



Welcome to *Our Lady of the Lake Parish's* 2025-2026 Faith Formation program. What a joy this first year has been meeting and ministering to so many faith-filled families! Thank you for embracing a family-faith approach by accompanying your children at Mass and family sessions.

The Eucharist, who is Jesus Christ offered at Mass, is the source and summit of the Catholic life. The goal of Faith Formation is to be in union with Jesus Christ. Attending Mass opens us and our children up to the fullness of Jesus' graces where, as he told Saint Faustina, he lavishes his graces upon us in Holy Communion, drawing us closer to him in heart and mind. God's command to keep the Lord's Day holy flows from His deep saving love for us, His children.

This upcoming year of faith formation includes exciting additions and adjustments to the schedule to continue to emphasize the importance of Mass and a family centered approach.

Families are to arrive at church ten minutes **before** the 8 am or 10 am Mass for a brief lesson on the Mass and/or prayer. Classes or family faith sessions, which will begin **after** Mass has ended, will be 30 minutes in length. Please review the schedule posted on the faith formation page (<https://ourladyofthelake.org/elementary>) for more details.

Sunday Session: 7:50 am lesson on the Mass in church/8:00 am Mass/followed by a 30-minute session
Sunday Session: 9:50 am lesson on the Mass in church/10:00 am Mass/followed by a 30-minute session

Like last year, faith formation will include a combination of classes and family faith sessions that enable the entire family to learn, discuss, and live the faith prayerfully and sacramentally. Parents are vital in handing on the faith to their children. The Church, in her wisdom, teaches that faith formation programs are meant to include and support parents in the formation of their children. I have been deeply moved and encouraged, as have other catechists, to witness the students' excitement and deeper engagement when their parents are present in the classroom or at family faith sessions.

While parents of children in every grade will be invited to attend their child's class on specific Sunday's (see schedule), **Confirmation students**, who are entering an important final year of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, are to be accompanied by at least one parent at Sunday classes. This will be a wonderful opportunity for parents to support and dialogue with their child on the Catholic faith and Christian values.

Faith Formation begins on Sunday, September 14, 2025. May the Lord bless and guide you in your sacred role as Catholic parents and may you and your child be drawn ever closer to Him in faith and love.

God Bless,
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