



**PARENTS AS PRIMARY EDUCATORS OF THEIR CHILDREN IN THE WAYS OF THE FAITH -
YEAR 3A/ST. PASCAL BAYLON
RECLAIMING THE LORD'S DAY
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

Note: These FAQs have been prepared by members of the Synod Evangelization Team (SET) at St. Pascal Baylon for the use and benefit of parish members and other interested persons as we continue our Synod journey and move forward to implement the Synod Priority of Parents as Primary Educators of Their Children in the Ways of the Faith for Year 3 (July 2025 – June 2027) in the parish. The FAQs are based on information currently available to us and are current as of the revision date noted below. FAQs may be adjusted and new FAQs added as new or updated information becomes available.

Small Groups in Fall 2025

- **Question:** Will Small Groups be part of the implementation of the Synod Priority of Parents as Primary Educators of Their Children in the Ways of the Faith for Year 3 (July 2025 – June 2027)?

Answer: Yes. Small Groups will again play an important role in the implementation of this year's Synod Priority at St. Pascal's. Archbishop Hebda invites all the faithful to participate in Small Groups this year as a leader or a member. Please note that, due to the importance and breadth of the Synod Priority for Year 3, Archbishop Hebda has indicated that Year 3 of the Synod Implementation will actually span two years. The first year or Year 3A (July 2025 – June 2026) will focus on Reclaiming the Lord's Day, that is, recovering Sundays as a day for the Lord and family. During this time, St. Pascal's and other parishes in the Archdiocese will be supporting their members and families in rediscovering Sunday as a day of worship, rest, and renewal in ways that are simple, meaningful, and rooted in daily life.

- **Question:** When will Small Groups begin in Year 3A?

Answer: The fall session of Small Groups will begin in the first or second week of October 2025 with the specific date to be determined by the leader of each Small Group. The session will entail approximately six or seven meetings. It will be up to each Small Group to decide among its members how many meetings it wishes to have in the fall and to confirm the dates of those meetings on their designated days and times.

- **Question:** What will Small Groups be like in Year 3A?

Answer: The experience of Small Groups in Year 3A will be similar to what Small Groups were like in Year 2. Groups of 6-12 members will meet on their designated days and times on the schedule they decide for meetings of 1-1/2 hours each. Each Small Group will be guided by a Small Group leader (and possibly a co-leader) from our parish who has been specially formed and trained for this role. Each Small Group will have a common format or structure, which will include prayer, personal sharing, and discussion of the teaching and content which has been recommended by the parish Synod Evangelization Team or content of their own choosing, both of which have been reviewed and approved by Pastor Fr. John Mitchell and Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation Kim Roering.



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- **Question:** What will the content be for Small Groups this fall session?

Answer: Consistent with the focus of Year 3A, Reclaiming the Lord's Day, the content that the parish Synod Evangelization Team is recommending for Small Groups during the fall session will be *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love) which is an apostolic exhortation or letter by Pope Francis exploring the joys and challenges of family life. Small Groups can use the letter as is with reflection questions (or by choosing certain chapters to focus on), or use a group reading guide from scholar and theologian Bill Huebsch with paraphrased summaries of each article and prayerful discussion and reflection questions that can help each of us see how Pope Francis' words apply to our own lives. Bill Huebsch is a well-regarded Catholic commentator whose writing is very accessible (i.e., not "high-brow" theology).

If, however, a Small Group led by an experienced Small Group leader would like to pursue alternative content for the fall session, that may be an option provided the alternative content and how it will be used has been reviewed in advance with and approved by Pastor Fr. John Mitchell and Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation Kim Roering.

- **Question:** Is there a fee for joining a Small Group or for the materials and any related reading guide that the Small Group will use for the fall session?

Answer: No. There is no fee for joining a Small Group or for the materials or any related reading guide that the Small Group will use. The materials and reading guide will be provided by the parish at no expense to Small Group members. Free will donations to help defray the cost to the parish are, of course, welcome.

- **Question:** How may I join a Small Group for the fall session?

Answer: If you were a member or a leader of a Small Group in Synod Year 2 (during the fall, Lent, Easter season, or the summer), your Small Group leader will be contacting you to see whether you want to continue as a member or a co-leader in a Small Group in Year 3A beginning with the fall session. Your Small Group leader will communicate your decision to Kim Roering in the Parish Office. If you have not yet responded to or connected with your Small Group leader, please feel free to stop by the sign-up table for Small Groups after the weekend Masses in the Gathering Space (see below) and let us know what your decision is.

If you were not a member of a Small Group in Year 2, every adult parishioner will have the opportunity to sign up for a Small Group for the fall session at the table in the Gathering Space after the weekend Masses on September 6/7 and 13/14. Members of the parish Synod Evangelization Team (SET) will be at the tables with sign-up forms and to answer questions you may have and help you sign up if you wish. Sign-up forms will also be available from the Parish Office, or download and print the form from the parish website ([St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church Saint Paul MN](#)) or the Pulse weekly e-newsletter. Drop off completed sign-up forms at the Parish Office or the table in the Gathering Space after the



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weekend Masses mentioned above. ***Please return your completed sign-up form to the Parish Office or to a SET member at the table in the Gathering Space after the weekend Masses on September 6/7 and 13/14, and no later than Monday, September 22, 2025.***

- **Question:** Do I have to sign-up as an individual in order to join a Small Group? Or may I sign up as part of a group?

Answer: You are welcome to sign up as an individual and you will be placed with a Small Group. If you have a group of people in mind with whom you would like to share the Small Group experience, you are welcome to sign-up as a group that you identify in the sign-up form. (Be sure you confirm with each of the people that you list in the group that they wish to be included in this group.) Each of the people listed in a group should still complete and return a sign-up form for themselves, so that we also have their contact information and any other requested information. Please note that we reserve the right to combine an identified group with other individuals as necessary to form optimally sized and balanced Small Groups.

- **Question:** What about Small Group leaders? Do you need new, additional Small Group leaders for the fall session?

Answer: New Small Group leaders are most welcome and encouraged. We are always looking for adult parishioners who wish to become Small Group leaders. The more Small Group leaders we have, the more Small Groups we can accommodate. If you are interested in being a new Small Group leader, please indicate that on your sign-up form. New Small Group leader formation and training for the fall session (or a future session) will be provided and is required.

- **Question:** When will Small Groups meet during the fall session?

Answer: As with Small Groups in previous years, we hope to have meeting times for Small Groups in Year 3A during the fall session available on a variety of days in mornings, afternoons, and evenings. We hope to have available days and times for Small Groups in the fall session from which you can choose (or express a preference) in the sign-up forms for Small Groups.

- **Question:** Where will Small Groups meet?

Answer: Small Groups are encouraged to meet at St. Pascal's. The meeting rooms at St. Pascal's provide a convenient, accessible, and suitable location for Small Group meetings. If, however, a Small Group determines that it would prefer to meet at a location other than St. Pascal's (e.g., a parishioner's home or other suitable location such as a social room at a parishioner's apartment building, townhouse, condominium, or senior residential



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facility), the Small Group leader should contact Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation Kim Roering to determine whether the proposed alternative location is acceptable and, if so, the parish and Archdiocesan requirements (if any) that will need to be satisfied in order to use it.

- **Question:** What will happen to Small Groups at the end of the fall session?

Answer: Small Groups will continue and we anticipate a Lenten session for 2026. It is possible that some Small Groups may also wish to continue meeting during the Easter season. And some Small Groups have even continued during the summer, albeit typically meeting less frequently. No one leading or participating as a member of a Small Group in the fall session, however, is obligated to continue into the Lenten session or any other future session. At the conclusion of the fall session, we will consult with Small Group leaders and members to assess their experience and interest in continuing and look for ways to continue to improve the Small Group experience and content at St. Pascal's.

Revised: 08/22/25

Supersedes: --