



September Worship Commission Report

Catechetical Sunday – September 21

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19–20

This year’s Catechetical Sunday was a moment of great joy and thanksgiving for our parish. Sixty-six (66) Catechists serving in our CCD and Confirmation programs, along with more than twenty (20) Catechists devoted to Adult Faith Formation—including OCIA, Baptismal Preparation, and Small Christian Communities—stood before our community to be commissioned and blessed.

The celebration reminded us of the vital role Catechists play in handing on the Catholic faith—both to the young people of our parish and to adults who are seeking God in their lives. Their ministry is not only instructional but deeply spiritual, as they witness to the Gospel through their words and actions. As a parish family, we continue to hold them in prayer, grateful for their dedication and example.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) – September 14

“A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.”

Our OCIA program opened its doors once again on September 14, following the 9:00 AM Community Mass. This year we welcome a growing group of participants—eight students have formally enrolled, and several others are discerning their involvement. We anticipate around twelve adults will journey with us this year.

We are also blessed to welcome three recent graduates of our parish programs—Miguel Diharce, Joey Esparrago, and Monica Suarez—who have stepped forward to serve as Catechists. Their willingness to share their faith speaks to the spirit of discipleship flourishing in our parish.

The hybrid format of this year’s program is especially well-suited to the varied schedules of participants, ensuring that those with busy lives can still fully engage in preparing for Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Parish Pilgrimage – August 30 & 31

“Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they go through the valley of hardship and weeping they make it a place of springs... They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.”

In late August, over fifty parishioners embarked on a two-day local pilgrimage to the Jubilee Churches designated in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, as well as the Dioceses of San Jose and Monterey. Guided spiritually by Sister Ruth and Father Ifeanyi, pilgrims crossed the Holy Doors in prayer and fellowship, deepening their connection to God and one another.

The pilgrimage was both a sacred and communal experience, and parishioners returned with renewed faith and gratitude. Plans are already underway for another pilgrimage in October, offering further opportunities to experience the graces of the Jubilee year.

Looking Ahead – Reenergizing the Worship Committees

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks, must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves, must do so with the strength that God supplies.”

As we reflect on these vibrant moments in the life of our parish, it is clear that our Worship Committees play a central role in shaping the spiritual vitality of St. Augustine. To build on this momentum, I will be working with Fr. Ray to explore ways to reenergize and enrich our Worship Committees in the months ahead.

This effort is about strengthening what we already have here at St. Augustine Church. Together, we can open doors for more parishioners to get involved and find joy in serving our church. Together, we can create more opportunities for ongoing formation of our lay ministers through workshops, retreats, and small group gatherings that deepen both faith knowledge and personal spirituality. For example:

- Offering workshops on liturgical ministry rooted in prayer and practice.
- Encouraging ministers to adopt individual prayer practices that prepare them for service at the altar.
- Creating occasional “faith and fellowship” evenings where ministers share their own spiritual journeys and learn from one another.
- Partnering with neighboring parishes for joint training and enrichment sessions.

By focusing on growth and renewal, we hope to continue fostering a community of ministers who not only serve faithfully but also feel spiritually nourished and supported in their vocations.

SAINT AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

A ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO



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Commission on Education Report

September 25, 2025 Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting

Submitted by: Noel Panelo

1. Religious Education (CCD and Confirmation)

- **Catechetical School Year 2025-2026:** As of this writing, we have 276 students registered in our CCD and Confirmation programs. We were at 315 enrollees the same time last year.
- **Welcome Mass:** To open the new catechetical school year, the Faith Formation Program students, families, and catechists celebrated Mass on September 13th.
- **First Day of Classes:** September 18th was the first day of school for the Thursday CCD students while the Saturday CCD classes was on the 20th. The 1st day of class for the 2nd year Confirmation students is September 24th while the 1st year Confirmation student is on the 25th.
- **Catechetical Sunday:** The catechists were commissioned by Fr. Ray at the 9:00 AM Mass on September 21st.

2. Small Christian Communities (SCC)

- The various groups continue their weekly meetings using a lectionary-based program.

3. Pre-baptismal Catechesis: We welcomed / will welcome to the Catholic faith the following:

- August 3rd: Theodore Blaquera and Eleanor Blaquera
- August 9th: Autumn Jem Arce, Bryson James Apole, and Kaizen Manalo
- September 6th: Micah Corpus
- September 7th: Kenzorien Phoenix Manaoat
- September 13th: Emara del Rosario
- September 21st: Amara Sulit and Robyn Lacsa
- September 27th: Mason Grey Parillo, Damian Jones Thepkaisone, and Bennett Montoya

4. Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and Marriage Preparation

- Please refer to the report provided by Deacon Nestor L. Fernandez, II.

SAYG and YA report July 2025

August

- The Service and Leadership Team (SALT) meetings have started on the 1st and 3rd weekend of August to discuss plans for events and youth group meetings.
- St. Augustine Youth group meetings (SAYG) have started the same weeks as SALT meetings from 3:30-5pm.
- Planning for both the First and Second Year Retreat Teams have been meeting every week to plan for the upcoming retreats next year.
- The Monthly Youth and Young Adult Holy Hour will be held on August 20th, celebrated by Fr. Ifaeanyichukwu Henry Uwabunkeonye.
- Young Adults prepared a dance performance for the St. Augustine Fiesta on August 26th
- A SAYG booth was on display for the memorial of the history of St. Augustine which displayed the years of SAYG from the early 2000s to present.

Ecology Committee

- Ecology Committee held their first waste sorting demo/tutorial with the Knights of Columbus (August 3, 2025) in an effort to not only train the Knights to be Ecology Stewards for their own fellowship but to recruit them to support waste sorting during other SAC fellowships.
- Ecology Committee hosted a trash sorting station during Fiesta; committee members used the event to invite attendees to sort and stack their own waste. Sorting and stacking yielded ONLY ONE full trash bag for the entire day.

September:

- The Service and Leadership Team (SALT) meetings have started on the 1st and 3rd weekend of September due to the activities of On Fire.
- St. Augustine Youth group meetings (SAYG) occur after the SALT meetings to grow with peers and other leaders through discussion and activities surrounding different faith topics.
- First and Second Year Retreat Teams continue to their meetings for the confirmation retreat.
- The Monthly Youth and Young Adult Holy Hour will be held on September 17th, celebrated by Fr. Ifaeanyichukwu Henry Uwabunkeonye.
- St. Augustine Youth Group (SAYG) attended On Fire NorCal at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom on September 13th. The participating youth experienced adoration and mass with other schools, youth groups, and bishops across Northern California. The youth also listened to different guest speakers like Joe Melendrez and saw relics of Saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati.

Upcoming:

- Planning for upcoming fall fundraiser
- St. Matthew Faith Formation Conference
 - November 7th and 8th
- Team social event for Halloween
- Collaboration/participation in Trunk or Treat with Education Ministry
- Ecology Adopt-A-Drain maintenance of SAC storm drains prior to rainy season

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