



St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church  
Confirmation Schedule 2026 -2027



| Workshop Date  | Confirmation 1                                                                                                                                                          | Confirmation 2                                                                                                        |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 13   | <b>Parent Information Meeting</b>                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                       |
| September 20   | Welcome Back                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                       |
| September 13   | <b>Beginning of the Year Interviews</b>                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                       |
| October 3      | <b>Love Laguna Beach - Blessing of Pets - 10 am – Noon (Service Opportunity)</b>                                                                                        |                                                                                                                       |
| October 4      | <b>Faith Formation Family Mass</b>                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                       |
| October 4      | The Journey Begins – Why am I Here Introduction + faith as a journey                                                                                                    | <b>Ritual of Commitment C2</b><br>This Is Your Life — What Will You Do With It?, Ch. 13 — Call to a Good Life         |
| October 18     | We Are Made for more, Ch. 1 — We Are Made for God                                                                                                                       | <b>Ritual of Promise for C1</b><br>How Do I Know What's Right?, Ch. 14 — conscience, virtue & sin                     |
| November 1     | <b>Faith Formation Family Mass</b>                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                       |
| November 1     | Created, Loved & Free, Ch. 2 — Creation, Fall, sin, free will                                                                                                           | Faith That Changes the World, Ch. 15 — justice & human community                                                      |
| November 15    | <b>Sponsor Forms Due</b><br>Who Do You Say I Am?, Ch. 3 — Jesus Christ and his public ministry                                                                          | Rules or Relationship?, Ch. 16 — moral law & grace                                                                    |
| December 1     | Advent                                                                                                                                                                  | Advent & Who's Really First?, Ch. 17 — Commandments 1–3                                                               |
| December 4     | <b>Confirmation Retreat (?)</b>                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                       |
| December 13    | <b>Sponsor Mtg. 1:00 pm</b><br>Love That Saves, Ch. 4 — Paschal Mystery                                                                                                 | Every Person Matters, Ch. 18 — Commandments 4–5                                                                       |
| January 3      | <b>Faith Formation Family Mass</b>                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                       |
| January 3      | The Spirit Is Alive, Ch. 5 — Holy Spirit & Pentecost                                                                                                                    | Love Is More Than a Feeling, Ch. 19 — chastity, sexuality, relationships                                              |
| January 9 - 11 | <b>Confirmation Retreat - Irvine Ranch Outdoor Ed – Friday evening 5:30 pm to Sunday early afternoon, concludes with Mass with Parents at 11 am at St. Catherine's.</b> |                                                                                                                       |
| January 17     | Safe Environment Training - or Healthy, Happy, and Holy                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                       |
| February 7     | <b>Faith Formation Family Mass</b>                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                       |
| February 7     | Lent & Why Church?, Ch. 6 — The Church                                                                                                                                  | <b>Saint Names &amp; Reports Due</b><br>Lent & Truth, Justice & What We Have, Ch. 20 — Commandments 7, 8 & 10         |
| February 21    | Mary Said Yes — Will You?, Ch. 7 — Mary                                                                                                                                 | You Were Made to Be Holy, Ch. 21 — Universal Call to Holiness                                                         |
| March 7        | <b>Faith Formation Family Mass</b>                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                       |
| March 7        | This Life Isn't the End, Ch. 8 — Eternal life                                                                                                                           | You Don't Walk Alone, Ch. 22 — Communion of Saints                                                                    |
| March 21       | More Than Going to Mass, Ch. 9 — Liturgy and worship                                                                                                                    | <b>Bishop Letter's Due</b><br>Prayer: More Than Saying Words, Ch. 23 — Call                                           |
| April 11       | Marked, Fed & Strengthened, Ch. 10 — Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist                                                                                                  | Teach Us to Pray, Ch. 24 — Lord's Prayer                                                                              |
| April 18       | Mercy: God Gives Us Another Chance, Ch. 11 — Reconciliation & Anointing                                                                                                 | Unleash the Spirit, Return to Ch. 5 & 10 — Confirmation, Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit                          |
| May 2          | What Is God Calling Me To?, Ch. 12 — Matrimony, Holy Orders & vocation                                                                                                  | Sent — Now What?, Integration: discipleship, witness, mission and life after Confirmation                             |
| May 3 - 10     |                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Exit Interviews</b>                                                                                                |
| May 16         | Last Session<br>Who Am I Becoming?, Integration: faith, discipleship and transition to Year 2                                                                           | Last Session                                                                                                          |
| TBD            |                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Rite of Affirming at 9 am Mass</b><br><b>Year 2 Candidate/Sponsor Retreat*</b><br><b>Begins at 11 am – 3:30 pm</b> |
| TBD            |                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Confirmation Rehearsal @ 5:30 pm with dinner</b>                                                                   |
| TBD            |                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Confirmation @ 5 pm, need to be here by 4:30 pm</b>                                                                |

**Note:** All Sunday workshops are from 6:30 pm – 8pm

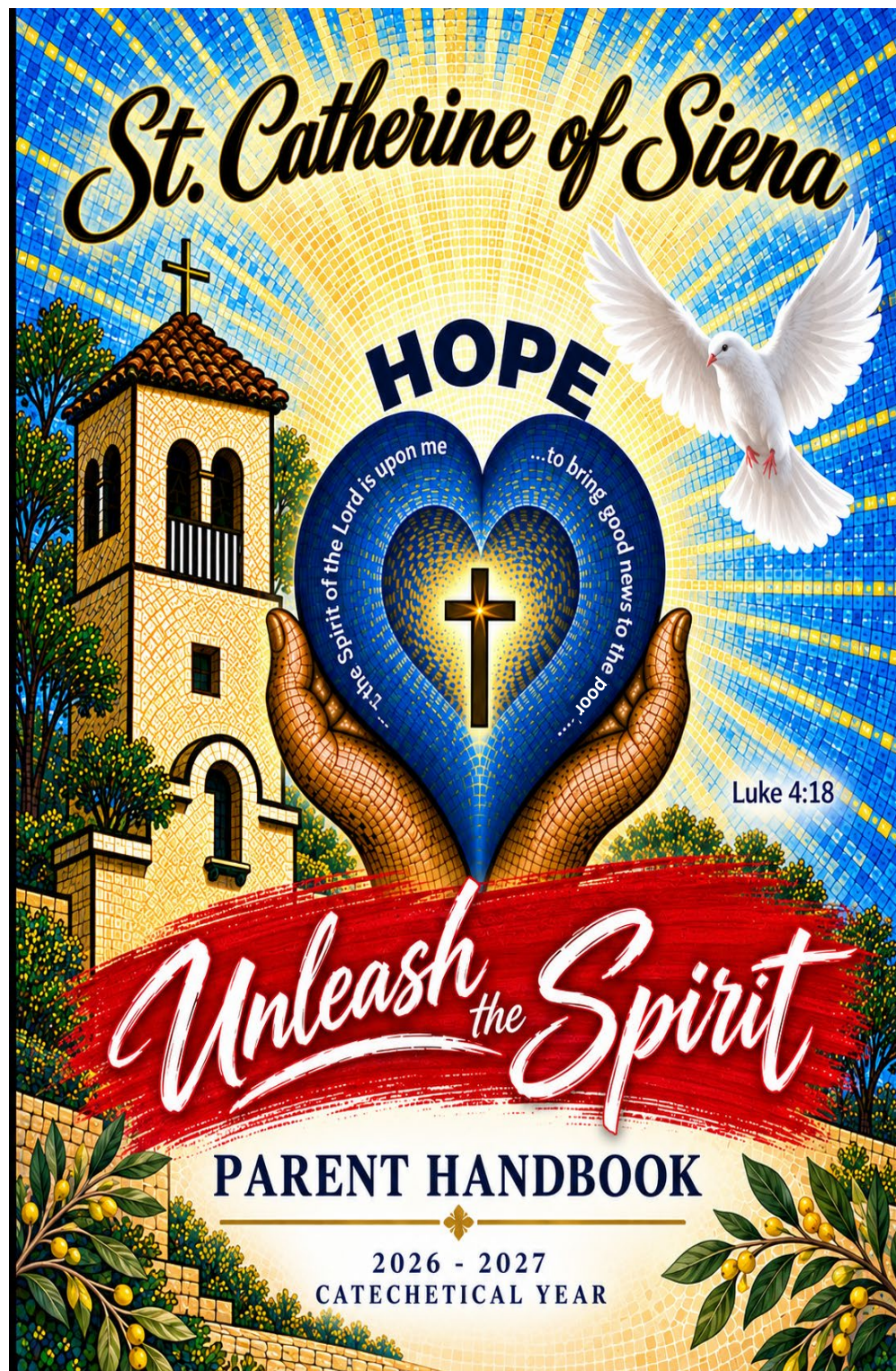
**Color Key:**

**Red:** Are Rites that take place during the preparation for confirmation at 9 am unless noted,

**Blue:** Sponsor/Candidate meetings and retreat

**Pink:** Family Conferences – Sign up on Sign up Genius

**Green:** Faith Formation Family Mass



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 Catechetical Year at St. Catherine of Siena Parish! It is a joy and a privilege to welcome your family to Faith Formation. Thank you for entrusting us with the opportunity to walk alongside you as your children grow in their relationship with Jesus and in their Catholic faith.

This year, we are guided by the words of Jesus: **“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... to bring good news to the poor.” — Luke 4:18**

These words remind us that our faith is not simply something we learn—it is something we live. Through the Holy Spirit, each of us is called to know Jesus more deeply and then carry His love, hope, and Good News into our homes, our parish, and our world.

Parents, you have a unique and irreplaceable role in this journey. At Baptism, you accepted the responsibility of raising your child in the Catholic faith, and we are honored to support you in that promise. Our Faith Formation sessions can teach, inspire, and provide opportunities for prayer and sacramental preparation, but the most powerful lessons in faith often happen at home.

Your children need to see that what they learn on Sunday connects with the way your family lives throughout the week. Pray together. Talk about God. Practice kindness and forgiveness. Serve others. And most importantly, celebrate Sunday Mass together. When children see that faith matters to their family, they begin to understand that faith is not simply another activity on the calendar—it is part of who they are.

Please know that we are here to support you. Faith Formation is a partnership between the home and the parish, and we look forward to walking with your family throughout the year.

I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our catechists and volunteers. They generously share their time, gifts, and faith so that our children and young people may come to know and love Jesus. We are truly blessed by their dedication.

May this year be one in which our children—and all of us—open our hearts more fully to the Holy Spirit and discover how God is calling us to bring His Good News to others.

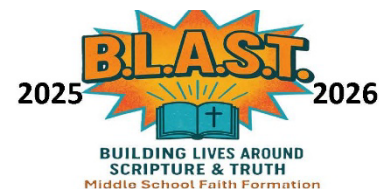
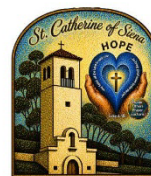
May God bless you and your family throughout this catechetical year.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Patrick Rudolph

Pastor



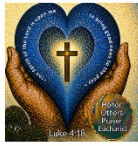
| Workshop Date     |                                                                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 13      | <b>Parent Information Meeting</b>                                        |
| September 20      | Welcome Back                                                             |
| <b>October 3</b>  | <b>Love Laguna Beach 10 am - Noon</b>                                    |
| <b>October 4</b>  | <b>Faith Formation Family Mass</b>                                       |
| October 4         | Shaped: A Prayer Experience                                              |
| October 18        | Me, Myself and I phone                                                   |
| <b>November 1</b> | <b>Faith Formation Family Mass</b>                                       |
| November 1        | Safe Environment Training                                                |
| November 15       | The Mass                                                                 |
| <b>December 6</b> | <b>Faith Formation Family Mass</b>                                       |
| December 6        | The Mass – Church Tour                                                   |
| December 13       | Nativity                                                                 |
| <b>January 3</b>  | <b>Faith Formation Family Mass</b>                                       |
| January 3         | Epiphany                                                                 |
| January 17        | The Beatitudes                                                           |
| <b>February 7</b> | <b>Faith Formation Family Mass</b>                                       |
| February 7        | The Beatitudes                                                           |
| February 21       | The Beatitudes                                                           |
| <b>March 7</b>    | <b>Faith Formation Family Mass</b>                                       |
| March 7           | Stations of the Cross                                                    |
| March 21          | Against All Odds – Easter Service                                        |
| April 11          | The Rosary                                                               |
| April 18          | Holy Spirit                                                              |
| <b>May 2</b>      | <b>Faith Formation Family Mass</b>                                       |
| May 2             | Holy Spirit                                                              |
| May 16            | Last Session - THE SEVEN TRIALS OF THE SPIRIT –<br><b>Parents attend</b> |

**Note:** All Sunday workshops are from 6:30 pm – 8pm

**Color Key:**

Green: Faith Formation Family Mass

Parents Attend with their teen this evening.



## Family Faith Formation Calendar 2026 – 2027



| Dates              |                                                       |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| September 27, 2026 | Faith Formation Family Mass at 9 am & Family Brunch   |
| October 3, 2026    | Love Laguna Service Project – Blessing of Pets        |
| October 4, 2026    | Faith Formation Family Mass at 9 am & Faith Formation |
| October 11, 2026   |                                                       |
| October 18, 2026   |                                                       |
| October 25, 2026   |                                                       |
| November 1, 2026   | Faith Formation Family Mass at 9 am & Faith Formation |
| November 8, 2026   |                                                       |
| November 15, 2026  |                                                       |
| November 22, 2026  |                                                       |
| November 29, 2026  | No Faith Formation                                    |
| December 6, 2026   | Faith Formation Family Mass at 9 am                   |
| December 13, 2026  |                                                       |
| December 20, 2026  |                                                       |
| December 27, 2026  | No Faith Formation – Christmas Break                  |
| January 3, 2027    | Faith Formation Family Mass at 9 am & Faith Formation |
| January 10, 2027   |                                                       |
| January 17, 2027   |                                                       |
| January 24, 2027   |                                                       |
| January 31, 2027   |                                                       |
| February 7, 2027   | Faith Formation Family Mass at 9 am & Faith Formation |
| February 14, 2027  | No Faith Formation – President's Weekend              |
| February 21, 2027  |                                                       |
| February 28, 2027  |                                                       |
| March 7, 2027      | Faith Formation Family Mass at 9 am & Faith Formation |
| March 14, 2027     |                                                       |
| March 21, 2027     |                                                       |
| March 28, 2027     | No Faith Formation – Spring Break                     |
| April 4, 2027      | Easter Sunday - No Faith Formation – Spring Break     |
| April 11, 2027     |                                                       |
| April 18, 2027     |                                                       |
| April 25, 2027     |                                                       |
| May 2, 2027        | Faith Formation Family Mass at 9 am & Faith Formation |
| May 9, 2027        | No Faith Formation – Mother's Day                     |
| May 16, 2027       |                                                       |
| May 23, 2027       | Last Day of Faith Formation                           |



### Special Dates for First Communion Families (year 2):



|                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Call to First Eucharist | October 11 @ 9 am Mass             |
| First Reconciliation    | Parish Lenten Service - TBD        |
| First Communion Retreat | May 1, 2027, at 9:30 am – 12:30 pm |
| First Communion         | May 16, 2027, at 9 am              |

### CONTACT US:



### St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

104 Temple Terrace  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651  
Phone: 949-494-9701, ext. 8535

### Director of Faith Formation

Kellie De Leo

Email: [kdeleo@stcathchurch.org](mailto:kdeleo@stcathchurch.org)

**Masses:**

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| Saturday | 5:00 pm         |
| Sunday   | 7:00 am         |
|          | 9:00 am         |
|          | 11:00 am        |
|          | 1.00 pm Spanish |

Weekday 8:00 am

**Adoration:** First Friday of the month

## PHILOSOPHY

**Faith Formation is a lifelong journey of growing in intimacy with God.** It is an ongoing process of nurturing a living, active, and conscious faith—not only for the individual, but also for families and the wider community. As our faith deepens and becomes more fully alive, we are drawn into oneness with God the Father, through His Son, Jesus Christ, in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.



"True faith awakens the whole person:  
it guides our thoughts with wisdom,  
fills our hearts with compassion,  
and inspires our actions to serve and  
uplift those around us."

## GOALS

Your child's journey of faith began the day they were baptized, when you lovingly promised to guide and nurture them in the Catholic Faith. Faith formation starts at home, through the everyday life of your family. As our Bishops remind us in the National Catechetical Directory, "Parents are the first and primary religious educators of their children." We warmly invite you to continue playing an active role in your child's faith journey by helping them to:

- **Develop a living, growing faith** that touches every part of daily life.
- **Foster a strong Catholic identity** with a deeper appreciation of our beliefs, values, prayers, and practices.
- **Connect Catholic Christian traditions** to everyday experiences.
- **Be open to God's Word** and respond joyfully to His call in their life and in our faith tradition.

## Opportunities for Adult Faith Formation cont.:

### Bible Studies:

Fall: David the Great

Tuesday evening 6:30 pm -8 pm, Sept. 1 – Oct. 6

The Apostle Paul & His Letters

Tuesday evenings 6:30 pm -8 pm, Oct. 13 – Oct. 24

Advent: The True Meaning of Christmas

Tuesday evening 6:30 pm -8 pm, Dec. 1 – Dec. 22

Winter: Revelations Part One

Jan. 5 – Feb.9

Tuesday evening 6:30 pm -8 pm,

Lent: Witness: A Lenten Study

Tuesday evening 6:30 pm -8 pm, Feb. 16 – Mar. 20

Spring: Revelations Part Two: Apr. 6 – May 4

Tuesday evening 6:30 pm -8 pm,

### Prayer Experiences:

Advent Taizé with Adoration – Wednesday's, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
December 2 – 23

Advent Holy Order – Thursday's, 8:30 am – 8 pm  
December 3 – 17

Lenten Taizé with Adoration - Wednesday's, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
February 17 - Mar. 24

Lenten Holy Order – Thursday's, 8:30 am – 8 pm  
February 18 – Mar. 18

**FORMED:** is an online Catholic media platform that you can receive (for free!) through St. Catherine of Siena parish subscription. (I like to say the Catholic version of Netflix.) Select our parish by finding the name, city, and/or zip code. Register with your name and email address and start to explore videos, feature films, podcasts etc.

**Bible in a Year with Father Mike Schmitz** - Father Mike will walk you through the entire Bible in a year. Spend twenty minutes a day hearing the word of God. YouTube or favorite Podcast.

# A Family Prayer

## for Readiness and Hope

2026 – 2027 CATECHETICAL YEAR



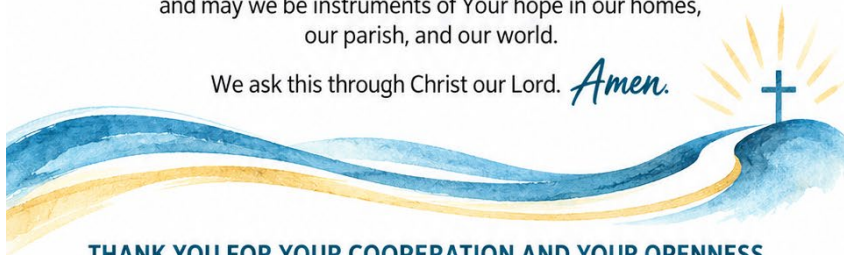
Loving God,

As a parish family, we thank You for the gift of faith  
and for the journey we walk together.  
Send Your Holy Spirit upon our children, youth, parents,  
catechists, and all who accompany them,  
that we may be open, attentive, and ready to receive all You have for us  
in this new catechetical year.

Help us to *listen* with open hearts,  
to *learn* with joyful minds,  
to *grow* in love for You and for others,  
and to *live* our faith in everyday life.

May we always remember that Your Spirit is upon us  
to bring good news to the poor,  
and may we be instruments of Your hope in our homes,  
our parish, and our world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND YOUR OPENNESS  
AS WE WALK THIS FAITH JOURNEY TOGETHER.

## FAMILY FAITH FORMATION:

### Why We Call It Family Faith Formation:

Faith Formation is more than just learning facts about our faith—it's about growing in relationship with Jesus and His Church. While Religious Education focuses on teaching doctrine and rules, Faith Formation helps our hearts connect with God's love.

We've found that when children experience Jesus personally, understanding the Church's teachings comes naturally. It's easier to move from the heart to the mind than the other way around. Our goal is for our children to **know Jesus in their hearts**, not just know about Him in their heads.

Faith Formation is a family journey, one that invites all of us—parents, children, grandparents—to walk together, pray together, and live our faith as a family.



“FAMILY-CENTERED CATECHETICAL PROGRAMS ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS TO CATECHIZE THEIR CHILDREN DIRECTLY, FOR SPOUSES TO CATECHIZE EACH OTHER AND FOR CHILDREN TO CATECHIZE ONE ANOTHER AND THEIR PARENTS” (NATIONAL DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS #61.2).

### Family Faith Formation:

Faith Formation is a wonderful opportunity for children to encounter the Living Christ. At St. Catherine of Siena, we aim to give our children the knowledge they need to grow closer to Jesus. But it's more than knowledge—through this journey, they can develop a **personal relationship with Jesus**, who becomes their strength and light for life's spiritual journey.

Our Family Faith Formation Program nurtures this relationship in a welcoming, faith-filled environment. Using the five tasks of catechesis, we help each child discover and grow in their own unique faith potential.

## FAMILY FAITH FORMATION continued:

At St. Catherine of Siena, we are dedicated to nurturing a Catholic community where everyone walks together on the journey of faith, growing in love, service, and lifelong learning. We live this out by showing respect to all, taking responsibility for our actions, honoring God with reverence, and making choices guided by His love.

Faith Formation is a true partnership between the parish and parents. Together, we help families grow closer to Christ and strengthen the Domestic Church. Children and teens gather for peer faith formation, while families come together to celebrate the Family Mass on the first Sunday of each month, sharing prayer and community as a family of faith. Immediately after Mass parents and children join in our Family Faith Formation Sessions.

## PURPOSE OF FAMILY CATECHESIS:

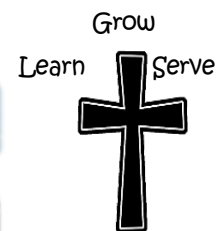
- Help families **pray together** and have meaningful conversations about their faith.
- Support parents in **their role as the first and most important teachers of faith**.
- Bring families together to **share and grow in their Catholic faith**.
- Strengthen the bond between **family and Church**.
- Encourage **faith-filled habits** in everyday family life.
- Welcome families into the **life of the parish community**.

## Benefits of Family Catechesis

- Involves the whole family in parish life, helping everyone grow together in faith.
- Offers ways to teach, model, and practice faith as a family.
- Provides resources and support for living Christian values at home.
- Helps faith lessons flow naturally into daily family life through shared experiences.
- Empowers parents with confidence, tools, and encouragement to guide their children in faith and values.

## Ten Good Reasons to Stay Involved in your Parish

1. **Grow Closer to God** – Deepen your relationship with Him through prayer, worship, and the sacraments.
2. **Nourish Your Soul** – Regular access to the Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Adoration keeps your faith alive and vibrant.
3. **Find Your Community** – Connect with fellow parishioners who share your faith, support, and encouragement.
4. **Serve with Heart** – Put your faith into action through ministries, outreach, and helping those in need.
5. **Support Your Parish Family** – Your participation helps our parish thrive and fulfill its mission.
6. **Inspire Others** – Share your faith with children, teens, and fellow members through word and example.
7. **Learn and Grow** – Deepen your understanding of Catholic teachings through programs, study groups, and parish events.
8. **Experience Joy** – Worship, fellowship, service, and time in Adoration bring purpose, peace, and fulfillment to your life.
9. **Be Part of Something Bigger** – Connect with the universal Church, joining millions of Catholics worldwide.
10. **Strengthen Your Family's Faith** – Model a living faith that inspires your children and loved ones for generations.



## Speak Virtue

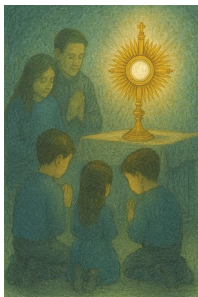
As parents, our focus should always be on *who* our children are, not just what they do. When we notice their kindness, compassion, humility, and patience, we are recognizing God at work in them. Their personality is a gift from Him! Take time to celebrate His presence in their hearts. Our children are more than good students, athletes, or performers—they are beloved children of God, made in His image and likeness. His fingerprints are all over them, and every virtue they show is a glimpse of His love.

## Adoration

Spending time in Adoration as a family is a beautiful way to grow closer to God together. In the quiet presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, we learn to pause, pray, and simply be with Him. It teaches our children that God is not just someone we talk about, but Someone we can truly spend time with. Going to Adoration together also strengthens our family bonds. It's a time to pray for one another, to lift each other's joys and worries to God, and to practice patience, reverence, and gratitude as a family. Most importantly, it helps us center our lives on Christ, reminding us that He is at the heart of our home, guiding our words, our actions, and our love for one another.

In short, Adoration isn't just for individuals—it's a gift for the whole family to grow in faith, peace, and unity.

All families are encouraged to join us on the **first Friday of the month for Adoration**.



## GOING TO MASS:

The most valuable gift you can give your child is both the easiest and most important, weekly Mass attendance. Our liturgical celebrations have great educational and formative value.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “The liturgy is . . . the privileged place for catechizing the People of God. Catechesis is intrinsically linked with the whole liturgical and sacramental activity,” (CCC, 1075). The Second Vatican Council states that the Eucharistic celebration is the “source and summit” of Christian life. Everything we do as Catholic Christians stems from our greatest communal prayer, the Mass.

## PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH

Precepts are principles or expectations. The purpose of the precepts of the church is to assist the faith community in understanding what a minimum participation would be for one to be considered an active member of the Catholic Faith. This indispensable minimum is a must so that we are able to grow in our love of God and neighbor. The precepts of the Church are:

1. Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. (This involves refraining from work or activities that hinder the worship due to God.)
2. Receive Communion at least once a year during Easter Season. (Ideally, Catholics should receive Communion each time they attend Mass.)
3. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year.
4. Remember to fast and abstain from meat on days specified by the liturgical calendar (usually Fridays during Lent).

## PRAYER

Please share with and teach your child the prayers every Catholic should know ie: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Act of Contrition.

### Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, And of the Son, And of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Our Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

### Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### Glory be to the Father

Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### Grace Before Meals

Bless, us O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about to receive from your bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Act of Contrition

O my God, I am sorry that I have sinned. Please forgive me. I know you love me. I want to love you, and be good to everyone. Help me make up for my sins. I will try to do better from now on. Amen.

There are many wonderful devotionals available and if you want any copies, please feel free to call the Faith Formation office and ask.

## Family and God Connections – continued

### Preparing for Mass as a Family

On our parish website, you'll find a special section designed to help your family get ready for Sunday Mass. These resources will guide you in preparing ahead of time so that your children can engage more deeply in the liturgy.

After Mass, take a few moments on the drive home to talk together about what you heard and experienced. These simple conversations can make the Mass more meaningful for the whole family.

### Add to Your Routine: God Rested—So Should We

In the creation story, God worked for six days and then rested. This act of divine rest wasn't due to fatigue but to set a pattern for us. We, too, need to intentionally plan rest into our family lives. Pope Francis encouraged families to "waste time together"—to enjoy unhurried moments of laughter, reflection, and simply being with one another. Our children need this, and we do too. When we model it, they learn that these moments are important. Pope Leo XIII, during a Mass in Albano Laziale, he encouraged the faithful to make good use of free time by leaving behind the whirlwind of commitments and worries to savor moments of peace and reflection. He also emphasized the joy of spending time with others.

Try spending time together without a schedule or agenda. Just be present with one another. Read a book, listen to music, play a board game, or simply sit and talk. Write it down, set aside the time, and give your family the gift of being fully "off" together.

### Family Mantra

Choose a short, meaningful reminder for your children each day—a few words they carry with them as they leave the house or car. It could be a faith-centered truth, like: *God sees and knows all; walk with Him always.* Or a guiding principle: *What would Jesus do? Love mercy, seek justice, forgive often, walk humbly with your God.* Let it be a daily anchor of faith, love, and care.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

### COMMUNICATION

Please take a moment to read any letters, flyers, emails, or texts that we send. Group messages will come through Flocknote. We try to be mindful and limit the number of messages we send, sharing only reminders or important information.

If a message has “Urgent – Need Response” in the subject line, it means we need your reply promptly to coordinate with others. Your timely response helps us keep everything running smoothly and ensures your family stays connected to parish life.

We also post pertinent information and upcoming events on our website <https://www.stcathchurch.org/>, Facebook and Instagram.



[stcathchurch](https://www.stcathchurch.org/)



[St. Catherine of  
Siena, Laguna Beach;](#)

### REGISTRATION

Registration is held in the spring. Registration can be completed online at <https://www.stcathchurch.org/faith-formation/religious-education/>. When registration opens, please register ASAP. There is a lot of work that goes into preparing for the year.

### TUITION

Tuition mainly defrays, but does not cover, the cost of materials for the gatherings, retreats, utilities, insurance and catechist in-services and workshops. We are generously supported and supplemented by St. Catherine of Siena parishioners as a whole.

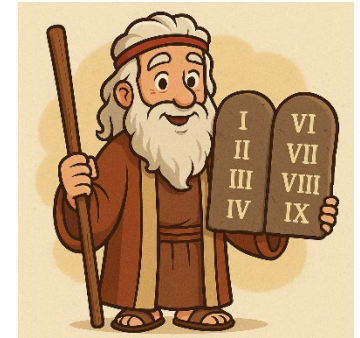
Tuition may be paid by **cash, check, or online.**

Simply **scan the QR code** to make a secure online payment.



### The Ten Commandments

1. Love God first
2. Honor God's Name
3. Honor God's Day
4. Obey your parents
5. Do not kill
6. Be pure
7. Do not steal
8. Do not lie
9. Do not want your neighbor's spouse
10. Do not want your neighbor's things.



### Steps to a Good Confession

1. We pray (this is done at home)
2. We do an examination of conscience (at home)
3. Go to Church
4. The priest welcomes us the reconciliation room.
5. We say hello to the priest.
6. We say: “Bless me Father for I have sinned. This is my first confession.”
7. We confess our sins to the priest.
8. The priest gives us advice and asks us to do a penance.
9. There can be a reading from the bible.
10. We accept the penance and make a good Act of Contrition.
11. The Priest gives us absolution for our sins.
12. We say “thank you” and “go in peace.”
13. Leave the reconciliation room.
14. Go and do our penance.



## Family and God Connections

*“Notice God together in small moments today.”*

### To Begin the Day – “Start with God: 🌞 Morning with God – Quick Family Checklist

- ✓ **One-Word Prayer** – Pick one word for your day (Love 🤍, Patience 🌿, Joy 😊)
- ✓ **Sign of the Cross** – Bless yourself or a family member ✝️
- ✓ **Gratitude Whisper** – Whisper one thing you’re thankful for 🙏
- ✓ **Morning Verse** – Read a short Bible verse together 📖
- ✓ **Silent Intention** – Think of one kind thing to do today 💖
- ✓ **Morning Song** – Hum or sing a quick praise 🎵
- ✓ **Thumb Prayer** – Pray for family, friends, school, yourself, God 🙌
- ✓ **Mirror Blessing** – Say “God is with me today” 🌟
- ✓ **Stretch & Praise** – Reach up and thank God for today ☀️
- ✓ **Quick “God Spot”** – Notice something that reminds you of God 🌸 🌻

**End-of-Day Wrap-Up** – “Share the highs, the lows, and God’s presence in between.” This reminds us also to be very careful with those we love.

### Night time Blessing –

The day is done, and our bodies begin to slowly wind down. This time for children is very important. Reading in bed with them, snuggling close, creates family intimacy – that can fill the void of connection – from the whirlwind day. Our parental touch is a strong sensation that we can couple with a blessing. To end the day with a parent’s hands over a child’s small head praying them to sleep is a gift we can pass on to our children, and then their children, etc... Decide on a tradition to end your day that incorporates intimacy and blessing. Maybe it is a recited prayer or a few words (sleep tonight with the angels, Rest in God’s love; sleep in His peace. etc. ....)

## GATHERING ABSENCES

Our catechists give generously of their time and talents to prepare for their group and to share their Catholic faith with your children. Each gathering is a building block designed to create the foundation for future faith formation. In order for our philosophy and goals to be realized, children should attend gatherings on a regular basis.

If special circumstances occur, please contact the Faith Formation Office.

## TARDINESS / LEAVING EARLY

Leaving early can be very disruptive to the catechist and to the whole group. A complete and meaningful presentation of the lesson is only possible when your child is present for the entire session.

If you know your child will need to leave early, **please notify the Director before the session begins.**

## GUESTS

As part of our commission from Jesus to “Go and make disciples,” you and your children are encouraged to invite others to come and get to know Him by joining one of our sessions. If you do invite someone, please let the Director know ahead of time whenever possible so we can be sure to have enough materials prepared.

## REFRESHMENTS:

Refreshments are not typically part of the session. However, everyone may bring their own water bottles.

## Intruder / Lockdown Procedures

The safety of our students and staff is of the utmost importance. While it is unfortunate that churches today must prepare for the possibility of an intruder, we are committed to ensuring that everyone is trained and ready should such a situation ever occur.

Our parish has a lockdown procedure for our faith formation program, which is practiced once a year with the Catechist and children/teens. In the event of an intruder or other emergency requiring a lockdown, all doors will be secured, children/teens and catechists will move to designated safe areas, and communication will be maintained with local law enforcement.

In the event of an actual lockdown, no one will be permitted to enter or leave the building until law enforcement or parish administration has declared it safe.

We hope and pray that we will never need to use these procedures in a real situation, but being prepared allows us to respond quickly and appropriately to keep our community safe.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work together to ensure a safe environment for your children.

## STUDENT INSURANCE

Children are insured in case of injury while attending faith formation sessions and any related activities. This insurance is included in the registration fee.

## CURRICULUM

**Pre-k & K** – We will be using the Our Sunday Visitor Alleluia! Curriculum. Sunday weekly sessions, 10 am – 10:15 am, will be held for the children.

### **Family Faith Formation - First - Fifth Grade:**

We will be using the St. Mary's Press curriculum. Sunday weekly sessions, 10 am – 11:15 am, will be held for the children. Families will participate in once-a-month family Mass & family formation session (first Sunday of the Month). Non-sacramental families will use St. Mary's Press curriculum, Discover. Our Sacramental families will use St. Loyola Press's curriculum, Rejoice.

**Family Faith Formation - Middle School families** - We will be using a mixture of resources that will contain formation, Jesus, prayer and fun nights. Middle School will meet twice a month on Sunday's from 6:30-8 pm (usually the first and third Sunday's of the month). Families will participate in once-a-month family Mass (First Sunday of the Month).

**Family Faith Formation - Confirmation** - We will be using Journeying Through the Catechism and various other supplemental resources. Confirmation will meet twice a month on Sunday's from 6:30-8pm (usually the first and third Wednesdays of the month). Families will participate in once-a-month family Mass (First Sunday of the Month).

## Family Mass & Family Faith Formation Sunday's

As a faith formation community, we will gather once a month for our Family Mass on the **first Sunday of the month at the 9:00 am Mass.**

Families and children are invited to take an active role in the liturgy by serving as:

- **Greeters**
- **Lectors** (3rd grade and up, must have received First Communion)
- **Gift Bearers**
- **Altar Servers** (3rd grade and up, must have received First Communion)

Sign-ups will be available for families to choose how they would like to participate.

Immediately following Mass, we will begin our Family Faith Formation Session. These special family sessions focus on the seasons and celebrations of our Catholic liturgical year and are designed to help families discover how what we celebrate at church connects to everyday life at home.

Through prayer, conversation, and hands-on activities, families will have an opportunity to learn together, grow together, and strengthen their faith together.

Parents and children participate together.

## Children's Liturgy

Beginning October 1, we will offer Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 9:00 AM Mass. Children in grades first - fifth will be invited to come forward before the Scripture readings and will gather with our Children's Liturgy leaders to hear and reflect on God's Word in a way especially designed for them. After their time together, the children will return to their families in church to continue celebrating Mass with our parish community. No registration is needed—children are simply invited to participate!

## Children's Bulletins:

Children's bulletins are available to help kids enter more fully into the Mass experience—and to give families tools for continuing the conversation of faith at home.

## SAFETY

We at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church are committed to your child's safety and well-being. Almost daily, we hear of incidents of child sexual abuse happening. That is why learning how to prevent child sexual abuse is important, not only for us as adults, but also for our children and young people.

Children and youth need to learn to help keep themselves safe. Classes are taught at age-appropriate level. The lessons focus on the importance of being safe and being aware of the dangers that can be encountered while on the internet. Each lesson includes video presentations, classroom discussions, individual and group activities.

This program also highlights God's love and desire for the health and safety of all His children.

**Growing with GOD: Safe and Sacred™** is provided for free by the Diocese of Orange and is part of our ongoing effort to help create and maintain a safe environment for children and youth and to protect all children from sexual abuse.

For your child's safety, please be aware that the Director and any volunteer with the faith formation program are mandated reporters of child abuse and harassment. We are required, by law, to report any instance of abuse to the proper authorities.

All volunteers have been fingerprinted and background checked. In additions, all volunteers have to participate in a safety training class.

## Release of Children

To ensure all children are safe, no children will be released without a parent, or designated adult. If you need to have your child(ren) leave early, please notify the Director or Catechist so we can have someone walk them down.

Parents need to advise the Director or Catechist if another adult will be picking their child(ren).

## SERVICE:

As part of our Catholic faith, service is not just something we do—it is part of who we are. At St. Catherine's, we include service projects in our faith formation sessions to help our young people learn to live out that call. In addition, we have two parish service opportunities that take place outside of our regular sessions.



This year, one of those opportunities is assisting with the **Donut Ministry on the first Sunday of each month**. Families are invited to help after Mass with setting up, serving, and cleaning up. You don't need to worry about purchasing donuts or making the coffee—just bring a smile and a willingness to serve our parish community.

We will invite volunteers at the Parent Gathering at the beginning of the year and then follow up with electronic sign-ups for the second half of the year.

The second in October, our parish will once again participate in **Love Laguna Beach**, a city-wide service project on **October 3**.

We will once again be celebrating **St. Francis of Assisi**, the patron saint of animals. In honor of St. Francis, we will offer the **Blessing of Animals** that day. In addition, we'll be collecting items for our local animal shelter. Families will play a key role in receiving and organizing the donations, and then helping deliver them to the shelter.

This will be a beautiful way for us to serve our community while celebrating creation and caring for God's creatures.

**For our Confirmation teens**, service is an essential part of their preparation and discipleship. Each year, they are asked to complete:

- **Two parish service projects** – opportunities to serve within our parish community.
- **Two outside service projects** – opportunities to serve in the wider community (school, neighborhood, local organizations, or other outreach).

These projects help our teens grow in living out their faith through action, following Christ's call to serve others.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The sacramental process is an essential part of faith formation and the life of the whole Church community. Jesus gave us the Sacraments as signs of His grace—encounters with His presence that help us grow as we know, love, and serve the Lord.

The Church celebrates three groups of Sacraments:

- **Initiation:** Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation
- **Healing:** Reconciliation, Anointing of the sick
- **Commitment:** Marriage, Holy Orders

Preparation for the Sacraments is a gift offered to families who are striving to live their faith with consistency and care. The Sacraments are not an ending point or a “graduation” from faith formation, but beautiful milestones along the lifelong journey of growing closer to Christ and His Church.

### INITIATION

If your child has not been baptized, or if they are in 3rd grade or above and have not yet received Reconciliation or Eucharist, they will enter into the initiation process. This is a special journey of faith that begins with one year of faith formation, followed by a second year in which your child and you, as parent(s), attend initiation sessions together. These sessions, along with the regular faith formation gatherings, help your family grow in faith and experience the joy of the Sacraments more fully.

### RECONCILIATION

This process is offered to families once a child has completed one full year of Faith Formation, which typically happens around the 2nd grade level. Preparation for the Sacrament takes place during the weekly sessions. In addition, parents are asked to attend three special gatherings to support their child(ren)'s preparation for Reconciliation.

### EUCCHARIST

This process is offered to families after a child has completed two full years of Faith Formation, typically around the 2nd grade level. Preparation for the Sacrament takes place during the weekly sessions. In addition, parents are asked to attend three special gatherings to support their child(ren)'s preparation for First Communion.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CONFIRMATION

This process is for high school students and is comprised of a discernment year and sacrament preparation year. It is modeled after small church communities where groups of 8-10 candidates meet for discussion. Topics of discussion are aimed at getting the candidates to think about and apply their faith to their everyday lives as mandated by the diocesan guidelines.

### Confirmation Requirements for C1 & C2:

- Five Mass Reflections
- Four Service projects are required for our candidates.
  - Two Parish Service
  - Two Community Service
  - Complete Service reflection for each service.
- Candidates must attend a retreat each year \*\*
- Participate in special liturgical rites in accordance with their preparation for reception of the sacrament.
  - C1 – Ritual of Promise
  - C2 – Ritual of Commitment



### Additional requirements for C2:

- Choose a Saint Name & write a Two-page Saint Report.
- Write a letter to the Bishop who will be celebrating the confirmation liturgy.
- Rite of Affirming – Sunday prior to Confirmation
- Sponsor/Candidate Retreat – Sunday prior to Confirmation

\*see calendar and confirmation handbook for more details.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION -CONFIRMATION. Cont.

Since there are only a limited amount of workshops, **more than two absences each year** may result in not be able to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

### \*\* Confirmation Retreats

Participation in a **Confirmation Retreat is mandatory for all Confirmation candidates**. This requirement has been established by the **Bishops**, and the parish does not have the authority to waive or change it.

A Confirmation Retreat is a **full weekend experience**, beginning **Friday evening and concluding Sunday afternoon**. Candidates are expected to participate in the **entire retreat weekend** in order to fulfill this requirement.

We understand that weekends can be busy with school, sports, work, and family commitments. Please plan ahead and make the retreat a priority when scheduling activities for the year.

The retreat is an important part of Confirmation preparation, giving our young people dedicated time away from their normal routines to pray, reflect, build community, and encounter Christ more deeply as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

### Confirmation Liturgy:

The date of the Confirmation Liturgy is determined by the Bishop's Office, not by the parish. We typically receive our assigned Confirmation date by the end of November.

As soon as the date is confirmed, we will communicate it to all Confirmation families.