

Guidelines
For Youths Participating in St. Joseph's Faith Formation
Youth Ministry Programs & Activities - Levels 8-12

By enrolling in St. Joseph's Faith Formation / Youth Ministry Program the individual youth is expected to:

1) Respect the adult catechetical and youth ministry leaders and other participants. This includes but is not limited to:

Following directives as needed for order in a session;
Participating in an activity in a mature and orderly manner;
Receiving leader instruction without undue interruptions; and
Addressing the leader in a manner that is respectful and courteous

2) Respect the rights and property of others.

3) Exhibit respect for peers by courteous language, appropriate actions and behaviors, as identified below.

A youth is expected to act as a lady or gentleman.

The following verbal and physical behaviors **are appropriate**:

To listen while another is speaking
One-armed side hugs
Handshakes
High-fives and hand slapping
Verbal praise
Arms around shoulders
Hold hands during prayer

The following behaviors are samples of **inappropriate conduct**.

Kissing
Inappropriate touching
Verbal sarcasm and name-calling
Massages of any kind
Any form of unwanted affection
Compliments or denigrating remark about another's body
Bullying or any type of physical threats or intimidation
Vulgar hand gestures

4) Possession of any drugs, tobacco, alcohol, fireworks, knives, or items that would endanger people, pets, wildlife or property, are not permitted on St. Joseph's parish campus.

5) Youths who come to a catechetical session, church service or youth ministry event/

activity under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be allowed to remain and will be turned over to a parent or guardian.

In such an instance, the youth will be allowed to resume participation in Faith Formation or Youth Ministry activities after a parent conference has been completed.

6) Youth will dress appropriately and in keeping with the Christian virtue of personal modesty. This dress code will be strictly applied when youth are attending/ participating in a church service or are representing the Catholic Church at St. Joseph's Parish or at a public event.

This prohibits short shorts, tank or halter tops, mid-riffs and beach-wear.

Unacceptable is any clothing, backpack, pocketbook or other personal accessories that has any reference to tobacco or alcohol products; this includes insignias or advertisements, decals and messages that are vulgar or inappropriate for a Catholic Church environment as determined by Pastoral leadership.

7) Youth will not leave a catechetical session, church service or Youth Ministry event unless there is permission from his/her parent or guardian.

Cell phones **are permitted**, but must be turned off (silenced) during a church service or event. Texting is never permitted during a prayer service, Mass, or sacred ritual.

Parents: please spend time discussing with your child appropriate and inappropriate behaviors while attending a religious service.

Agreeing to the above items is requisite for enrolling in and participating in St. Joseph's Faith Formation and Youth Ministry programs. Not abiding by this policy and its rules, may result in being sent home at the discretion of the program leaders. Youth will be held responsible and accountable for all their behavior and the consequences of their behavior, including any cost incurred as result of behaviors that are contrary to these rules.

St. Joseph's Parish Code of Conduct for Youth in Levels 8-12

Participating in Parish Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

Programs and Activities

Youth's Affirmation of the Code of Conduct

I, _____,
(Youth's name printed)

have read the Code of Conduct and I understand what is expected of me. I agree to honor this Code of Conduct as long as I participate in St. Joseph's Faith Formation and Youth Ministry programs and activities.

(Signature of Youth)

(Date)

Parent or Guardian's Affirmation of the Code of Conduct

I, _____,
(name printed)

have read the Code of Conduct and understand what is expected of my child while participating in St. Joseph's Faith Formation and Youth Ministry programs and activities.

(Signature of parent or guardian)

(date)