



Dear Parents and Guardians.

8/1/2024

The Church refers to the family as the Domestic Church. You are the first and best teachers of your children in the faith. We are excited to assist you in the faith education of your children, but we cannot do this alone. We must work in tandem to assure our children grow in ability to perform the work necessary to attain their highest goal in life; the eternal happiness of Heaven. The reason for our existence on earth is to know, love and serve God in this world so as to be happy with Him in the next. One hour a week cannot prepare your child for an active faith life and to that end, we are asking you, as parents and guardians, to agree to the following to assist Nativity in forming your children in gaining the rewards of eternity.

1. **Review lessons and prayers with your child throughout the week.**
2. **Be Consistent in attendance at Faith Formation**
3. **Pray with your child every day.**
4. **Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.**

The Church fights a tragic battle every year of offering our children education, sacramental preparation and the Sacraments of Initiation while our young people do not attend Mass. We will be instructing your children in the Ten Commandments. **And we especially bring your attention to the most ignored commandment: the Third Commandment, which states to keep holy the Lord's day.** For Catholics, this means to assist at Mass. If you are not regularly attending Mass, or are approaching the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation with the attitude of merely receiving these precious gifts but not continuing the practice of the faith, I respectfully ask you to ***strongly*** consider why you are sending your children to Faith Formation. Every Sacrament gives us Sanctifying Grace UNLESS you are not in a state of grace. A serious sin removes that grace until rectified with Confession. To understand the Mass and the teachings of the Church, we must understand what is happening. That means getting your child to Faith Formation is of dire necessity. It is more important than birthday parties, soccer practice, football or just taking a week off because you're tired. To that end, we are **only allowing 3 absences for the entire year** unless there is an emergency. After 3 absences, you will be contacted personally. The teachers we have are volunteers giving their time for your child, it is a great effort for them to be here. They will not be planning activities for absences for the convenience of a student missing unnecessarily! If you must miss, all communication should be directed to Mrs. Taddeo at faithformation@nativitycatholic.net to have a single source. This will avoid confusion. Absences that are not notated will be considered unexcused.

With great love for your family,

Rev. Jerry Strange, Pastor



As to attendance, we are continuing our 3 absence policy unless there is an emergency. We also understand that sickness plays a part and we don't want children to come when they are sick. However, sickness should be of a serious nature. If they could make it to school, or a party, they can make it to Faith Formation.

We are going to hold strongly to the 3 absences. We have so much time off for Fall break, Christmas break, Spring break, Easter, etc.... that it is not impossible to uphold our policy. In fact, our attendance has continued to improve each year.

If you must miss, all communication should be directed to Mrs. Taddeo at faithformation@nativitycatholic.net to have a single source. This will avoid confusion. Absences that are not notated will be considered unexcused.

Please sign below that you agree to these conditions and return to your child's teacher. In the case of several children, just return to either teacher or the Faith Formation Office. Keep the first page of the letter, we only need this signed sheet back.

I (please print your name clearly) _____, parent/guardian of (list all children and grade)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- ☐ I agree to review weekly lessons and prayers with my child(ren).
- ☐ I agree to pray with my child(ren) daily.
- ☐ I agree to attend Mass regularly with my child(ren).
- ☐ I understand that my child may not switch classes mid year and may not make up a class during another class time.
- ☐ I agree to follow the attendance and communication requirements.
- ☐ I agree to only 3 absences for the '23-'24 Faith Formation year unless it is an emergency.
- ☐ I understand that if my child cannot maintain attendance, they will be asked to be homeschooled. If it is a sacrament year (Holy Communion/Confirmation) the year must be repeated.

Parent Guardian Signature _____

Date _____