

THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

FAMILY
DINNER
TABLE
SPIRITUALITY



The family is a little cell of larger society, a laboratory where behaviors are learned and, at its best, a true school of love.
--Pope John Paul II

SEPTEMBER THE MONTH OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS.

This devotion focuses on the deep emotional and spiritual pain that the Blessed Virgin Mary endured throughout her life as she shared in the suffering and passion of Jesus Christ.

Mark your calendars!

Sat. Sept. 12: RE family Mass
Tue. Sept. 15: First day of RE classes
Mon. Oct. 5 Confirmation parent meeting 6pm
Tues. Oct. 6 Confirmation parent meeting 1pm
Oct. 13-18: RE Rosary for Beauty of Life Week-bring your rosaries to class

Get Fed

Did you ever wonder how the parable of the prodigal son ends?

We never learn whether the older brother joins the celebration. We never find out if he forgives his younger brother. We don't even know whether the prodigal son remains faithful after returning home. At different moments in our lives, we may find ourselves in each of the characters. Sometimes we are the younger son, returning to God. Sometimes we are the older brother, struggling to rejoice when mercy is shown to someone else. Sometimes we are the father, choosing forgiveness.

Maybe Jesus leaves the final chapter of this parable open because He invites each of us to decide how the story will end. [Get Fed blog.](#)

The Pope's monthly prayer intention:

For the care of water.
Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Around the Dinner Table: Food for Thought:

The Seven Sorrows of Mary are key events in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary focusing on her deep pain and grief regarding the suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

Discuss what the sorrows are.

The Seven Sorrows in Order

- The Prophecy of Simeon
- The Flight into Egypt
- The Loss of Jesus in the Temple
- Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary
- The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus
- Jesus Taken Down from the Cross
- The Burial of Jesus

Simple Family Action Steps:

- Pray the Seven Sorrows Rosary: Pray one decade (or all seven) together after dinner, focusing on the specific biblical events.
- Display a Visual Reminder: Place a picture or statue of Our Lady of Sorrows (or the Pieta) on the dinner table as a centerpiece.
- Identify a "Family Sorrow": Talk about a shared grief or worry your family currently faces, and formally entrust it to Mary's intercession before ending the meal.



RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION

SEEKING CATECHISTS:
TUESDAYS 5TH GRADE
WEDNESDAYS 1ST GRADE
ASSISTANT CATECHISTS:
WEDNESDAYS GRADES 1, 4 & 6

CALLING FORTH

Urgent Needs



2026-2027
ONLINE REGISTRATION IS
OPEN ON THE SMP WEBSITE

Tier 2 pricing ends August 30th

CLASSES BEGIN:
September 15th

JOIN US

CALLED TO SERVE?

- FAITH-FILLED CATECHIST ✓
- CATECHIST ASSISTANT ✓
- SUBSTITUTE CATECHIST ✓
- OFFICE ASSISTANT/ HALL
MONITOR/TRAFFIC HELPER ✓



Parents are the Primary Catechist

Why?

Only you know your children like you do.

How?

Parents are their children's greatest
influencers.

**Have questions? We can help!
call the RE Office at 708-326-9352**





Are you called to serve at **MASS?**

	Sat., 5:00 PM	Sun., 8:00 AM	Sun., 9:30 AM	Sun., 11:00 AM	Sun., 6:00 PM
Lector					
Eucharistic Minister					
Altar Server					
Usher					
Greeter					
Live Stream					

NOTICE SOMETHING MISSING? THE ANSWER IS YOU!

Imagine walking into a church early on a Sunday morning. The pews are still empty, the candles are unlit, and the altar is bare. Slowly, familiar faces begin to arrive — and nothing is prepared.

Are you being called to proclaim the Word, distribute the Eucharist, guide the faithful to their seats?

- **You can be hands of welcome** for the weary soul who steps into church seeking peace.
- **You can be the voice of Scripture** that may speak directly to someone's heart.
- **You can be the reverent presence** that helps others see the holiness of the Mass.

Every gesture, every smile, every moment of preparation is a quiet act of evangelization.

The Eternal Impact of Your Service: You may never know the full impact of your ministry. The person you greet may be returning to church after years away. The reading you proclaim may be the exact word someone needed to hear. The Eucharist you offer may be the strength that carries someone through a difficult week.

Call to Continue with Joy: We encourage you to Step up and join one of more of these ministries. Please pray about it — you will be fully trained for the ministries you choose. If you feel unsure of your worthiness, remember that Christ Himself is your strength.

If interested in any of these ministries, please email Deacon Pete Manning at deaconpete@aol.com & John Brett at jbrett@stmarymokena.org, our Directors of Liturgy. Call us, because God is calling you. Will you answer His call?

Healing the Whole Person

THE EIGHT-PART VIDEO SERIES

with Dr. Bob Schuchts &
Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT

Starting
Wednesday, September 23
8 Weekly Sessions, 6:30-8:00 pm
in the Church Hall

Each session includes a thought-provoking video followed by personal journal time in the guided workbook.

Discover Jesus' presence even in fear, doubt, or pain, accept His invitation to make you whole and live in His freedom.

REGISTER TODAY!



stmarymokena.org/htwp



THE SEARCH

FINDING THE MEANING OF LIFE

**JOIN US TO WATCH
THE SERIES TOGETHER!**

Sundays 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Starting September 20

Church Hall

**This highly acclaimed 8-session series tackles
the key questions of every human heart.**

**In the beautifully filmed episodes,
Chris Stefanick and experts from multiple
fields of science, medicine, psychology, art,
and religion examine our place in the larger
story of existence.**

*Join us for a delicious meal and conversation
about this series!*

**Register today at
www.stmarymokena.org/search
or using the QR code.**



St. Mary Sisters In Christ invite all women to join us for bimonthly gatherings throughout the school year. We meet in the Church Hall on Saturday mornings after the 8am Mass for a hot breakfast buffet, guest speaker and topical discussion. This year's theme is Dwell In The Presence Of God: Finding deep spiritual connection in ordinary moments of your everyday life. There is no cost; free will donations accepted.



September 19

November 14

January 30

April 17

SATURDAY MORNINGS

DWELL IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*Finding deep spiritual connection in ordinary
moments of your everyday life*



The mission of Sisters In Christ Women's Ministry is to nurture women in the Catholic faith, deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, and build lasting relationships rooted in Him.

 SistersInChrist@stmarymokena.org

 708-326-9313

Catholic = Universal

Be part of something great

Are you interested in becoming Catholic?
OCLA CLASSES are starting soon!

**Sundays,
September-May
9:00am-10:45am**

Weekly sessions start
***Sunday,
September 13th***

Come as you are!

A faith
journey that
will equip you
and prepare
you to have a
full life with
God in the
Catholic
Church

Contact Megan Murray,
Director of
Adult Faith Formation
mmurray@stmarymokena.org
708-326-9313



Youth Ministry Events

Upcoming Meetings:
High School
August 30th
September 6th
September 13th

Donut Sunday Returns
September 6th

UPDATED DATE

Due to rising costs, prices have
 been raised to
 One for \$2
 Six for \$10
 A Dozen for \$20

Junior High Ministry will return in September.
 Email mjung@stmarymokema.org to join the
 email list

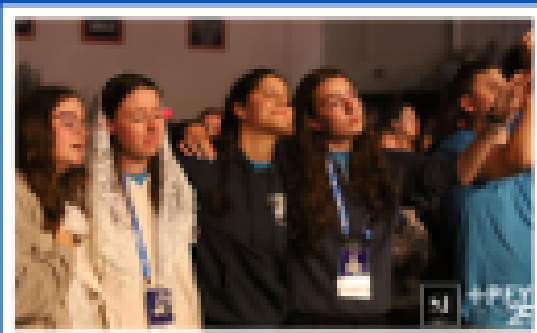
Steubenville 2027 Spot Reservation

June 25-27th, 2027 Benedictine University, Lisle, IL

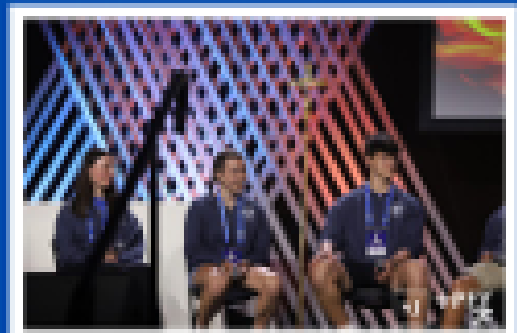
**Rising Freshmen through Class of 2027 Graduating
 Seniors are sign up. (Must be 14 by June 25th)**

**Join us for a weekend full of incredible
 speakers, vendors, prayer, and Catholic
 Community.**

Fill out the interest
 form here:



Youth Ministry



Follow us on Instagram: [StMaryMokema](https://www.instagram.com/StMaryMokema)

This Week on Formed

Week of September 06, 2026



What Catholics Believe About Mary: Immaculate Conception, Virginity

Join Dr. Edward Sri as he answers some of the internet's most asked questions about Mary. Who is Mary? Why do Catholics pray to Mary? How could she be a virgin if Jesus had brothers and sisters according to the Bible? Find out answers to these and more questions in this episode of What Catholics Believe.



Mary of Nazareth

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In this episode, Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn discuss the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

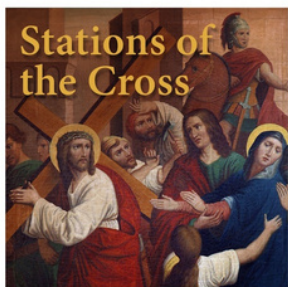
This Week on Formed

Week of September 13, 2026



The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Seven Sorrows of Mary is a traditional Catholic devotion featuring meditations on sorrowful episodes in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Join us in prayer as we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.



Stations of the Cross by Saint Alphonsus Liguori

The Augustine Institute presents a beautiful meditation on the Stations of the Cross by Saint Alphonsus Liguori, narrated by Dr. Christopher Blum. This prayerful reflection is accompanied by the Schola Cantorum, chanting the traditional Catholic hymn Stabat Mater to aid your prayer.



Our Lady of Sorrows and the Power of Prayer

Discover the value of redemptive motherhood by tuning in to Anna Mitchell, co-host of EWTN's "The Son Rise Morning Show." Anna shares the story of her five-year-old's serious illness along with the miraculous intercession of a fourth-century martyr.

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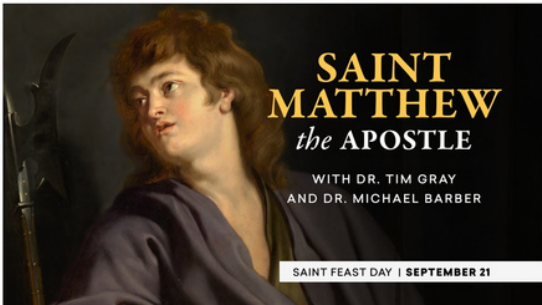
This Week on Formed

Week of September 20, 2026



Padre Pio: Miracle Man

This movie captures the Capuchin friar's intense faith, devotion, and deep spiritual concern for others, as well as his great compassion for the sick and suffering. It reveals the amazing details and events in Padre Pio's life as a boy and throughout his fifty years as a friar, dramatizing the frequent attacks from the devil, as well as the persecution he suffered at the hands of people, including those in the Church.



Saint Matthew | Catholic Saints

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We are all familiar with the four Gospels, but what makes them stand out from the rest? Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Michael Barber as they discuss St. Matthew, the great Apostle and evangelist.



Bible Study: The Gospel of Matthew 1:1-25

Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Michael Barber as they begin studying the Gospel of Matthew by introducing St. Matthew and looking at chapter 1 of this incredible gospel.

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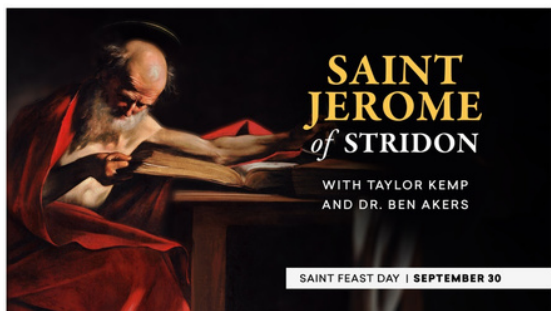
This Week on Formed

Week of September 27, 2026



St. Therese | Littlest Saints

Which flower in Jesus's garden is the best? The most beautiful? St. Therese gives us her "little" answer to these questions.



St. Jerome | Catholic Saints

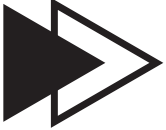
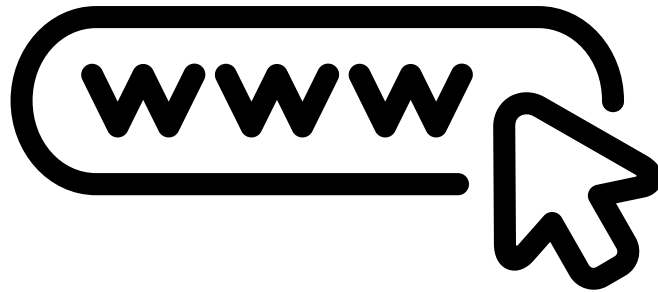
An early Church Father from the 4th century, St. Jerome translated the Bible into Latin with the desire to make Scripture more accessible. St. Jerome is the patron of biblical scholars, translators, and archivists and famously said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."



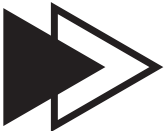
Who Are the Archangels?

Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein discuss archangels and what role they have in our lives.

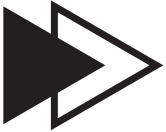
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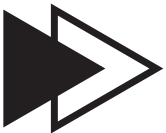
R. E. OFFICE CONTACTS



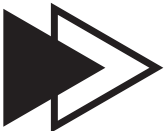
IMPORTANT DATES 25-26



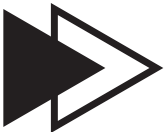
PRAYERS TO LEARN BY GRADE LEVEL



SMP RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FACEBOOK PAGE



CHURCH BULLETINS



RE WEBPAGE

St. Mary's Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., & 6:00 p.m.

Daily Mass:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday during the school year: 7:30 a.m. Mass

Confession:

Monday-Friday: 7:00-7:45 a.m.

Saturday: 3:30-4:30 p.m.

First Saturday Confessions: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration:

Perpetual Adoration at Old St. Mary Church

Last Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Church

St. Peregrine Devotion:

Last Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the side Chapel

