

**St. Mark - Fallston**  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICIES**

*The most important way that we bring the love of Jesus Christ to our children is through our examples of faith. As Catholic families we have a responsibility to attend Mass every weekend. We teach the children that it is a sin to miss Mass.* The Third Commandment  
**“Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.”** Exodus 20:8

Students enrolled in the Religious Education Programs for St. Mark must complete the year with active participation both by registering for and attending classes regularly or both by registering for and following the requirements for the Family Home Study program.

1. **Courtesy and Respect** for all, in and out of the classroom is expected. We will especially stress the importance of good manners in word and deed. We ask that you reinforce the importance of proper behavior, especially toward your child's Volunteer Catechist (teacher.) ***Please make it a point to know their names and help your child to know them as well.*** When a young person demonstrates any of the following behaviors in class: shouting out in class, talking while others are reading/speaking, inappropriate comments, or torn/damaged texts (in general - showing a lack of respect for the teacher, their classmates, themselves, and church property) they will be sent to the office with their book. They will be given the opportunity to complete the lesson in the office. This will include the written responses as well as any homework. They will be allowed to return to the classroom for the next scheduled class. However, if they cannot continue in a respectful manner, they will again be sent to the office at which time the parent will be called to come to pick him/her up. \*If a text book is damaged there will be a \$20.00 cost to replace it.
2. All electronic games, music devices and cell phones **are not allowed** in class. Please remind your child that they are not to bring them into the classroom. ***If these items are seen they will be taken away and a parent will need to come into the office at pick up time to get the item back.***
3. Dress Code – please be sure that all clothing is modest and if attire includes art or messages, be sure that they are morally acceptable. Please **do not wear** Heely's or Cleats in the building. (This is for safety and building maintenance concerns.)
4. **Student's attendance**, respect, attention, and participation will be expected for every class. Students should report directly to their classrooms upon arrival at the Center. Enter and leave by the front doors only.
  - 4a. Students should be **ON TIME** and **prepared** with their books for class. Sunday classes are scheduled to begin at 10AM and end at 10:55AM, Monday classes are scheduled to begin at 6:30PM and end at 8PM. Wednesday afternoon classes begin at 4:45PM and end at 6PM.
  - 4b. Students who are absent must bring a note to the office the following class. Any student who expects to miss more than 3 classes should elect the Family Home Study option. When a student is going to be absent from class, please call the Religious Education office (410-879-1706) to excuse the student from class. Prolonged absences should be discussed with the Administration. **Extremely poor attendance may prevent a child in a sacramental program from being eligible to receive that sacrament.**
5. Students names should be put in their book. **Text books should go home regularly and they are expected to be brought back to class each week.**

***CONTINUED ON BACK***

6. When a student is to be dismissed early the **parent/driver must come to the building** to sign out the child. Notes written by the parent may be brought to the Office Monitor prior to the start of class. Upon picking your child up you will be given a dismissal slip to take to the hall monitor who will approach the classroom to get the child/ children. This is for the protection of all the students and catechists in the building. Students are not permitted to leave the building to meet a parent or driver; it is essential for someone to come into the building to get them.
7. Please notify the Religious Education office of any change of address, phone numbers, or email addresses.
8. Refer to the Religious Education Calendar for class dates and times. **There will be times when the public schools are closed BUT we WILL have class.** When Harford County public schools are closed or close early due to bad weather, our classes will automatically be cancelled. If the weather worsens after schools have dismissed for the day or on the weekend, radio station WBAL will carry our announcement of cancellations, our parish web site will be updated and our emergency phone chain will be activated. In many cases our phone message will also indicate cancelations.
9. At dismissal times, **adults should not go downstairs to pick up their child/children** (due to the narrow hallways). Children in grades 1 & 2 will be dismissed in the auditorium. Parents of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders should wait inside the auditorium, away from the doorway entrance, and exit through the side door. **Please keep the lobby free of adults for the safety of the children.** Parents of children in grades 3-8 should wait outside as these children will be dismissed from the concrete area in front of the Center. **NO CHILD IN GRADES 1-5 WILL BE ALLOWED TO WALK THROUGH THE PARKING LOT WITHOUT AN ADULT.**

#### **POLICIES SPECIFIC TO FAMILY HOME STUDY**

1. Participants will be required to complete the text books Unit Reviews. Chapter Reviews are NOT to be turned in but we encourage using them as part of your lesson review. Unit Reviews are in the text books and should be completed with the students name on each page and torn out of the text and turned into the Office. Unit reviews should be turned into the Office of Faith Formation during each large group gathering or by those dates. It is important for us to be sure that we keep a record of a student's active participation and successful completion in the program.
2. Families participating in the Home Study Program will be required to attend 4 gatherings during the year. (Friday September 30, 2011; Friday December 2, 2011; Friday March 2, 1012; and Friday April 27. 2012) These meetings will begin at 7PM and will last approximately 1 hour.
3. Students, who are eligible, are encouraged to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent.
4. Each family will be provided with a final evaluation of the year. Evaluations should be completed and returned to the Office of Faith Formation no later than June 30, 2012.
5. Please review the in-class policies for the items that may be appropriate to attendance on the St. Mark Campus during the Family Home Study meetings. Special attention to item #'s 2,3,7, and 8.