

# ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

## FAITH FORMATION POLICY AND INFORMATION

We encourage that the Parents/Legal Guardian of the Faith Formation student be a registered member of St. Mary Catholic Church and attend Mass regularly.

Parents, as you might know, have the primary responsibility to educate their children in the faith. Therefore, faith formation begins at home, our Faith Formation programs only complement the spiritual formation that takes place fundamentally inside the Domestic Church. Remember, YOU are the primary teachers of the faith. Because parents are the primary educators of their children, our catechists in the Faith Formation program **partner with parents** in preparing the children for these very important steps in their life of faith. Parents are truly *irreplaceable* in this process.

### Attendance/Tardiness:

- Faith Formation is a very important aspect of religious education for your children. We take attendance and tardiness seriously and will call you if your child misses or is late for 3 classes.

### Student Expectations:

- Only 3 days are allowed for necessary absences. A parent or guardian must sign the attendance sheet of each of their children to confirm the children have been dropped off and picked up that day. The sign-in/out sheet will be available before and after class in each classroom.
- Please be on time. The class will promptly start as stated in the session.
- Appropriate behavior and common courtesy, at every grade level, are expected.
- No electronics are allowed before or during class.

### Family Expectations:

- Families should be attending Mass each Sunday.
- Registration at the parish is encouraged.
- Attendance at parental meetings is required.
- Practice prayers at home as a family.

### Safety and Security of the building and of your child/children:

- All students and parents must enter the main entrance. Please drop off and pick up your child at the door of his/her classroom inside the building.
- Students are not allowed in a classroom without a teacher being present.
- Please be on time. The class will promptly start as stated in the session.
- Students who are in Grades Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to the classroom upon arrival. We ask that you pick up your child in the same manner. If someone other than a parent picks up the child, we ask that you let the Faith Formation Coordinators and child's teacher know at the beginning of the school year and he/she must be 16 years of age or older.

### Catechists and Classroom Volunteers:

- Our classes are taught by volunteers who generously offer their time to pass on the faith. There will be 1-2 adults per classroom. All volunteers must be up to date on the Ethics and Integrity in Ministry (EIM) training.

### **Dress Attire:**

- All Students clothing must reflect Christian modesty. No youth should wear clothing that contains a violent, offensive, or anti-Christian message.
  - For Girls: Short shorts, strapless shirts, low cut tops, and shirts exposing mid-riff, underwear or stomach are not to be worn.
  - For Boys: Saggy pants and short shorts are not to be worn.

### **For Sacramental Class:**

- Sacramental classes (First Communion, Confirmation) require two consecutive years enrollment in Faith Formation. Therefore, a child must have one previous year of formal Catholic education (Yr1) to be eligible to receive his/her sacrament. He/she must also attend Mass regularly. Students enrolled in a Sacramental class (Yr1 & Yr2) are only allowed up to 3 absences for the year. You will receive a call on the second missed class. The only reasons for an excused absence are as follows:
  - Student illness
  - Death in the family
  - Hazardous road conditions
  - Extraordinary circumstances approved by Faith Formation Coordinators/Pastor
- First Communion age is 7 or older. Confirmation age is High School age (Grade 10 or older)
- Parents, especially parents of sacramental students, are required to attend parent meeting(s) as explained on the Faith Formation calendar and any additional meetings requested by Fr. Chris or Faith Formation Coordinators.
- OCIA for children: unbaptized; 8 years or older requires two consecutive years enrollment in Faith Formation.
- Parents of sacramental students (includes yr 1 and yr 2 for both First Communion and Confirmation) must attend weekly parent classes. Classes are held on Wednesdays in the PAC.

### **General Guideline:**

- The Bible teaches that our identities as male and female are part of God's good design in Creation, our bodies and sexual identities are gifts from God. All ministries, including all Faith Formation Catechists will use the gender pronouns that were written on the Baptismal record.

### **Behavior & Electronic Devices:**

In order to foster a focused learning experience for the students, appropriate behavior and common courtesy, at every grade level, are expected. **NO ELECTRONICS ARE ALLOWED BEFORE OR DURING FAITH FORMATION CLASSES.** If your child brings such items and uses them during class time, the teacher may hold the item and return it to the student at the end of the class.

- First Incident: Warning
- Second Incident: Student will stay after class to talk to the teacher.
- Third Incident: Student will be sent to talk with Faith Formation Coordinators and parent will be called.
- Fourth Incident: Parent will be called to set up a meeting where the student, parent and Faith Formation Coordinators will discuss alternatives.

**Faith Formation includes both Youth Ministry and Religious Education  
Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grades**

**Elementary, Middle School & High School**

The first day of class is Wednesday, *September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025*.

The time and place for each class is as follows:

Grade	Building	Time
Pre-K, K and 1st	PAC	Wednesday 6:00 to 7:15pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup>		
6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Hall	
Parent Class	PAC	Wednesday 7:15 to 8:30pm
Parent Class	PAC	
9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Hall	

**Communication:**

For any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the office @ 512-847-8191 or email using the appropriate email below.

-Grades Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> - [office@smwimberley.org](mailto:office@smwimberley.org)

-Grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> - [ym@smwimberley.org](mailto:ym@smwimberley.org)