of all ages, help us to build that community. You'll see some of our traditional events returning this year. We hope to see you there! Check out page 5 for the dates and mark your calendars! Everyone is invited to join our parish family for these events, and to bring along a friend or two!

I invite you to check out pages 2 and 3 of this handbook to get to know the creative and inspiring members of our Faith Formation Team, and, just for fun, their favorite light themed scripture verse. They're all looking forward to praying, learning, and growing in faith with you this year. Don't hesitate to call or email with any questions you might have.

As always, Faith Formation this year is packed with love, joy, and Jesus! Join us as we "Shine" Jesus's light together! You won't want to miss it!

Peace,

Corinne Cathcart
Director of Faith Formation

PARISH FAMILY FUN EVENTS

AUGUST 22-23:

**BACKPACK
BLESSING**

NOVEMBER 22:

**ADVENT
FAMILY
EVENT**

JANUARY 29:

**PARISH
PARTY**

FEBRUARY 7:

**LENT
EVENT**

APRIL 4:

**EASTER
EGG HUNT +
SOCIAL**

MAY 30:

**PARISH
BIKE
RIDE**

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION

AGE:

Preschool-
5th grade

MEETING TIME:

Sundays,
9:30-10:45
am

MEETING LOCATION:

Social Hall

SEPTEMBER	27	Kick-off Event
OCTOBER	04 11 18 25	Class 2 Class 3 Class 4 Class 5
NOVEMBER	15 22	Class 6 Advent Event
DECEMBER	06 13	Class 7 Class 8
JANUARY	10 24 31	Class 9 Class 10 Class 11
FEBRUARY	07 28	Lent Event Class 12
MARCH	21	Class 13
APRIL	4	Easter Egg Hunt + Social

HELLO!

Elementary Faith Formation is back with another year of whole-family Faith Formation! Since we believe that parents are the first and most important catechists of their children, we want to empower all of our parents to raise faithful, faith-filled, life-long Catholics! Every class is designed to help children and parents engage in meaningful prayer and discussion that continues all the way home and into their daily lives. With music, games, crafts, activities, and snacks, our classes are fun and accessible to everyone.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

AGE:

Preschool-
5th grade

MEETING TIME:

Sundays,
11 am Mass

MEETING LOCATION:

Vestibules
in back of
church

The Liturgy of the Word comes after the Introductory Rites at Mass and includes the readings, the Homily, the Creed, and the Prayer of the Faithful. Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) takes the same components and interprets them into child-friendly language and themes. The goal is for the children to "graduate" into Mass with an understanding of both the Sunday gospel and the underlying structure of the Mass.

SEPTEMBER 27

JANUARY 31

OCTOBER 18
25

FEBRUARY 28

NOVEMBER 15

MARCH 21

DECEMBER 06
13

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is held in conjunction with Assumption BVM and St. Brigid parishes.

AGE:

Preschool-
5th grade

DATES:

June 14-17,
2027

LOCATION:

Blessed
Sacrament

THEME:

"Crave"

MIDDLE SCHOOL YM SUNDAY PROGRAM

AGE:

6th-8th
grades

MEETING TIME:

Sundays,
6-8 pm

MEETING LOCATION:

Parish
Center

SEPTEMBER

27

Kick-off Event

OCTOBER

04
11
18

Lesson 1
Lesson 2
Tag Night

NOVEMBER

01
08
15
22

All Saints Day Party
Lesson 3
Lesson 4
Lesson 5

DECEMBER

06
13

Adoration (Assumption)
Christmas Party

JANUARY

10
17
24
31

Lesson 6
MLK Day Event
Lesson 7
Lesson 8

FEBRUARY

07
28

Lesson 9
Lesson 10

MARCH

07
13
14
21

Lesson 11 (Assumption)
Anchor Retreat
Lesson 12
Closing Event

HEY THERE!

Welcome (or welcome back!) to a fantastic year of Youth Ministry!

This year, 6th-8th grades will be on focusing Catholic Social Teaching and the Works of Mercy. As always, these topics will be explored in fun and hands-on ways with games, food, objects lessons, and service projects. The year will also be sprinkled with social events! Come learn how Jesus calls us to shine His light to others!

HIGH SCHOOL YM **SUNDAY PROGRAM AND** **OUTREACH**

AGE:

9th-12th
grades

MEETING TIME:

Sundays,
6-8 pm

MEETING LOCATION:

Parish
Center

SEPTEMBER 27 Kick-off Event

OCTOBER 04 Lesson 1
 11 Lesson 2
 18 Tag Night

NOVEMBER 01 Lesson 3
 08 Lesson 4
 15 Lesson 5

DECEMBER 06 Adoration @
 (Assumption)

JANUARY 10 Lesson 6
 24 Lesson 7
 31 Lesson 8

FEBRUARY 07 Lesson 9
 28 Lesson 10

MARCH 07 Lesson 11
 14 Lesson 12
 21 Closing Event

WELCOME!

This school year, Sunday night participants will be looking at ways to let their light Shine as we explore our Catholic Faith. We hope to help students embrace our Catholic Faith and see how their example of practicing their faith can be the light for someone else.

We will again use Life Teen as our basis for topics as it consists of resources that provide solid Catholic teaching and youth ministry experiences for our high school students.

We will also include all of the Outreach opportunities for every student enrolled in Youth ministry.

I look forward to working with the high school students on Sunday nights from 6-8 pm. So please join us, and bring a friend!

MELISSA

YOUTH 2 YOUTH RETREAT

Y2Y RETREAT
APRIL 17-18,
2027

The Youth 2 Youth Retreat is a yearly retreat for high school students, held in the spring at Camp Rotary. The retreat is planned and facilitated by high school students who have previously participated in the retreat. This retreat helps teens recognize God's presence in many ways through prayer, worship, witness talks, God Time, games and much more!

TEAM MEETINGS

AGE:

10th-12th
grades

MEETING TIME:

Mondays,
6:00-8:00
pm

MEETING LOCATION:

Parish
Center

SEPTEMBER

14
28

Orientation

OCTOBER

12
25
26

Discernment

NOVEMBER

09
23

DECEMBER

06
07

Adoration@Assumption

JANUARY

11
25

FEBRUARY

08
22

MARCH

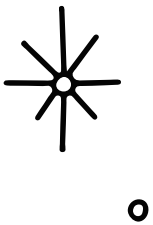
08
15
22

APRIL

05
12
16-18

Retreat

Students who have already been to the retreat may participate as members of the the Youth 2 Youth team. This team works September-April to plan the two-day retreat. Students grow in their own faith while creating an environment for others to develop and grow in their relationship with Jesus. The Retreat Team should plan to be at the retreat. Date: April 17-18



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

BAPTISM

Please contact the Faith Formation Office (989-835-6777) any time during your pregnancy to register for required parent baptism classes or fill out the form online.

For adults seeking baptism, please call the Faith Formation Office to inquire about joining the Church and attending OCIA classes.

CONFIRMATION

We finished Year 1 of our Confirmation Prep program last year, and this year we will continue with Year 2 with the same group of students. Here are the details for Year 2:

Location: Assumption BVM Parish

Time: Tuesdays, 6-8pm

Dates: October 6, 13, 20, 27, November 10, 17, January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, March 2, 9, 16

If your child is approaching or has already turned 12 years old, and you are interested in registering your child for the next Confirmation Preparation group, please review the following requirements.

To begin Year 1 of the Confirmation Preparation program, a child must:

- be at least 12 years old by January 1, 2028.
- be a member of one of the following parishes: Assumption BVM, Blessed Sacrament, or St. Brigid.
- be an active participant in Sunday night Middle School Youth Ministry (held at Blessed Sacrament on Sunday evenings from 6-8pm).

If your child meets these requirements, you can register your child for Year 1 (beginning January 2028) by visiting our website.

To learn more about what this program will look like, including when your child can expect to participate in the program, please visit the Confirmation page on our website by scanning the QR code.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

To prepare for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, a child must:

- be a Baptized Catholic or other recognized denomination.
- be a member of the parish at which he or she will be receiving the sacraments.
- be at least seven years old at the time of reception of the sacraments.
- be enrolled and participate in at least two years of Faith Formation before the reception of the sacrament. The student may prepare for the reception of the Sacrament during their second year of Faith Formation.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation preparation begins in October with a Parent-Child Session that includes family prayer, activities for kids, information for parents, and registration for the program. Families may choose to attend either of two dates for this event. During October and November, families work together at home on their First Reconciliation books. In December, the children gather at church for their Jesus Experience Day when they participate in retreat-style activities and celebrate the sacrament.

PARENT/CHILD SESSION:

October 17
9:30-11:30

JESUS EXPERIENCE DAY:

December
12
9:00-12:00

FIRST EUCHARIST

Similar to First Reconciliation preparation, First Eucharist preparation consists of Parent-Child Sessions offered in February and early March, family book-work at home during March and April, and a Jesus Experience Day at the end of April. In May, we'll have a required practice day and First Eucharist Masses at each Mass on **May 17-18**.

PARENT/CHILD SESSION:

February 27
9:30-11:30

JESUS EXPERIENCE DAY:

April 24
9:00-12:30

FIRST EUCHARIST MASSES:

May 1-2
All Masses



WE NEED YOU!

A successful Faith Formation program is only possible with the help of awesome adult volunteers. We invite you to participate in your child(ren)'s Faith Formation in whatever way your gifts, talents, or passion lead you! Below are lists of some of the positions for which we need parent volunteers. Please contact the respective program coordinator if you would like to volunteer in one of these areas. And if you would like to be involved in some way that is not listed, please let us know!

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Sunday Program

- Photographer
- Kitchen help

Sacraments

- Jesus Experience Day helpers

Children's Liturgy of the Word

- Teachers
- Aides

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday Program

- Small group leaders
- Subs
- Photographers
- Set up/clean up help

Confirmation Prep Program

- Aides

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday Program

- Adult Leaders
- Subs
- Photographers

Youth 2 Youth

- Adult leaders
- Retreat drivers
- Photographers

Outreach

- Adult leaders
- Adult drivers
- Photographers

ALL

PROGRAMS

Sometimes we have special events or something big going on at Faith Formation that we need special volunteers for. We might need help setting up or we need someone to play the part of St. Nicholas for the day or we need a station leader for VBS...very short-term or even one-day commitments! If you are not able to or would rather not commit to being a long-term volunteer, but would like to participate in special events on occasion, please let us know! We would like to create an email list of people we could invite to volunteer in these sorts of situations. Thank you!

POLICIES

A

ACCIDENTS

First aid is administered only in minor cases, as an emergency treatment, until the injured person is placed under professional care. It is the parent's responsibility to notify our office of any changes in emergency information that occur during the year.

ADMINISTRATION

All concerns and questions should be handled by the appropriate program coordinator. Parents may contact the Faith Formation Director for further assistance after having tried to address the question/concern with the appropriate person.

ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance at Faith Formation meetings is important. Every effort should be made to keep absences to a minimum.

B

C

CHANGE IN ANY INFORMATION

Please keep us informed of any change of contact information. This will help us keep in contact with you about opportunities or items of importance to you or your family.

COMMUNICATION

We will communicate with you primarily through Eva (see more under "Eva"), which is the platform we use to email and text our newsletters. Updates are also in our parish bulletin and on our website. Handouts may occasionally be sent home with children. Feel free to call with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

CRIME-FREE POLICY

Illegal activity will not be tolerated at Blessed Sacrament Parish or sponsored events. Weapons (including but not limited to guns, firearms, daggers, knives with a blade over three inches, pocket knives, iron bars, clubs, brass knuckles, explosive devices, or facsimiles of weapons used in a threatening or frightening manner) are not permitted on Blessed Sacrament property or sponsored events. The administrator (Pastor, Faith Formation Director, or Program Coordinator) reserves the right to determine what constitutes a weapon. A child/youth that violates this may be subject to expulsion from Faith Formation.

D

DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary actions will convey basic Christian values. Discipline methods will include modeling and encouraging expected behavior, involving children/youth in setting clear and consistent rules, redirecting children/youth to acceptable activities and meeting with individual children/youth to discuss concerns. If a child/youth has difficulties, parents will be consulted to discuss the problem and solution.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIALS

The Program Coordinator shall determine the suitability of any printed materials for distribution within the classroom.

DRIVING CHILDREN/YOUTH

Adults driving children must submit a driver information sheet annually requiring minimal acceptable liability limits for a privately-owned vehicle of \$500,000 combined single limit. The driver shall have no more than six points on his/her driving record. A copy of a valid driver's license is needed. Drivers must also have completed VIRTUS and a background check.

The booster seat law requires all children to be in a booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4' 9" tall. All other passengers are required to wear seatbelts.

DRUGS & ALCOHOL

The possession or use of legal or illegal drugs or alcohol by children/youth is strictly forbidden except in accordance with a physician's direction, i.e. asthma inhalers. A child/youth who violates this may be subject to expulsion from Faith Formation.

E

EVA

Eva is the program that we use to send out email newsletters to various church groups. Elementary Faith Formation, Middle School YM and High School YM (as well as these programs' sub-groups) have their own newsletters that are emailed each week. To sign up for these emails, scan the QR code on the respective group page in this handbook.

F

FAITH FORMATION AT HOME

Although we encourage children/youth to attend Faith Formation sessions and activities within the community, we understand that, at times, a child must be home-schooled. Please contact the appropriate Program Coordinator to see if it is possible to complete a specific program within the home.

FIELD TRIPS

Parents must submit formal written permission before children/youth are allowed to participate in field trips. We cannot accept permission by phone.

FUNDRAISING

The entire parish community, through its stewardship program, supports Faith Formation. Fundraising projects are kept to a minimum and must follow parish guidelines.

G

H

HARASSMENT & BULLYING

Persons who engage in harassment, bullying, or threats of violence are subject to disciplinary action, including suspension and expulsion. Sexual harassment is a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Michigan Elliot-Larson Civil Rights Act.

I

J

K

L

LOST & FOUND

Blessed Sacrament's "lost and found" is located in the west entrance of the Parish Center. Any lost articles may be reclaimed in this location. After a reasonable period of time, unclaimed articles will be given away to charitable organizations.

M

N

O

P

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

The Church recognizes that parents have the primary right and obligation to educate their children. Parents should, therefore, view this program as an extension of the religious training received at home--not as a substitute for it.

The goal of the parish staff is to assist parents in this awesome responsibility. The Catechism of the Catholic Church #2226 states: "Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents."

As Catholics, we have an obligation and opportunity to attend Mass each weekend and teach our children about the Mass by word and example. It is the parents' right, responsibility and opportunity to ensure their children attend Mass weekly. Faith Formation does not take the place of Mass nor does it fulfill the obligation and opportunity of participating in the Mass.

PARISH RESOURCE CENTER

The center includes sections devoted to: Catechesis, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, and the Parish Circulation Library. Reserve books, magazines, and other periodicals may not be taken from the resource center. Books may be borrowed from the Circulating Library. All new materials must be approved by the Faith Formation Team Leader.

PUBLICITY & RELEASE INFORMATION

If you do not want your child's work or photograph to appear in publicity materials, please contact the Faith Formation office.

Q R

REGISTRATION

Registration is required to participate in Faith Formation programs. Registration generally begins in the spring for the following school year.

Our registration fee is \$45 per child and \$120 maximum per family.

No one will be denied registration due to financial difficulties. Please mark "scholarship" on the registration form or contact one of the Program Coordinators if the registration fee is a financial burden for your family.

Children must be four years old by September 1 to register for the four-year-old program.

S

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms are celebrated at weekend liturgies throughout the year. Baptismal preparation sessions are required for parents.

Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA): Adults interested in becoming Catholic enter the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.

OCIA Adapted for Children: Children over the age of seven, who ask for baptism or at the discretion of their parents or guardians, are prepared for initiation similarly to the adult process. This process can also accommodate baptized children who have not celebrated Confirmation or First Eucharist. The process is centered on forming the entire family. All sessions are for all ages.

Reconciliation and First Eucharist: Children who wish to complete these sacraments are expected to complete two consecutive years of Catholic school or Faith Formation, the second of which is the year of preparing for the sacraments. (For example, a second grader in sacramental preparation needs to have participated in Faith Formation or Catholic school in the first grade.)

Students follow the requirements prepared by the parish for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Arrangements for reception of these sacraments are made through the Faith Formation office. Our sacramental preparation programs require parents and children to attend instructional sessions in order to effectively prepare at home for reception of the sacraments. Also, all children receiving these sacraments are required to attend a morning retreat. The dates, time, and place of these sessions are publicized in advance in the Sunday bulletin and Eva.

There have been many changes to how and when the Sacrament of Confirmation is received in the Diocese of Saginaw. you can read more about those changes in the Sacramental Preparation portion of the handbook.

SEVERE WEATHER

If Midland Public Schools are closed because of inclement weather, then all daytime (before 6 PM) parish events, including Faith Formation and parish offices, will be closed. A decision will be made for evening meetings and activities, which will be communicated on the website. Either all evening meetings and activities will take place or all will be canceled.

On Saturdays, Sundays, and weekdays when school is not in session, a decision to cancel all events (daytime and evening) due to inclement weather will be made by 7 AM.

When Midland Public Schools announce the early dismissal of students due to weather conditions, Blessed Sacrament's Faith Formation is included.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Blessed Sacrament Parish is a welcoming and faith-filled community. We shall provide a supportive and caring learning environment to all Faith Formation children, including those with special needs. Together, parents, catechists, youth leaders, and staff, will determine how best to meet each child's needs, which may include special arrangements. The Faith Formation team shall be cognizant and respectful of families' rights of confidentiality.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is time, talent, and treasure. It takes all of us working together to make these wonderful programs succeed. We ask you to share your time or talent with us in some capacity. Please call the office if you can help us in any way.

SUPPORT A YOUTH

The youth at Blessed Sacrament are truly blessed to have many ministry opportunities. We provide scholarships to any youth with a financial need. Please consider supporting a youth financially in a parish-sponsored event. Your gift will make it possible for a youth to participate in a conference (\$600), a social event (\$10-75), a retreat opportunity (\$10-60) or an extended service trip (\$440). "Sponsor a Youth" envelopes are available in the Faith Formation office. Your donation is tax-deductible.

T U V

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers must agree to communicate authentic Catholic teaching and traditions as outlined by the present curriculum. Our catechists continue life-long formation through the diocesan basic formation program.

To keep our children safe, volunteers who work with children must participate in VIRTUS, have a background check, and sign the "Standards of Ministerial Behavior Acknowledgement" form as outlined by the diocese.

W

WEBSITE

Check out the website blessed-midland.org for the latest happenings and upcoming events.

X Y Z