

St. ELIZABETH

CATHOLIC CHURCH

June 12, 2026

Hello Saint Elizabeth Families,
In April, Fr. Augie wrote to families in our Religious Education Programs (now Youth and Discipleship Programs) announcing A New Vision for Faith Formation at St. Elizabeth's.

This will mean making changes for the coming school year to support the Diocese's vision of having a Family-Centered Faith Formation. With this vision, we will be shifting our programming to have parents or another faith-practicing adult attend classes with their child. We will be meeting once a month during the below listed dates.

Please note that ALL grades will be meeting Sundays. Grades Pre-K through sixth grade will be meeting right after mass at 9:30a-10:30a and grades seventh through eleventh will be meeting 5:30-7:00p. We are still working out the details for Sunday evenings but we would like to offer supper so we can have great conversations and hear about God at the same time. If you would be willing to be part of a group that helps with meals, please contact Kaylie as soon as possible.

Grades ninth, tenth, and eleventh will be eligible to prepare for Confirmation this year as we move with the Diocese to make Confirmation available to those ready to fully embrace their faith, even at an earlier age. In the 2027-2028 school year, those in grades eighth and ninth will be eligible, once they have worked with their parents along with the parish staff, and discerned if they are ready to take this serious step.

Remember, in the new diocesan framework, the vision for Christian Initiation shifts away from treating the sacraments as a "graduation" checklist, shifting the focus instead on leading youth to a genuine, life-changing encounter and relationship with Jesus Christ. The ultimate goal is for young people to actively choose to complete their Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) so they can fully activate the Holy Spirit's unique gifts. This means that there is an active "discernment" of readiness—one can "opt-in" as early as ninth grade (in future, 8th grade) but it is not "automatic"; you and your child, along with the parish staff, may faithfully conclude that it would be better to wait to a later time to prepare.

Sep 20, 2026	Jan 24, 2027
Oct 11, 2026	Feb 21, 2027
Nov 15, 2026	Mar 21, 2027
Dec 6, 2026	Apr 25, 2027

We would like to stress that Sunday and Holy Day Mass attendance is the absolute bedrock and cornerstone of our living faith. The expectation will be that whether at St. Elizabeth's or another parish, you and your son/daughter are regularly attending Mass weekly.

We will continue to share additional details throughout the summer. Please look for those announcements in the monthly Parish Bulletin and in our BAND app in the "St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church" group. Praying that you have a blessed and joy-filled Summer!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Kaylie Hanson, Director of Child and Youth Discipleship

Fr. Augie Gothman, Pastor

