

SACRED HEART OF THE HILLS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Please read through the following information carefully. Your family should have an understanding of the Religious Education guidelines in order to achieve a positive experience for all those involved in the program.

1. CLASS TIME

Grades One through Eight meet on Monday at 4:30 – 6:00 p.m., 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., or Wednesday evening at 6:00 - 7:30 p.m Please know when you have been scheduled.

The RCIC program (for children older than second grade who have not been baptized and / or have not received First Eucharist or Reconciliation) will meet on Sunday mornings. This program is in addition to weekly religious education classes.

2. TARDINESS

Please make every effort to arrive on time for Religious Education Classes. Our limited class time makes every minute extremely precious. Help us to make our program the very best it can be. ARRIVE PROMPTLY!

3. DROP OFF/ PICK UP AND TRAFFIC FLOW

Please understand that safety is our greatest concern.

- Students ages 5 - 9 should be escorted to and from their classroom by a parent. These parents should be entering the parking lot from the driveway in front of the parish center and Church. They should then, park their cars and walk with their children into the building and to class. When leaving the parking lot, parents should use the Briarvale driveway.
- Students ages 10 and older may be dropped off in front of the Parish Center doors. If you wish to accompany your children into the building, please use the above procedure.
- **Regardless of your child's age, please pick them up at their classroom door. Children will not be released without a parent or other adult present. We don't want any children crossing the driveway without an adult. When picking up your children, enter the driveway in front of the Church, park your car IN THE LOT, (No parking is allowed in the driveway), and remember to exit using the Briarvale driveway.**

This may not be convenient for you, but the safety of the children is our primary concern. Most of our classes will end after dark. By implementing this policy, we are doing our best to avoid a tragedy.

4. DISCIPLINE

Our students are generally quite cooperative and well behaved. However, a discipline policy is in effect for those who may choose to be exceptions to the rule.

All students in Religious Education Classes are expected to conduct themselves with respect, not only for their own benefit, but also for the welfare of the Catechists and fellow students. **There is to be no cell phone or text messaging during class time.** Catechists graciously give of their time and talents in order to share their understanding of our faith. In doing so, they enhance and enrich the faith lives of the children of Sacred Heart Parish. This cannot begin to take place if a child becomes a constant disciplinary problem. Therefore, Catechists will NOT be asked to serve as disciplinarians for those young people who will not cooperate on a consistent basis.

Students choosing to behave inappropriately will be asked to visit the building supervisor and/or director. A pattern of inappropriate or inconsiderate behavior will necessitate a meeting with parents and a member of the Religious Education Staff. If it is determined that the problem cannot be rectified, the student will have to be home schooled.

5. ATTENDANCE

Consistent class attendance is absolutely necessary to good Catholic, Christian formation. Each lesson builds upon previous lessons. In order to achieve a true understanding of doctrine and faith each step must be covered. Occasional absences are understandable, however, when the point is reached where a young person is missing far too many classes, the family will be contacted by the director. It will then become necessary for special arrangements to be made in order to make up material that has been missed.

6. SNOW POLICY

If weather becomes inclement, the Religious Education office will contact the catechists and fan-out volunteers. The catechists and fan-out volunteers will be responsible for contacting the children who are Oldest/Only in their class. Class cancellations due to weather, will also be noted on the parish voice mail system. **If the local school systems cancel classes, it does not necessarily mean that Religious Education classes are cancelled.** Sometimes the weather in the morning will improve by the time classes are to meet later in the day. If you don't hear from someone by 3:00 p.m., class will be held that day. Also, please check the parish website for information on classes cancellations: www.esacredheart.org

7. PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

The Archdiocese of Detroit is committed to providing a safe environment for all who worship, work or participate in activities at our parishes and schools. We are particularly concerned that our children are kept safe both on and off church property. This is a continuation of initiatives of protecting God's children. Parents are welcome to attend the Archdiocese workshop – Protecting God's Children. For further information go to www.aodonline.org.

The Religious Education Department thanks you for your cooperation and invites you to contact us with your concerns and questions. Our phone number is 248-852-3620 or email mstach@esacredheart.org. Also, please check out our website www.esacredheart.org for the latest Religious Education calendar and information.