

Communication Guidelines

St. Philip's Youth Ministry and Faith Formation

All parents are invited and encouraged to take an active and ongoing role in Youth Ministry and Faith Formation. Your participation is not only encouraged, it is necessary and is vital to the spiritual formation of your children. Parents are the first and primary teachers of our Catholic faith to their children. St. Philip's Faith Formation and Youth Ministry supports parents in their role as primary teachers by working cooperatively with parents, by providing faith formation opportunities to our youth and their parents, by gathering a community of believers who are peers of their children, and by offering pastoral ministry to enrich the spiritual growth of our young people and their families.

In an effort to keep effective, current and in touch with youth; Youth Ministry and Faith Formation would like to propose the Guidelines for Communication via cell phones, mail and email. Youth Ministry and Faith Formation as ministry done with, by, and for young people create numerous opportunities for youth and adults to interact. This interaction is so very important because "disciples make disciples" and yet some guidelines need to be outlined and followed. The following guidelines apply to youth actively involved in ongoing ministries in the life of the parish.

General Guidelines:

- Adults involved in Youth Ministry and/or Faith Formation leadership, with staff approval, may use contact information provided to contact youth regarding topics relating to Youth Ministry and/or Faith Formation.
- Communication should be non-person specific when possible (general texts or emails to the entire group).
- Communication between leadership and youth should involve parent and staff awareness. Parents whenever possible should be given the option of receiving the same "texts" or "emails".
- Personal communication or non-youth ministry related conversations *promoted by adults* in Youth Ministry and/or Faith Formation leadership via text/email/phone between adults and youth is not appropriate.
- It is acceptable for a youth to communicate directly using texts, email or phone with leadership in Youth Ministry and/or Faith Formation and expect a response.
- Any communication between leadership in Youth Ministry and /or Faith Formation and youth that feels inappropriate, hurtful, confusing, threatening, or awkward SHOULD be saved and communicated to parents, staff or pastor.
- Any communication via text, email, mail, or phone between leadership in Youth Ministry and/or Faith Formation and youth should be considered "public".
- Sporadic affirmations and encouragements that do not seek to engage or make youth feel obligated to dialogue using phone, email, mail, texting between leadership and youth is appropriate.

Cell Phone Guidelines

- Adults and youth will not communicate during school hours or after 9pm, except if warranted (example – event canceled for the evening).
- Contact information will not be shared/forwarded by adults to other parties outside of St. Philip's Church.