

St. James Catechesis Policies and Procedures 2011-2012

Sunday Mass Attendance

"Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day" is the third Commandment. As Catholics, we believe honoring the Lord on the Sabbath necessarily means worshipping Him in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Everything we do as Catholics comes from and moves toward Christ's presence in the Eucharist. Families should worship together – the family is where catechesis occurs most effectively. Please do not attempt to substitute catechesis classes for Sunday Mass in your child's religious formation!

Catechesis Session Attendance

Catechists will take roll to keep track of children's attendance. Classes begin promptly on time with a prayer. Please do not show up late! In some cases, it is understandable that a child cannot attend weekly sessions due to family situations, illnesses and the like. Our goal is to support you as the primary catechist in your child's life. Please do the best you can, and we will support you in any way we can.

Catechesis Assignments

Your child's catechist will ask him/her to complete certain assignments at home with his/her parents. This is to encourage the ongoing formation of your child within the family. It is VITAL that you take an active role in these assignments. Remember: we all have a lot to learn about our faith, too!

Dress Code and Behavior

Please dress your child appropriately for catechesis classes. This means no cut-offs, micro-skirts or shorts, spaghetti-strap tops, no plunging necklines, or clothing with inappropriate sayings. We are made in God's image and in a sacred environment at a Catholic church, and this ought to be reflected with graceful attire.

Catechists are unpaid volunteers who share their time and talents with our children, often with very little gratitude or recognition. It is up to each catechist's discretion on how to handle behavioral issues as they come up. If your child misbehaves grossly on a repeated basis, you may be asked to remove your child.

Drop-off and Dismissal

Children should not be dropped off unless the catechist and aide are present in the classroom, parents should wait with their children until the catechist/aide arrives. All Children should be picked up at their classroom after class by a parent/guardian. If you will be having a sibling or someone else pick-up your child, please let the catechist know and introduce the individual to the catechist. Children in grades PK-4th will not be released from the classroom until a parent/guardian comes to retrieve them. If you come early, please be respectful that classes are going on – loud conversations in the hall ways can disturb the classes in process.

Medical Emergency Policy

All catechists take the utmost care to ensure the safety and well-being of your child. A first-aid kit is kept onsite for the handling of minor injuries. However, in case of medical emergency, we will call 911. Any emergency treatment will be authorized by the completed Emergency Medical Release form on file with the Director of Religious Education and each catechist.