

Religious Education Policy

(2018)

RE expectations for participation- Grades 7 and 8

- **Attendance is critical for the religious education process to be meaningful. We stipulate that 7th and 8th graders not miss more than one class as they meet only once or twice a month. As you may know, sometimes your child will be able to make up the class the following week- sometimes, however, the subject will have already been covered. IF YOUR CHILD IS IN GROUP B, PLEASE SEND THEM TO GROUP A IF YOU KNOW IN ADVANCE THAT HE OR SHE CANNOT MAKE THEIR SCHEDULED CLASS. If the class is totally missed, it will count as an absence and there will be an assignment given for the first absence. The coordinator will reserve the right to review each case and decide whether or not a young person should remain in the program after more than one absence. It is impossible to recreate the catechetical model used during this program (general presentation, small group break-outs, etc.) therefore, even in the case of illness, it still may be beneficial to repeat the process.**
- **Parents and caregivers should not schedule other activities during RE. When it is absolutely necessary that a young person leave a session early, the parent should call in advance and make arrangements with the coordinator for picking up the child. The 7th or 8th grader will have to be signed out and the individual will be asked for proper identification.**

- **When the 5PM Mass begins on November 5, ALL parents/families - A & B - are expected to participate in the Mass with their child. This Mass began for the convenience of Confirmation prep families, however it was not meant to be a Mass where young people were “dropped-off.” It is a parish Mass where all families are welcome. Candidates and their families should also be attending Mass each weekend throughout the year regardless of class schedules. Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation, the purpose of which is to ready the candidate to participate fully in the Eucharist. Please rethink having a young person prepare for Confirmation if there is no intention to worship God communally on a regular basis.**
- **Parents and caregivers are asked to bring their child to each session on time and pick them up on time. Parents may drop the children off curbside however the safest practice would be to park and accompany your child or carpool group into Madonna Hall or at least watch them enter the Spirituality Center.**
- **As far as dismissal, parents must enter the Spirituality Center and sign their child or carpool group out. We know signing out is an inconvenience but it for the safety of your children.**
- **Parents should email ReligiousEd@StMarysColtsNeck.org when their child cannot make class.**

- **Supplies: Your child should come prepared each week with workbook and pen or pencil. The workbook is your child's book to write in and keep. If a book is lost, it can be replaced at a cost of \$25.00**
- **Young people must be respectful to all adults and to each other. Parents will be made aware of disciplinary problems. In some cases, parents may be asked to attend with their child.**
- **Young people should not bring any electronic devices to class. If they bring cellphones they must be placed on the table where the facilitator may see them.**
- **Cancellations: If a session is to be cancelled due to inclement weather, a Constant Contact email will be sent and the cancellation will be posted on the web page. Some facilitators may have a chance to call their group. This is why it is critical not to Opt—Out of email from St Mary Parish!**
- **We do need help with our programs! If you can volunteer to help regularly, please let me know. If you cannot, you will be assigned to help at least once during the year.**
- **Parents must make the religious education coordinator aware of any medical conditions, physical restrictions, or allergies so that each young person will be healthy and safe while with us during any program. This**

would include changes throughout the year. In certain cases, a parent may be asked to stay with his or her child.

- It would be very helpful if parents would make us aware of learning differences (each year) and other circumstances in the family that would help the catechist or facilitator better serve the needs of the young person. This information would be kept confidential and released only as the parent/guardian instructed. In some cases, a parent may be asked to stay with his or her child.
- Parent must make the religious education coordinator aware of any changes in phone numbers so that we can maintain contact. Email changes must be made through the parish office. If you unsubscribe to Constant Contact anywhere, you will unsubscribe here, and we communicate mostly through email. We also communicate through the web page for RE as well as the E-letter and Facebook for all parish events.

Thank you for the privilege of working with your children!!