

FAITH FORMATION POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

The goal of the Faith Formation ministries is to provide a welcoming and nurturing experience for children and youth. Parents are asked to make every effort to assure that children/youth attend every session, arriving and leaving on time. If a participant is to be absent, parents are asked to notify the catechist/leader prior to the session.

Pre-school - Grade 8: If a child is absent more than two consecutive times, a staff member will call the parent to converse about the absences.

Good Shepherd/Godly Play PreK and K and Finding God elementary programs: A parent or designated adult must bring and pick-up their child from their room. A parent must also sign the attendance sheet provided by the leader.

High School FIC Groups: If a youth is absent more than two times per season (fall or spring), a staff member will call the parent to converse about the absences.

CONDUCT

All children are expected to be respectful of themselves, their peers, catechists, and facilities. Offenses that could result in being asked to leave the program include, but are not limited to:

- Assaulting another person (verbal, physical, or otherwise)
- Possession, use, or distribution of cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, or weapons
- Possession or circulation of obscene or pornographic materials
- Theft
- Intentional mischief or defacing the premises
- Inappropriate language

If a child is disruptive to the group, the child will be redirected and, if necessary, given a warning. If the situation continues, the catechist will consult with the coordinator of faith formation program. If the circumstances persist, the parent's help and cooperation will be sought. In summary:

- First: Warning to the child from the catechist
- Second: Private talk with the coordinator
- Third: Parents' help and cooperation sought. This may necessitate a phone call home for the child/youth to be picked up by the parent. The program coordinator is allowed to arrange a meeting with parents and catechist(s) before the child/youth is allowed to return

WEATHER CANCELATION

For weekday sessions: If Eden Prairie School District 272 cancels school and/or evening activities due to weather or other circumstances, our programs will also be canceled.

For weekend sessions: The Pax Christi Faith Formation staff will determine cancellations based on weather or other circumstances.

Families will be notified of cancellations via Flocknote (text and email) by 3:30 pm on the day of scheduled evening programming and by 2:00 pm on the day of scheduled afternoon programming. Weather cancellation notices will also be available at www.paxchristi.com/weather.

SNACKS

Parents are welcome to provide snacks for middle school and high school small groups only. However, there are youth and adults with severe food allergies that could react to ingredients in some snacks. When choosing a snack to share always ask the group leader ahead of time whether or not there are children with food allergies in the group and, if so, which ingredients. Regardless of the answer, **always avoid** peanuts, peanut oil, and peanut butter. Peanut oil on a banister or door handle can be very harmful to those with peanut allergies.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION POLICIES

The sacramental preparation process is part of our faith formation programs. This includes the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. Registration for our programs occurs in the late summer through fall and can be found at that time on our web page. Please contact the program ministers with questions.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

It is our policy that in order to participate in the sacrament preparation process for First Reconciliation/First Eucharist, your child needs to be either registered and regularly attending one of our faith formation programs the entire year of the sacrament, or attending a Catholic school.

Confirmation

While our main Confirmation preparation elements will still happen the year the candidate is confirmed (typically 10th, 11th, or 12th grade), Confirmation candidates will also be expected to participate in our high school Faith Formation program (Faith Interest Connectors) during the year **before** being confirmed. For example, if a youth is planning to be confirmed in 10th grade, then they will need to be an active part of our FIC program during both the fall and spring seasons of their 9th grade year as well. *NOTE: If the youth is enrolled at a Catholic school during the year before Confirmation, this expectation is waived.*