



St. Edward Catholic Church
Office of Evangelization and Catechesis
281-353-9774 / www.saintedward.org

Religious Education Procedures and Policies for Parents and Students

VIRTUS

VIRTUS is mandatory throughout the Catholic Church in the United States for all who come into regular contact with children not their own. No volunteer or unattended parent will be allowed in the classroom areas without VIRTUS training. Parents may view a list of upcoming Virtus workshops (and register online) at www.virtus.org

SCHEDULING and REGISTRATION

All scheduling of students or requests for changes of days, times, classes must be handled through the OEC. Please contact Mrs. Bernardic, OEC Secretary, at 281-353-9774 x807 or fbernardic@saintedward.org

DRESS CODE

We have the same dress code as the public schools. Garments with pictures or words that do not reflect Christian values are not appropriate and should not be worn to religious education classes.

COMMUNICATION

The OEC uses an email distribution service called Flock Notes to send regular email updates. Please be sure to open and read these emails. A monthly newsletter will also be printed and distributed in class. Please be sure to check the parish website (www.saintedward.org) and weekly bulletin for important information as well.

ATTENDANCE

Without consistent attendance, it is very difficult for young people to learn and form a sense of community. This is true for religious education, and it is especially true for participation in Sunday Mass. Please make regular attendance at Mass and religious education a priority for your family.

DISCIPLINE IN THE CLASSROOM

Students are expected to show proper respect for themselves and others. Since most classes will share space with our parish dayschool, it is very important for parents to impress upon students the importance of respecting the privacy and property of others. Catechists are responsible for clearly explaining the rules of the class; students are responsible for obeying those rules. In cases where students are unable or unwilling to obey class rules, parents will be asked to meet with a member of the OEC staff before students may return to class.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Parent participation is vital to children's faith formation! Please help your child get the most out of their religious education experience by:

- Bringing your child to Mass each week
- Visiting the websites associated with your child's textbook to look at resources, chapter outlines, videos, etc
- Attending Family Class nights on December 7 from 5:30-7pm and March 25 from 6:30-8pm
- Attending adult education while your child is in class. For a complete list of all adult classes this year, go to the parish website at www.saintedward.org and click on "Faith Formation", then "Adult Education and Catechesis"

DISMISSAL

No students will be released to anyone other than a parent without parental permission on file. For the first two weeks of classes, siblings MAY NOT pick up younger siblings (an exception is made for teen drivers who are driving younger siblings home). After that time, siblings will not be released to older siblings without parental permission on file. Highschool students will not be allowed to drive away with a peer without written permission from both student and peer's parents. Door monitors will be in place to assure this policy is enforced.