

SAINT AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

A ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO



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Commission on Education Report

September 30, 2026 Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting

Submitted by: Noel Panelo

1. Faith Formation Program / Religious Education (CCD and Confirmation)

- **Registration:** We have 252 registered students as of September 23, 2026. Below is the breakdown by grade level.
 - 1st Grade and AA1 = 38
 - 2nd Grade and AA2 = 42
 - 3rd Grade = 20
 - 4th Grade = 18
 - 5th Grade = 19
 - 6th Grade and AA6 = 42
 - Confirmation 1 = 33
 - Confirmation 2 = 35
 - SPED = 5
- **August 15, 2026:** On the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our catechists participated in the Catechist Retreat Day held at St. Peter Church in Pacifica. The day began with a 9:00 AM Mass, followed by a presentation from John Michael Reyes, MDiv, who spoke on the themes “Jesus’ Mission is Our Mission” and “Becoming Good News for Others.” Along with insightful learning, the catechists also took part in a Guided Eucharistic Adoration and personal reflection. The retreat offered a meaningful and uplifting way to prepare for the upcoming catechetical school year.
- **August 29, 2026:** Sister Ruth Linaac convened the Catechists’ Year-Beginning Meeting in the Parish Hall. During the gathering, she introduced Pope Leo XIV’s encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas* and encouraged the catechists to reflect on and respond to the Holy Father’s call by embracing the ten recommended actions outlined in the document (Reference: National Catholic Register).
 - **Get involved and take responsibility.** Pope Leo calls for us to recognize our “solidarity” with one another and our obligation to take an active role in working towards the common good. He suggests “staying informed, engaging with others, making their voice heard and contributing to public decisions and choices” (73).
 - **Don’t use AI when you don’t need to.** Pope Leo warns that “excessive reliance” on AI tools can “weaken personal creativity and judgment.” While appearing to provide objective answers to questions, they “reflect the cultural assumptions of those who

designed and trained them, with all their strengths and limitations,” he writes. AI chatbots could also affect our ability to form human relationships, he writes.

- ***Cultivate relationships.*** While the digital culture offers increased opportunities for connection, it doesn’t satisfy the human need for genuine closeness, the Pope writes. “In an era that favors speed and fragmentation, the human person still yearns to receive care and recognition from attentive minds, kind words and hands capable of tenderness,” writes the Pope. “I invite everyone to cherish places and times where physical presence remains crucial, such as shared meals,” he suggests, naming Christian community gatherings and spending time with the lonely and serving the poor as opportunities for such encounters (239).
- ***Help children and young people say ‘No’ to AI.*** Parents and educators should help young people resist the urge to turn to their screens for entertainment and to AI for quick and easy answers to their questions, Pope Leo points out. He warns that young people today, bombarded by the constant stream of digital entertainment, suffer from “fatigue, boredom and apathy concerning the effort required for seeking the truth” (139). “We must learn, then, how to exercise restraint in the use of AI and to protect our young people from the promise of the perfect machine, from that subtle temptation which renders human thought seemingly superfluous precisely when it is most needed,” he writes (140).
- ***Protect children and young people from addiction, pornography, and sexual exploitation.*** Pope Leo warns against giving personal mobile devices to young children and allowing them to use them without adult supervision. The danger, he writes, is that such inappropriate access to technology could “exacerbate young people’s vulnerabilities, foster addiction and expose them to isolation, bullying and cyberbullying, as well as to pressures to share intimate images or sensitive information” (141).
- ***Prioritize human employees.*** The Pope’s encyclical includes an admonition for employers. AI can be useful, he writes, when it relieves humans of arduous, repetitive or dangerous tasks. However, care should be taken to ensure that the use of AI doesn’t adversely affect human beings by taking their jobs. “[T]he protection of employment opportunities and the irreplaceable role of the individual must remain the general rule,” the Pope writes. “The pursuit of greater profits cannot justify choices that systematically sacrifice jobs, because the human person is an end, not a means, and the economic order must remain subordinate to human dignity and the common good” (152).
- ***Be mindful of our words.*** We must “disarm” our words to build a more humane civilization, the Pope writes. “Words have enormous power, something we experience in our daily interactions; for example, spoken words can change our mood for better or worse,” he writes. The Pope also calls on us to make an examination of conscience “regarding the words we use, the prejudices we have and the explicit or implicit aggression that lies within them” (214).
- ***Revive dialogue.*** The Pope calls for dialogue, not just in “relations between States,” but in our daily lives. It’s necessary that we acquire an attitude “that seeks to forge bonds of fraternity built on listening, an open demeanor, making time for each other and even wasting time together,” he writes (220).

- **Adopt a program of Christian life.** To confront the immense technological changes that are taking place, the Pope suggests that we adopt “a sober yet demanding program of Christian life.” This program would involve “contemplating God’s plan, living ecclesial unity by partaking of the Eucharist, building a world centered on the common good and praying in union with the Blessed Virgin Mary” (229).
- **Build a ‘construction site of our time.’** We are faced with a pivotal choice, the Pope writes in the introduction to the encyclical: “either to construct a new Tower of Babel or to build the city in which God and humanity dwell together.” The Tower of Babel, he explains, was a project “conceived without reference to God, supported by a uniformity that eliminated diversity and that chose homogenization over communion.” The alternative is today a “construction site” for a “civilization of love” with Christ as its cornerstone. He compares the builders of this new city to Nehemiah, who discerned God’s will to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Pope Leo writes: “I see in him a striking parable to our own vocation, which is not to be passive spectators of social and cultural fractures, nor mere commentators on what is crumbling, but men and women prepared to enter the construction sites of history — research laboratories, technology companies, schools, the media, institutions and local communities — in order to rebuild what has collapsed and protect what is threatened” (241).
- **September 12, 2026:** To formally mark the beginning of the 2026-2027 catechetical school year, the Faith Formation Program celebrated a special Mass.
- **September 20, 2026:** On Catechetical Sunday, sixty-eight catechists were commissioned during the 9:00 AM Mass. This year’s theme is “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ... to bring good news to the poor.” According to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB), this theme reveals Jesus’ mission and identity. Anointed by the Holy Spirit, He is sent to bring hope, healing, and freedom – especially to the poor, the broken-hearted, and the forgotten. The theme also shows that the Messiah comes not with power or status, but with compassion, restoring dignity and proclaiming God’s mercy. Our catechists will take this as their North Star, heeding their call to continue Christ’s work by sharing the Good News and caring for those most in need.
- **Program Logo:** Below is the logo adopted by the Faith Formation Program.



We have a new logo!

THE ITEMS IN THE FFP LOGO REPRESENT:

Cross. Represents Christ who is at the center of our lives.

Bread and Wine. Represents the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist.

Dove. Represents the Holy Spirit.

Heart. Represents Christ’s love for us and the love we are called to share with others.

People. Represents our parish community and discipleship.

Stained Glass Design. Inspired by the beautiful stained-glass feature located above the Sanctuary, which can be viewed from the choir-pit of our church; ever-present yet unnoticed and can be likened to a hidden gem.

- **Meet and Greet:** The CCD catechists held their “meet and greet” to welcome students and their parents on Thursday, September 17, and Saturday, September 19. The Confirmation catechists hosted theirs on Wednesday, September 23 for the 1st-year families, and on Thursday, September 24 for the 2nd-year families.
- **Catechists Directory Update:** Thanks to our wonderful duo and power couple, Khay and Deo Acosta, our Faith Formation website now features updated photos of our catechists. Click the link below to see the beautiful, radiant faces of our dedicated team.
 - <https://www.staugustinessf.org/ccd-and-confirmation-calendars>
- **Adult Ongoing Faith Formation (AOFF):** Fr. Ray, Sister Ruth, the AOFF Alpha Team, and our catechists are preparing and looking forward to another fruitful and memorable catechetical school year with the parents and guardians of our students.

2. Small Christian Communities (SCC)

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

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

- **August 2, 2026:** Kaia Lugtu, Emilio Lugtu III
- **August 16, 2026:** Isla Maia Anonuevo, Noa Kai Anonuevo
- **September 6, 2026:** Jules Climaco, Patricia Adalae Orea
- **September 12, 2026:** Nelson Pascual III, Nathalia Sage Paraiso, Alexander Miranda, Mateo Guerrero, Mila Guerrero, Levi Amante
- **September 19, 2026:** Jace Emmanuel Franco, Owen Roberto Franco
- **September 20, 2026:** Camille Anne Esguerra, Amari Sky Oclaman-Sharma
- **September 26, 2026:** Kehlani Waligora, Lehua Waligora, Maddox Magsino, Maeve Magsino, Apollo Eramela, Olivia Gabrielle Olandez, Adella Jae Guanga

4. Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) and Marriage Preparation

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

Report by Rosabel Santander

Sept. 30, 2026

1. August & September were busy months with the following fellowships:
 - August 22 - SAC Fiesta Celebration – reception at the parish hall after mass & procession, mini ministry fair w/ games & prizes, concert at the courtyard
 - August 28 – Feast Day of St Augustine – reception at the parish hall
 - Sept 5 – St Mother Teresa of Kolkata – light reception at the front of the church after the 9am mass
6.30 pm Dinner was provided for movie night
 - Sept 23 – Feast Day of Padre Pio – light reception was held the front of the church
 - Sept 25 – Feast Day Celebration of San Lorenzo Ruiz – light reception was held at the church courtyard
 - Sept 28 – Feast Day of San Lorenzo Ruiz – light reception was held at the of the church

Upcoming events:

Oct 4 – Feast Day of St Francis – Mass at 12:30 followed by procession & reception at the parish hall

2. SAC St Joseph Ministry was awarded the Ozanam Award by the Society of St Vincent de Paul last Sept 19 at St Pius Church. Also, Lito Herico was given the service award.
3. For the coming Hospitality Sundays, we will set up another table for the trash – coffee cups, stirrers, napkins, etc. I will coordinate with Denise so we can continue to educate the parishioners.