

St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church Youth Ministry Code of Conduct Protocol

Purpose:

Our Youth Ministry Code of Conduct Protocol aims to strengthen our youth ministry programs by providing clear guidelines for youth ministry leaders, parents, and students. These protocols help ensure that everyone in our youth community feels safe, respected, and supported in their spiritual growth and fellowship.

Step 1: Initial Concern -

- Action: The Youth Ministry Leader meets with the child to address the behavior in question, emphasizing the importance of our community values and the expectations in our Code of Conduct. Other ministry leaders may be included in this discussion at the original ministry leader's discretion.
- Documentation: An incident report is completed and emailed to the parents, explaining the situation and summarizing the conversation.
- Goal: To resolve the concern through guidance and understanding.

Step 2: Conference with Priest

- Action: Upon a second incident, a meeting is conducted with the Priest, Parish Council President, Youth Ministry Leader, parent(s), and child to address the ongoing behavior concerns. A formal warning is issued, and options for improvement are discussed.
- Documentation: A formal report is documented and shared with all parties involved.
- Goal: To involve spiritual leadership and convey the seriousness of adhering to the Code of Conduct for the benefit of the community.

Step 3: Recess and Reflection Period

- Action: After a third incident, the child is placed on a "break" from all youth ministry programs. The recommended duration is 30 days, but may be modified based on the age of the student.
- Reinstatement Requirement: To return, the child must submit a written apology, including what they've learned and their commitment to abiding by the Code of Conduct.
- Goal: To provide time for reflection and an opportunity for the child to demonstrate a renewed commitment to the values of our community.

Step 4: Discretionary Final Action

- In the event that there are continual incidents with a student, the ministry leaders and priest will convene to make an appropriate plan for that specific student and situation.
- Parents and the student will be notified of the plan and are required to adhere to whatever is decided.

These guidelines are designed to maintain a respectful, safe, and spiritually enriching environment for all involved.