

**Catholic Churches**  
**Religious Education Policies**

**Mass Attendance**

Catholic parents should make every effort to ensure that all members of their families attend one of many Sunday Masses available in this area each weekend. Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church offers one vigil Mass on Saturday (4:00pm), and two Masses on Sunday (7:00am & 11:00am). St. Martin DePorres offers one Mass on Sunday (9:00am). Of course, attendance is easier to monitor if students attend Mass here in our parishes, but we understand that it is sometimes necessary to attend Mass elsewhere. Remember, it is **mandatory** for all practicing Catholics to attend a Mass **every** Sunday (or a Saturday Vigil Mass). **This responsibility belongs to the parents.**

**Reminder:** Weekend weddings and funerals do **not** “count” as a Sunday Mass!

**Discipline**

Any type of conduct that has the effect of disrupting the good order, discipline, safety, or educational atmosphere of the school of religion will not be tolerated. The following are examples of inappropriate behavior:

1. Participating in a fight and/or encouraging disruptive behavior on church property.
2. Showing disrespect to any religion teacher or church personnel.
3. Defacing or vandalizing church property.
4. Loitering in restrooms and/or parked cars.
5. Disruptive behavior in the classroom setting.
6. Inappropriate use of cell phones during class, retreats, or Mass.
7. Improper displays of affection.
8. Use of vulgar or inappropriate language for a faith-filled atmosphere.
9. Bullying, annoying, belittling, or teasing other students.
10. Possessing or using alcoholic beverages, tobacco, drugs, lighters, matches and related paraphernalia.
11. Possessing or using guns, knives, and/or other weapons.
12. Chewing gum or eating and drinking in the classroom, unless part of the class activities.

## Discipline plan

Every religion teacher is authorized to hold every student to a strict accountability for any disorderly conduct in the classroom or on church property.

1. If the students conduct is of a type that would leave no doubt as to its **substantial wrong** in a reasonable person's mind, a **no advance policy** is necessary and the student's misconduct will **immediately** be dealt with by the program director. The Pastor will be notified of the circumstances as soon as possible.
2. Religion teachers are encouraged to utilize various techniques to solve minor problems and disruptions. If these fail, an in-class/in-session warning will be used by the **teacher**.
3. If, after the in-class/in-session warning, a student's misbehavior continues, the student will meet with the program coordinator, or director, to discuss the situation. Depending upon the circumstances, the parent may be called to pick up the child before the class/session ends.
4. If the student continues to misbehave, the **Pastor** will make a decision to determine if, and under what circumstances, the student will be able to continue his/her religious education here at our Lady of the Lake/St. Martin DePorres religious program.

### **Dress Code for Mass and on-site classes/sessions**

Students are expected to dress appropriately when attending Mass and religion classes. Students who are dressed inappropriately will not be allowed to enter the Church, classroom, or Parish halls. Guidelines for dress **prohibit** the following:

1. Shorts. (At Mass)
2. Shorts shorter than 3" above the knees. (In classrooms & Parish halls)
3. Sandals and flip-flops. (At Mass)
4. Tank tops and spaghetti straps.
5. Mesh clothing unless worn over other clothing.
6. Inappropriate clothing featuring vulgar, obscene, or otherwise distracting writing or pictures.
7. Non-prescription sunglasses.
8. Caps, hats, etc. worn in church or the classrooms or Parish halls.

**Note:** The Pastor reserves the right to add, subtract, or make adjustments to these Guidelines.