

Faith & Family Program Expectations

Expectation of Parent/Guardian Program Involvement

As the primary catechists in a child's faith life, we feel the presence of parents is crucial to our programming. We offer a variety of volunteer roles with flexible time commitments. If however, a parent is unable to commit to one of these volunteer roles, *every parent in our program is expected to be present at a minimum of three sessions* as support for the children, other volunteers and faith formation team.

Expectations for volunteers, parents, teens and children:

Show respect for yourself and others.

Always keep your hands and feet to yourself.

If it does not belong to you, do not touch it.

Nice words, good choices – always be kind.

Try your best.

Spend time in prayer every day.

The Faith & Family community of St. Matthew expects all our members – children, teens and adults – to adhere to the rules set forth by God: the Ten Commandments, and to always conduct themselves as instructed by Jesus: love one another.

We may not always understand each other, we may not always like each other, but we must love each other and treat each other in a loving, merciful way.

*We have a **zero tolerance policy** for bullying or threats of any nature by adults or by children.*

Attendance

Attendance is expected at every session.

Please keep your child home if he/she has displayed any flu-like symptoms or fever within 24 hours of their session. We will make use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer, encourage hand-washing, and supply sanitizing wipes in each classroom.

If your child is ill, and will miss several classes, please let the Faith Formation team know as soon as possible!

Early Dismissal*

To minimize disrupting your child's small faith community and to respect the time offered by the volunteer catechists, we ask that students **not** be picked up early unless there is an **illness or emergency or a school obligation**.

If you are picking up early due to a conflict with sports or activities, we respectfully ask that you balance taking your child out of their Faith Formation session early with allowing them to arrive late for the activity on occasion.

If you pick your child up early more than twice, you will be asked to choose a different session time.

Cell Phones/Electronics

During sessions, teens and children are expected to be fully present and involved in the activity or discussion that is taking place. It is not necessary for them to have their cell phones. We prefer that they not be brought as they serve as a tempting distraction and youth do not always respect the 'silenced, out-of-sight and not used' expectation. **If phones are brought and a youth is seen using it during session time, the phone will be confiscated and held until the end of session.** Session time begins at the moment we open in prayer and ends when they are safely back in your care.

The Office of Faith Formation is not responsible for lost or damaged cell phones.

***Photo ID Required for any early pick-up.**

In the event of inclement weather, parents will be notified via:

1. [Website](#) Posting
2. Parish App (text *app* to 88202 to download)
3. Social Media (see next page for address, or search St. Matthew)

We do **not** cancel classes based upon CMS or UCPS closings, so please be alert and check the website or parish app for session status.

