

St Irenaeus Church
Youth Faith Formation Ministry
714-826-1140

Parent Guidelines and Responsibilities

Dear Parents,

We are preparing to start a new year in the lifelong faith journey. We are grateful for your presence. I would encourage you to make the Faith Formation classes a priority. Children's souls are precious, and their education in the faith is very important. No other activity in their life will have such an extended impact. They will be engaged with God all their life and for eternity. For faith development to develop strongly in a child's life, it takes a partnership between the Church community and the domestic church, the child's family. We need to work together.

Please take the time to read *and initial each ministry guideline and expectation.*

Special Needs Policy – Children with special learning needs (i.e., mentally, or physically challenged) are welcome and included in our programs. Parents are required to indicate their child's special needs at registration time so that we might offer the best possible experience and resources available.

Attendance - Your child is expected to attend all classes unless sick. We expect that you and your child(ren) will prioritize the program. During sacramental years, if a child is absent five (5) or more times, parents will be asked to meet with the DRE to ensure that the child is fully prepared to receive the sacrament. _____

Sunday Mass - All students in our Faith Formation Program are expected to participate in Sunday Mass. Faith Formation classes cannot and do not substitute for the Sunday liturgy. The commitment to attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation is especially important in the years in which a child is preparing to receive a sacrament. Children and families are expected to attend Family Mass on the Fourth Sunday of the Month at 11:30 a.m. _____

Arrival/Dismissal Times - We expect students to be on time for class each week. A schedule of dates and times is mailed home prior to the start of class.

Arrival: Parents may drop off their children in the classroom, **NOT IN THE PARKING LOT.** Please refrain from dropping the students off too early since we do not allow students to be in the classrooms without the Catechist present.

Dismissal - Students are to be dismissed from the classroom at the appropriate time. Parents must park and come into the classroom to pick up their child. Children WILL NOT be released to come out to the parking lot. _____

Prayers - We ask that parents take responsibility for making prayers integral to family living. Please help your child learn the required prayers each year, especially if your child is on the sacramental journey to celebrate their First Holy Communion. _____

Care of School Property – We expect students to be respectful of the property of students/ministries who use the same parish classroom at different times. Please do not open desks and refrain from writing on desktops or tables used for your class. _____

Parent Involvement - Parents must attend all parent workshops and/or parent meetings. Parents must complete at least two (2) hours of service per year during the different parish activities: Bible Camp, Fiesta, Trunk or Treat, Youth Nights or during the Faith Formation classes. _____