

September – Identity & Purpose

- 9/12/25 – Kick-off BBQ – Fun
- 9/13/25 – OnFire
- 9/19/25 – Formation: Why Did God Make Me?
 - Key Truth: You are made in God's image, on purpose, for a mission.
Scripture: Psalm 139, Genesis 1:27
 - Activity:
 - Life-size "Masterpiece Outline" mural: each student adds what makes them unique.
 - "God's Blueprint" identity journal (guided self-reflection).
- 9/26/25 – Guest speaker: Ana Maria- Finding the Young Jesus in You
- 9/27/25 – Service Project- Setting up for Parish Family Day
 - Setting up tables and chairs
 - Setting up decorations
- 9/28/25 – 9/28/25 – Parish Family Day

October – Doubt, Questions & Faith

- 10/3/25 – FUN
- 10/10/25 – Formation: What If I'm Not Sure I Believe?
 - Key Truth: Faith grows by asking real questions and seeking truth.
Scripture: Mark 9:24 – "I believe, help my unbelief."
 - Activity:
 - "Doubt Box": anonymous Q&A session with trusted leader.
 - "Truth or Trend?" group sorting game (Bible truth vs. pop culture sayings).
- 10/17/25 – Small Group Night: Weird Questions We're Afraid to Ask
 - Focus: Permission to ask anything! Silly or weird faith questions
 - Activity:
 - "Question Basket", students drop in funny or serious questions; leaders draw and discuss.
 - Create a Faith Comic Strip, students make funny or deep comic strips related to their questions.
- 10/24/25 – Game Night: The Fall & the Rescue
 - Game 1: "The Great Fall" (Reverse Jenga Race)
 - What You Need: 2+ Jenga sets, blindfolds, and tables
 - How to Play:
 - Teams compete to rebuild a fallen tower.
 - One person is blindfolded (symbolizing humanity's fallen state).

- Their teammates must guide them with only yes/no questions to rebuild the tower piece by piece.
 - First team to rebuild a standing tower wins.
 - Debrief Option: Tie in how sin confuses and isolates us — and how community and guidance (like God’s Word and Church) helps rebuild what’s been broken.
- Game 2: "Sin Tag: Temptation Dodge"
 - What You Need: Cones to define boundaries, pool noodles or soft balls
 - How to Play:
 - Choose 3 “temptations” (taggers) and 1 “grace” (savior).
 - Everyone else runs in a defined space.
 - If a player gets tagged by a temptation, they freeze (caught in sin).
 - “Grace” can unfreeze them by tapping them.
 - After a few minutes, rotate new taggers and grace.
 - Debrief Option: Discuss how temptation spreads fast, but grace is always chasing us down, even when we feel stuck.
- Game 3: "Sin or Savior" Kahoot Trivia
 - What You Need: Projector/TV, internet-connected devices
 - What It Covers:
 - Funny/fake scenarios where players choose: “Is this leading me toward God or away?”
 - Include Scripture quotes, saint stories, and basic catechism questions.
 - Example: “You lie to cover up a mistake.” (Sin) vs. “You ask for help and admit it.” (Virtue)
 - Debrief Option: Discuss how temptation spreads fast, but grace is always chasing us down, even when we feel stuck.
- **10/26/25 – Parish Lunch**
- **10/31/25 – NO CLASS**

November – Sin, Hurt & Forgiveness

- **11/1/25 – Service – All Saints Day**
- **11/7/25 – 11/9/25 – NO CLASS**
- **11/14/25 – Formation: Why Do People Hurt Each Other?**
 - Key Truth: Sin wounds us, but Jesus brings healing and mercy.
Scripture: Luke 15:11-32 (Prodigal Son)
 - Activity:
 - “Tangled in Sin” string web obstacle game.
 - Confession prep: reflection with visual “sin-to-mercy” board.
- **11/21/25 – Service Project**

- **11/24/25 – 11/28/25 – THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS**

December – Waiting, Pressure & Hope

- **12/5/25 – Formation: What If Life Feels Too Hard?**
 - Key Truth: In tough times, God is with you and working.
Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 1:26-38
 - Activity:
 - “Advent Prayer Lanterns”: write your hope and prayer on tracing paper and create candle jars.
 - “Silent Sanctuary”: candlelit guided meditation on trusting God in the chaos.
- **12/12/25 – Small Group Night: Joy to the World Even When I’m Stressed?**
 - Focus: How can we find real joy even during stressful or hard times (like finals, family tensions, or loneliness)?
 - Activities
 - “Christmas Chaos” Relay
 - Teams race to complete silly Christmas tasks: wrapping a box blindfolded, decorating a teammate like a Christmas tree, balancing a candy cane on their nose, etc.
 - Connect: Even in "chaos," joy can break through!
 - Small Group Reflection Prompts:
 - When is it hard to feel joy?
 - What helps you remember God’s love when life is stressful?
 - What small "joy mission" could you do for someone else this week?
 - Group Craft: “Joy Ornaments” Students decorate clear ornaments or foam ornaments with words or symbols that remind them of true joy.
 - Take home or hang on a group Joy Tree.
- **12/19/25 – Service Project – Parish Christmas Concert**
 - Make decorations
 - Help set up
- **12/26/25 – WINTER BREAK**

January – Jesus & Friendship

- **1/2/26 – WINTER BREAK (PAUSD)**
- **1/9/26 – Fun – Ice Skating**

- **1/16/26 – Formation: Can Jesus Be My Friend?**
 - Key Truth: Jesus isn't distant—He walks with you, listens, and leads.
Scripture: John 15:15, Luke 24 (Road to Emmaus)
 - Activity:
 - Pair share + prayer: "When have you needed a real friend?"
- **1/23/26 – Game & Discussion Night: Would Jesus Sit With Me?**
 - Focus: Explore how Jesus would be the friend who never leaves us out, and how we can do that for others.
 - Activities "Cafeteria Shuffle" Game
 - Move around chairs in a circle (like musical chairs) but whenever the music stops, they answer a question about friendships (e.g., "Name a time someone surprised you with kindness." / "What makes you feel included?").
 - "Sit With Me" Challenge Students draw scenarios from a hat (e.g., "New kid sitting alone," "Friend having a bad day," "Classmate everyone ignores"), then act out how they'd include that person.
 - Mini Reflection: How can I make sure no one feels left out at school or in life? What would Jesus do at my lunch table?
- **1/25/26 – Parish Lunch (St Thomas Aquinas themed)**
- **1/30/26 – Small Group Night: What Kind of Friend Am I?**
 - Focus: Reflect on how we can be better, Christ-like friends to others.
 - Activities "Friendship Recipe" Activity
 - Each student writes or draws their "recipe" for a good friend (e.g., 1 cup loyalty, 2 cups fun, 1 scoop honesty). Share in groups.
 - Discussion Prompts:
 - When have you felt like a true friend to someone?
 - When is it hardest to be a good friend?
 - How can you bring Jesus into your friendships?
 - "Encouragement Chain" Students write a short encouraging note to another person in the group. Combine into a paper chain and hang up as a reminder.
 - Closing Prayer: Pray for strength to be a better friend and invite Jesus to guide them in their relationships.

February – Peer Pressure, Drama & Belonging

- **2/6/26 – Service Project**
- **2/13/26 – Formation: What If I Don't Fit In?**
 - Key Truth: You belong in God's family, even if the world says otherwise.
Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9, Galatians 1:10

- Activity:
 - “Social Map” activity (anonymous sticky-notes describing how others might feel left out).
 - Roleplay: responding to drama or peer pressure scenarios with courage and faith.
- **2/18/26 – Ash Wednesday**
- **2/20/26 – Game Night: “Belonging Battles”**
 - Focus: Challenge peer pressure in a fun and movement-based way.
 - Activities
 - "Red Light, Green Light — Peer Edition"
 - Call out scenarios as "green light" (stand up for your friend, invite someone new) or "red light" (go along with a lie, laugh at a mean joke). Students move only if it's something they should “go” for.
 - Discuss each scenario after a round.
 - “Peer Pressure Hot Potato”
 - Pass around a ball or potato while music plays; when it stops, answer a fun or serious prompt about belonging or peer pressure (e.g., "Have you ever stood up for someone?", "What's the hardest part of being yourself?").
 - Mini Prayer
 - Pray for the strength to build each other up, not tear each other down.
- **2/22/26 – Parish Lunch**
- **2/27/26 – Creative Night: “Drama or No Drama?”**
 - Focus: Help students learn to respond to conflict and drama with love and courage.
 - Activities
 - “Drama Bucket” Skits
 - Students draw real-life school drama scenarios from a bucket (e.g., "Someone starts a rumor about you," "You're excluded from a party," "A friend pressures you to skip class").
 - Act out both a negative and a positive response, then discuss as a group.
 - “Belonging Affirmation Board”
 - Everyone writes an encouraging message or scripture verse for their peers on sticky notes or a poster.
 - Reflection
 - "What drama do I want to leave behind this year? What helps me stay true to who I am?"

- **3/1/26 – 4/12/26 – Confirmation Interviews**
- **3/6/26 – Formation: Is God Louder Than My Phone?**
 - Key Truth: God speaks in silence, but we have to learn to listen.
Scripture: 1 Kings 19:11–13 (Elijah and the whisper)
 - Activity:
 - “Screen Detox Challenge”: give up one app or set screen boundaries for one week.
 - “Listening Lab”: music + silence + journaling in stations around the room.
- **3/13/26 – Game & Discussion Night: “Noise vs. Voice”**
 - Focus: Learn to tell the difference between life "noise" and God’s voice.
 - Activities
 - “Distraction Dodgeball”
 - Classic dodgeball but with a twist: balls labeled with distractions (social media, gossip, fear, comparison, etc.). Reflect: What "hits" distract you most in real life?
 - “Whisper Challenge” Game
 - Students try to lip-read faith-related words or phrases while wearing headphones playing loud music.
 - Connect: How hard is it to hear God when we’re surrounded by noise?
 - Mini Prayer Silent prayer to ask God to help us recognize His voice.
- **3/20/26 – Service Project**
- **3/22/26 – Parish Lunch**
 - Youth Group parents
 - Activity: Pillow drive
 - Write encouraging notes on one side of the pillow
- **3/27/26 – Creative Night: Unplug Art Jam**
 - Focus: Using art to slow down and connect with God.
 - Activities
 - "Pray-Paint-Listen" Students paint or draw while calm worship or instrumental music plays.
 - Prompts: "Where do you feel closest to God?" or "What does peace look like?"
 - "Silence Stones" Decorate small stones with words or images that remind them to unplug and pray (e.g., "Listen," "Peace," "Breathe").
 - Sharing Moment
 - Students share what they created and where they might keep their stone as a reminder.
- **3/28/26 – Confirmation Retreat**

April – Mental Health & the God Who Cares

- 4/3/26 – Good Friday
- 4/4/26 – Holy Saturday
- 4/5/26 – Easter Sunday
- 4/10/26 – Fun
- 4/17/26 – **Formation: Does God Care If I'm Sad or Stressed?**
 - Key Truth: God is close to the brokenhearted and never abandons you.
Scripture: Psalm 34:18, Matthew 11:28-30
 - Activity:
 - “Anxiety Iceberg” draw and share (surface stress vs. deeper fears).
 - Calm-down corner + Scripture card kit: create tools for tough days.
- 4/18/26- **Confirmation rehearsal**
 - Help set up chairs, tables, and decorations
- 4/19/26 – **Confirmation**
- 4/19/26 – **Parish Lunch**
 - TBD
- 4/24/26 – **Creative Reflection Night: “Inside Out Night”**
 - Focus: Help students process and express big feelings in a safe, fun way.
 - Activities
 - "Feelings Masks"
 - Students decorate paper masks: outside shows how they usually appear to others (happy face, confident, silly), inside shows hidden feelings (worried, lonely, stressed).
 - Optional: Share with a partner or small group if they feel comfortable.
 - "Feelings Skits"
 - How it works
 - Small groups get emotion scenarios (e.g., "someone feels left out at school," "someone is nervous before a big game," "someone is excited but their friends aren't supportive").
 - Groups create a short, silly or serious skit to show what's going on inside and how God might respond or be present.
 - Closing Circle
 - Quiet group prayer, asking God to meet each person exactly where they are.

May – Saints, Mission & Courage (Mama Mary's Month)

- 5/1/26 – **Formation: Mary, Our Mother and Our Model of Faith**

- Explore who Mary is beyond statues and rosaries.
- Key points:
 - Why do we honor Mary? (Luke 1:46–55, John 2:1–11)
 - How does her “yes” teach us to trust God’s plan?
 - How can we live with a Marian heart: humble, open, and courageous?
- Bonus:
 - Introduce Marian devotions and ways to deepen a relationship with Mary as a guide to Heaven.
- **5/8/26 – Formation: Can I Really Make a Difference?**
 - Key Truth: You are called now—holiness isn’t for later.
Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:12, Hebrews 12:1
 - Activity:
 - “Saint Squad Showdown” (game show + team skits about young saints).
 - “Mission Challenge”: group brainstorm and sign a summer service pledge banner.
- **5/15/26 – Small Group Night: “Letters from the Saints”**
 - Focus: Connect to saints as mentors and friends.
 - Activities
 - "Letter from My Saint" Students receive a "letter" written in the voice of a saint (e.g., "Dear young friend, trust in God even when you're scared...").
 - After reading, they write a reply to the saint, sharing what they're struggling with or asking for advice.
 - Discussion Prompts
 - What stood out in your saint’s letter?
 - What would you ask a saint to help you with today?
 - Mini Prayer
 - Thank God for giving us saints as examples and friends.
- **5/17/26 – Parish Lunch**
- **5/22/26 – Service Project**
- **5/24/26 – Pentecost**
- **5/29/26 – Celebration & Commissioning Night: “Saint Olympics” + Year-End Wrap-Up**
 - Focus: Celebrate a year of growth, courage, and community, while sending students out on mission and involving them in shaping what comes next.
 - Part 1: Saint Olympics (Celebration + Faith in Action)
 - Fun, active challenges inspired by the virtues and lives of the saints!
 - Virtue Relay:
 - Stations like “Forgiveness Jump,” “Kindness Carry,” “Bravery Balance,” and more.

- Saint Trivia Gauntlet: Teams answer questions about saints to advance through a silly obstacle course.
 - Team Spirit: Encourage costumes, team cheers, or banners themed around favorite saints!
- Part 2: Reflection & Planning
 - Invite students into the process of looking back and dreaming forward.
 - Evaluation Wall: Stations or posters where students write:
 - “My favorite night was...”
 - “One thing I learned this year...”
 - “Next year, I want to talk more about...”
 - Vision Board Table: Students decorate cards with one hope, goal, or prayer intention for next year.
 - Leader Feedback Cards: Volunteers jot down ideas, feedback, and takeaways from the year.
- Part 3: Closing Commissioning
 - Medal Blessing:
 - Give each student a “Saint in Training” medal or small cross necklace.
- Prayer of Sending Forth: Thank God for the year, pray over students as they enter summer, and ask the intercession of the saints for their continued journey.

June

- **6/5/26 – END OF THE YEAR PARTY – Fun**