

Attendance Guidelines for St. Bernard Religious Education Program

As a Catholic parent, at your child's Baptism you promised to raise your child in the ways of the faith. You do this by taking them to Mass on Sunday, teaching them to pray, providing them with the opportunity for religious formation, and bringing them into the Sacramental life of the Church.

We appreciate that you have chosen Saint Bernard to participate in the faith formation of your family. For the Family Faith Formation program to work adequately, it relies on the staff and volunteers as well as the parents assuming an active role in the faith formation of their children. Having regular attendance in Faith Formation classes is an important component to your child's religious formation. The staff and volunteers have committed their time and energy to making sure that your child has a successful time learning about their church and their faith.

In order to assure that your child gets that most benefit from our program, we ask that you abide by the following guidelines:

- Families should seek to have an 80% attendance rate throughout the year. Children enrolled in the Faith Formation classes are expected to attend the scheduled classroom/family sessions regularly with no more than 3 absences per year (The number of classroom sessions is approximately 12-14 with a small portion of those being "family" sessions instead of classroom sessions)
- One parent is invited/asked to attend the adult education session at the same time the children are at class.
- Children enrolled in Sacramental Preparation (*First Eucharist, First Reconciliation, Confirmation*) are expected to attend BOTH the classes for Family Faith Formation and Sacrament Preparation.
- Because our program is not a weekly program, completion of at-home pamphlets or other at home assignments are a vital component of the St. Bernard partnership for family formation.
- Children participating in St. Bernard sports activities who do not meet the following guidelines, risk their eligibility to continue in those sports activities. Attendance issues will be reported to the Athletics Director.

As always, we recognize that life can sometimes present situations that prevent you from adhering to these guidelines. All we ask is that the program Coordinator be notified of any extenuating circumstances that prevent your family from meeting the above. Together we will work on arranging alternate plans for your family's faith formation.

Fr. Chuck Walker
Pastor

Mrs. Cyndi Marlow
Coord. of Religious Education