

*St. Bartholomew
Catholic Church
2019 - 2020 Catechetical Year*



*I received from the Lord
what I also handed on to you.*

Family Handbook

+ Saint Bartholomew Catholic Church

252 Granada Avenue ♦ Long Beach, California 90803

♦ 562.438.3826 ♦ Fax 562.438.2227

www.stbartholomewccclb.org

Dear Parents,

Congratulations on carrying out the gift of faith sharing with your child(ren). This gift you promised to them on the day you brought them to the Church for the Sacrament of Baptism. We pray that you will continue to be the best of teachers of the Catholic Faith, for and with your child. It is a privilege for all of us here at St. Bartholomew Catholic Community to be part of your faith sharing. We thank you for your trust and love in what we do. May the celebration of the Eucharist each Sunday, strengthen you and your family as we pray and worship our God with the community of faith.

In your daily prayer, remember our catechist as they, like you, share in the formation of your child(ren) bringing them up in the Catholic faith.

Through the intercession of Mary our Blessed Mother and St. Bartholomew our patron saint, may God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Michael".

Father Michael Reardon, Pastor

Contact Us:

St. Bartholomew Catholic Church

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Director of Faith Formation

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Masses:	Saturday	5:00 pm
	Sunday	8:00 am
		9:30 am
		11:00 am
		12:30 pm
		5:30 pm
	Weekday	8:00 am
	Holy Days	
	Eve	7:00 pm
	Day	8:00 am
		12:15 pm
		7:00 pm

While we still need to have protocols because of COVID:		
Masses:	Saturday	5:00 pm
	Sunday	8:00 am
		9:30 am
		11:00 am
	Weekday	8:00 am

Confessions: Saturday 3:45 pm – 4:45pm
First Fridays of the month after 8:00 am Mass Or call the Parish Office for an appointment

While we still need to have protocols because of COVID: Saturday's 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

PHILOSOPHY

Faith Formation is a lifelong journey toward intimacy with God. It is an ongoing process to develop a living, active, conscious faith, not just for an individual but for our families and community as well. As our faith becomes living, active and conscious, we are brought to a oneness with God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ, in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Faith is multifaceted involving

our head with truth and facts,

our heart with trust and love,

and our hands and feet

with our actions of care and service to others

GOALS

Formation of your child's faith began when you brought your child to be baptized. At that time, you promised to nourish and guide your child in the Catholic Faith. This faith formation is rooted in your home and family life. In the National Catechetical Directory our Bishops say, "Parents are the first and primary religious educators for the children". Therefore, we want to encourage you to remain active in your child's faith formation by enabling you to:

- ❖ *help your child develop a living, growing faith that permeates daily life;*
- ❖ *foster a clear sense of Catholic identity with an appreciation of Catholic beliefs, values, prayers and practices;*
- ❖ *incorporate our Catholic Christian traditions to life experiences;*
- ❖ *open your child to God's Word and respond willingly to His call as revealed in their life and our tradition.*

PARENT PARTICIPATION

As parents or guardians, you are expected to be actively involved in your child's faith formation. That you have chosen to enroll them in a faith formation program demonstrates the importance you place on their faith formation.

The most valuable gift you can give your child is both the easiest and most important; weekly Mass attendance. Our liturgical celebrations have great educational and formative value and the graces bestowed cannot be duplicated in a classroom. Liturgy, from the Greek, literally means, "the work of the people". According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The liturgy is...the privileged place for catechizing the People of God. Catechesis is intrinsically linked with the whole of liturgical and sacramental activity" (CCC, 1075). The Second Vatican Council states that the Eucharistic celebration is the "source and summit" of Christian life. Everything we do as Catholic Christians stems from our greatest communal prayer, the Mass.



Another area requiring your involvement is family prayer. Please share with and teach your child the prayers every Catholic should know ie:

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Act of Contrition

There are many wonderful devotionals available and if you want any copies, please feel free to call the Faith Formation office and ask.

PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH

Precepts are principles or expectations. The purpose of the precepts of the church is to assist the faith community in understanding what a minimum participation would be for one to be considered an active member of the Catholic Faith. This indispensable minimum is a must so that we are able to grow in our love of God and neighbor. The precepts of the Church are:

- 1) Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. (This involves refraining from work or activities that hinder the worship due to God.)
- 2) Receive Communion at least once a year during Easter Season. (Ideally, Catholics should receive Communion each time they attend Mass.)
- 3) Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year.
(Look for the dates of the Parish Penance Services offered during Advent and Lent)
- 4) Remember to fast and abstain from meat on days specified by the liturgical calendar (usually Fridays during Lent).

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The sacramental process is an important part of faith formation and the life of the entire church community. Jesus gave us the Sacraments as signs of grace that are experiences when we know, love and serve the Lord.

There are three types of sacraments:

- **Initiation:** Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation
- **Healing:** Reconciliation, Anointing of the sick
- **Commitment:** Marriage, Holy Orders

Preparation for the Sacraments are offered to families who have a firm commitment to continuous religious practice and formation. Receiving a Sacrament should never be seen as a “graduation” from faith formation. Rather, they are milestones on the lifelong journey of faith.

INITIATION

A child who has not been baptized or who has been baptized but is in the 3rd grade or above and not received Reconciliation or Eucharist must go through the initiation process. The child will attend one full year of faith formation at his/her grade level and in the second year attend initiation sessions with his/her parent(s). This is in addition to attending regular classes.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

RECONCILIATION

This process is offered to a family after a child has completed one full year of religious education. Children are usually at the 2nd grade level. Preparation for the sacrament is done at home with the family. Parents are asked to attend four (4) parent meetings to receive and share information and materials necessary to make the process successful.

EUCCHARIST

This process is offered to a family after a child has completed two full years of religious education. Children are usually at the 3rd grade level. Preparation for the sacrament is done at home with the family. Parents are asked to attend four (4) parent meetings to receive and share information and materials necessary to make the process successful.

CONFIRMATION

This process is for high school students and is comprised of a discernment year and sacrament preparation year. It is modeled after small church communities where groups of 8-10 candidates meet together for discussion. Topics of discussion are aimed at getting the candidates to think about and apply their faith to their everyday lives as mandated by the Archdiocesan guidelines.

Service projects are required for our candidates and their sponsors. Candidates attend a retreat each year and participate in special liturgical rites in accordance with their preparation for reception of the sacrament.

Catholic high schools do not prepare students for this sacrament. Their preparation is the responsibility of their home parish as mandated by the Archdiocesan guidelines.



PROGRAM INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

Registration is typically held in the spring. However as a result of COVID, this year's registration has been delayed. Registration link and forms are located on our website. Registrations can be turned back in either in person (this option is not available this year) or by mailing them back to us. Please return back to us asap. There is a lot of work that goes into preparing for the year.

TUITION

Tuition mainly defrays, but does not cover, the cost of classroom materials, reference materials, audio-visuals, retreats, utilities, insurance and catechist in-services and workshops. We are generously supported and supplemented by St. Bartholomew parishioners as a whole. For the 2020-2021 year tuition will be \$45 per family. If you have a child that will be making their sacrament this year there will be a \$30 sacramental fee.

COMMUNICATION

Please read any e-mails, texts that are sent to you. We try to limit the number of emails and texts that are sent, but we do need to be able to communicate important information to you.

We have updated our website more user friendly so you will be able to have all information regarding faith formation at your fingertips.



Another way we will communicate is through our Facebook page. Please go to St. BartholomewLB and like us and you will be connected to what is happening.



We are now on Instagram. We are stbartholomewccclb. We will also be putting information up on Instagram.

STUDENT INSURANCE

Children are insured in case of injury while attending faith formation sessions and any related activities. This insurance is included in the registration fee.

CURRICULUM

Our faith formation programs provide a gradual faith formation through the lessons shared week to week. These lessons build upon levels of understanding which, over time, provide an ongoing presentation of our Catholic faith. This foundation will help guide your child in his/her life-long journey of faith. This year's curriculum will be liturgical based course Source and Summit and can be accessed through the Martha platform. This program is family based which is done at home.

For those preparing for first communion, our second and third graders we will also be utilizing the Martha platform. We will be using the Mend and Nourish courses. All of these programs are family based which are done at home.

We will then meet twice a month to learn, pray and build community. Families can sign up for the day and time that works best for them. If for some reason they cannot make that day or time they may attend one of the other days and times.

Family and God Connections

By: Pam Hurwitz

To Begin the Day: Prayer Spot –

I know all of us would love to pray with our children to start each school day – but somehow life can get in the way. And before you know it the children are jumping out of the car and we are plunging into our day without our eyes on Him.

...How about choosing a “prayer spot” somewhere between your home and school that you pass daily. Could be a certain tree, a building, sign, etc. that you pass each and every day. Let the kids decide what this landmark will be and have them remind you each time you pass by the “spot” that it is time to pray. This will be your spot for the year. Each day as you pass by – start with “in the name of the Father, it will not be long for this to be part of your routine – and the kids will be looking out for the spot. Use those prayer moments to pray for things for the upcoming day, pray for teachers and friend, people that are sick, suffering, etc....Put Jesus at the start of your day!

End of day wrap-up: A Rose and a Thorn –

Each person shares one thing that went well that day (their rose) and a struggle from the day (their thorn). This reminds our children that both perspectives make up our daily life. And by the way – scientists speculate that roses have thorns to protect them from harm. This reminds us also to be very careful with those we love.

Family and God Connections Continued

By: Pam Hurwitz

Night time Blessing –

The day is done and our bodies begin to slowly wind down. This time for children is very important. Reading in bed with them, snuggling close, creates family intimacy – that can fill the void of connection – from the whirlwind day. Our parental touch is a strong sensation that we can couple with a blessing. To end the day with a parent's hands over a child's small head praying them to sleep is a gift we can pass on to our children, and then their children, etc... Decide on a tradition to end your day that incorporates intimacy and blessing. Maybe it is a recited prayer or a few words (sleep tonight with the angels, etc.)

Add to Your Routine:

Sabbath, Even God Rested!

Six days of creating the earth and then God took intentional time to rest. We need to actually plan "rest time" into our family calendars as well. Unplanned – (but very planned) time together. Pope Francis encourages families to "waste time together". Time to laugh, to linger, to pause, to reflect. We need it and so do our children. If we model it they will see it as important. Try being in the same space together, without having something to do. Just be present to each other without thinking about the next thing you have to do. Read books, listen to music, play board games, etc. Write it down, clear the time and be "off" together.

Family Mantra –

What is something you would like your children to be reminded of each day. Let that be your mantra for the upcoming year. As they walk out the front door, the car door, etc.. leave them with a few words that ring in their head (even if only for a few short seconds). I remember when my son was in high school – I talked to him about the fact that God sees all – that he could hide from me, but never from God. There is a passage in Galatians that speaks : "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked" These were my parting words to him as a high school sophomore remind him that God sees, and God knows. Maybe it is: What would Jesus Do? Be what you want to attract in life; forgive often; seek justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God, You are the most valuable thing in my life. Please take care of yourself when you are not with me.

Speak Virtue –

It is who our children are, not what they do that should always be our focus as parents. Noticing kindness, compassion, humility, patience in our children is to notice God in them. Personality is divine! Claim God's presence and notice it. Our children are more than good soccer players and students, they are made in the image and likeness of their creator. His fingerprints are all over them.

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AS WE CONTINUE OUR FAITH
JOURNEY TOGETHER.*

Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, Lord of Love,

With the help of your grace, we commit ourselves to a life of holiness: to living out our baptismal promises by following your will every day, practicing forgiveness, and loving you, ourselves, and one another.

Help us to trust in your gift of the Holy Spirit, to rely on his help, to and follow him even when we feel sick, tired, or overwhelmed.

We entrust ourselves to you and to one another:

Our lives, our dignity, our fears, our dreams, and our hopes. In all that we are and do, may we be more like your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God.

We commit ourselves to make the Word of God a living part of our home by reading the Scriptures together as a family, treating each other with dignity and respect, and keeping the name of Jesus on our lips and in our hearts.

Amen.