



At St. Mary Church
Sundays during the 10:30am Mass

Parent Guidelines and Policies

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

St. Mary's is pleased to offer our faith nursery ministry during the 10:30am Sunday Mass from September through June (except for holiday weekends). The purpose of our "Little Angels Club" nursery to encourage the best possible worship experience for parents by assuring them that their children are growing in their faith, safe, and well cared for during mass.

Parents can attend mass while their 6-month to 4-year old children are cared for and nurtured in the basics of our Catholic faith. Our faith nursery volunteers minister to the youngest members of our parish to help them live, pray, and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Our nursery is staffed by trained and certified parents, adult and teen volunteers.

"Little Angels Club" Guidelines for Parents:

We have established these parental guidelines to be sure that our children (6 months to 4 years old) are well cared for during our faith nursery ministry:

1. Arrive by 10:15am to fill out paperwork and allow your child a few minutes to get acclimated. If you are already registered, you need only sign in your child(ren).
2. Please hand your child(ren) to one of the volunteers at the nursery room door to avoid overcrowding the room, and putting any other children at risk.
3. Sign your child in and out of nursery care each Sunday he/she attends. Write your cell phone number in case you need to be reached during mass (Make sure your phone is on vibrate and that you have it with you!).
4. Be sure to notify a nursery volunteer of any allergies, special instructions or medical needs your child may have. Snacks, such as Goldfish or Animal crackers, may be provided, unless you tell us otherwise. We also provide small water bottles.
5. Be sure to leave your diaper bag, with all items clearly marked with your name: formula, diapers, wipes, extra underwear/clothes and any special food or beverages for your child (if needed). Be sure any other items you send with your child are clearly marked with your name.
We do have diapering supplies at the nursery. However, if your child is sensitive to disposable diapers or wipes, please provide your own and make sure the volunteers are aware.
6. The nursery opens 15 minutes before mass and promptly closes when mass has ended. Children will only be released to adults listed on your registration form.
7. Please do not leave the parish grounds while your children are in our care.

"Little Angels Club" Policies for Parents:

Emergency Policy:

In the case of a medical emergency, a volunteer will come to get you in the church. Be sure the place you usually sit during mass is noted on your registration form and you have with you the cell phone that's associated with the number noted on the weekly sign-in sheet. You will be called if you cannot be located in the church.

In event of a fire or other emergency, volunteers will follow the emergency plans posted in the nursery. Children will be led to the far side of the upper parking lot. Please discuss any questions or concerns with the nursery co-director on duty.

Illness Policy:

To keep our children healthy, a child with any of the following will not be permitted in the faith nursery:

- Runny nose (colored discharge)
- Head lice (child should be free from all nits)
- Inflamed mouth or throat
- Coughing/sneezing
- Chest congestion/labored breathing
- Diarrhea/vomiting within the past 24 hours
- Fever within the past 48 hours
- Listlessness/unusual fatigue or irritability/excessive crying
- Open sores
- Contagious disease (such as chicken pox/pink eye)

If your child is taking any antibiotics, he/she should have received treatment for at least 24 hours before coming to nursery care.

To prevent accidental overdoses, our nursery policy prohibits volunteers from administering any medications. General first aid, such as applying bandages to minor scrapes or diaper rash cream is permitted.

If a parent or child has had a fever within 48 hours, they are contagious and should not be in the nursery. If you believe that your child may be sick or is getting sick, please do not bring them for mass-time nursery care. Volunteers follow this same guideline and will get a substitute if they are ill.

Inconsolable Children:

Nursery volunteers will make every effort to engage unhappy children. If a volunteer feels that a child is inconsolable, she/he will follow the instructions on the child's registration form. These efforts will be attempted to console the child as age appropriate:

- Check and change diaper if needed
- Offer baby a bottle
- Swaddle and rock baby
- Distract child with a toy/book
- Attempt to interact child with others
- Ask another volunteer for assistance

Discipline:

The safety of children must be maintained at all times. No throwing, biting, hitting, kicking or foul language will be used. If a child expresses this behavior, remind them to follow the nursery rules. Use of time-out is not permitted, unless the parent authorizes its use. Use of physical force or yelling is never allowed.

Any correction should address only the behavior ("no hitting") and never the character of the child ("bad boy/girl"). Also, we will tell the child the behavior expected ("No hitting. Please use your words to say what you want").

Sign-In & Out Policy:

- Every child must be signed in by a parent upon entering the nursery. No children will be allowed to stay at the nursery unless they have a registration form on file.
- If a child has special needs, be sure that they are addressed when dropped off and signed in.
- Do not permit a sick child to attend the nursery that day.
- All diaper bags and personal items must be marked with their name and given directly to nursery volunteers.
- Children will not be released to anyone not listed on their registration form. Older siblings are not allowed to pick up children.

Acknowledgement Form

I _____ acknowledge that I have read and understood the policies and guidelines as they pertain to me as a parent. I hereby confirm I will abide by the policies and guidelines.

Signature: _____ Date: __ / __ / ____