



Our Guiding Principle

"The Christian family can and should be called the Domestic Church." - Familiaris Consortio, St. John Paul II, 1981

Our Mission

It is our mission to serve the Catholic homeschool community within St. Joseph's Parish and the Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida. Through our sponsored activities, we provide regular opportunities for spiritual, social, and educational growth as we strive to support one another in our children's Catholic home education.

Responding to the call of Pope Saint John Paul II, "As the domestic church, the family is summoned to proclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of life." We live this teaching by both home educating our children and participating in the life of the parish.

Our Purpose

The JP II Homeschool Ministry community exists to support one another in faith, family life, and the pursuit of academic excellence at home. Our shared mission is rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church and in the belief that all are called to live and act with charity, humility, and respect.

This Code of Conduct outlines expectations for all member families and their guests participating in JP II Homeschool Ministry programs, physical education, classes, field trips, events, social gatherings, online communications, and other activities.

Expectations for Conduct

1. Faith and Respect

All participants are expected to model Christian virtue in words and actions. Respect toward others, adults, children, and volunteers, is to be shown at all times. We strive to reflect the values of kindness, patience, honesty, and self-control in all interactions.

2. Safety and Supervision

Parents and guardians are responsible for their children's behavior and supervision at all activities, unless another arrangement has been clearly communicated and approved. Members are also responsible for the conduct of any guests they bring to JP II Homeschool Ministry events.

3. Courtesy and Communication

Members will communicate with charity and goodwill, both in person and in all written or online correspondence related to JP II Homeschool Ministry. Concerns should be brought respectfully to leadership or event coordinators for resolution. Conversations, messages, and images shared via text, email, or in online groups or communications related to the ministry should reflect the same charity and discretion expected in person.

4. Appropriate Behavior

Members and their children shall:

- Use language and behavior that uphold Christian values.
- Show respect for adults in authority and for all members.
- Refrain from any form of bullying, harassment, or exclusion.
- Demonstrate cooperative and positive participation in group activities.
- Obey all safety instructions given related to JP II Homeschool Ministry activities and events

Participants must treat all individuals with dignity and Christian charity. Bullying, harassment, or the use of threatening, mocking, or derogatory language in any form, spoken, written, or electronic, is strictly prohibited. Members are expected to act in ways that build up, not tear down, the community.

Participants must not touch or engage with others in any physically aggressive, intimidating, or sexually inappropriate manner. Respect for personal boundaries is always required.

Any form of sexually inappropriate, threatening, or harassing behavior is strictly prohibited. This includes spoken comments, gestures, or actions that violate the moral and behavioral standards of a Catholic organization.

5. Fellowship and Appropriate Relationships

Our activities are designed to build a strong, faith-centered community rooted in group participation and Christian friendship.

- JP II Homeschool Ministry activities are group-oriented, and any pairing or “coupling” between youth participants is not permitted. We encourage all members to focus on shared fellowship and inclusion rather than exclusive relationships.
- If you see a new face or someone who seems alone, please make them feel welcome and introduce yourself. We are one community in Christ, and no one should feel excluded or left out.

Public Displays of Affection

Out of respect for the Catholic nature of our ministry and to promote a wholesome, family-friendly environment, public displays of affection are not appropriate at JP II Homeschool Ministry events. A friendly hug in greeting or farewell is acceptable; however, kissing or physical closeness that goes beyond appropriate friendship is not permitted.

6. Dress and Modesty

As members of a Catholic community, modest and appropriate dress is expected at all JP II Homeschool Ministry activities. Participants should choose clothing that reflects respect for self, others, and our shared faith values.

- **General Standards:** Clothing should be neat, modest, and free from offensive or suggestive images or wording. Shorts and skirts should be of modest length, and tops should provide adequate coverage.
- **Athletic Activities:** Modest athletic attire appropriate to the activity is acceptable. Tank tops and athletic wear should still maintain modesty and avoid tight or revealing fits.
- **Church or Faith-Based Events:** Attire should reflect reverence and respect (e.g., no athletic clothing, hats, or distressed attire during church functions or prayer gatherings).
- **Field Trips and Community Events:** Clothing should be modest and activity-appropriate while maintaining the dignity of a Catholic witness in public settings.

Specific Dress Code Guidelines:

To help maintain clarity and consistency across events:

- No cleavage should be visible.
- Dresses and skirts should be no shorter than a hand's width above the knee.
- No "booty shorts."
- No spaghetti straps.
- No cropped or midriff tops (any part of the waist or stomach should remain covered).
- No bikinis at water events.
- Boys: no Speedos; shirts should remain on during all activities.
- *If it's questionable, please choose something else.*

Families are encouraged to discuss modesty guidelines in advance to ensure confidence and consistency across ministry events.

7. Care for Property and Facilities

We are blessed to use facilities belonging to others, including churches, community spaces, city parks, and private homes. Members and guests are expected to treat all property, whether belonging to the church, a host family, or a public venue, with respect. Misuse, damage, defacement, or theft of property or materials will not be tolerated. Each family is responsible for the conduct of their children and guests, and for maintaining a safe and orderly environment.

8. Consequences for Misconduct

JP II Homeschool Ministry reserves the right to ask any person to leave an event or discontinue participation in an activity if behavior is disruptive, disrespectful, unsafe, or contrary to this Code of Conduct. Continued disregard for these standards may result in loss of membership privileges or opportunities to participate in future events.

9. Cooperation and Accountability

All families share responsibility for maintaining our positive, faith-based environment. By working together in goodwill and charity, we ensure that JP II Homeschool Ministry remains a joyful and safe community for everyone.

10. Mobile Phones, Devices, and Social Media

Out of respect for our ministry's focus on community, learning, and faith, personal mobile phones and electronic devices should remain silent and be put away during all ministry activities, including classes, athletic programs, liturgical events, and gatherings.

- Youth and adults should not use phones or devices for entertainment, texting, photography, or social media during ministry events unless directed by a ministry leader for a specific purpose.
- Members and guests will not share personal photos, videos, social media posts, or other personal information related to JP II Homeschool Ministry activities without express permission from all identifiable individuals and families involved.
- At no time may an adult or youth member share photos, web links, or social media posts, whether in person, by email, text, or through any online platform, that are inappropriate, offensive, or inconsistent with the values of a Catholic organization.
- Photos taken for personal or group sharing should always reflect modesty, respect, and privacy standards appropriate to Catholic ministry life.
- Participants may not have, share, or distribute sexually explicit, obscene, or immoral material in any form, including images, videos, publications, websites, or digital platforms, while participating in or representing the ministry.

By minimizing distractions and using technology responsibly, we help protect the integrity, privacy, and faith-centered spirit of our community.

11. Substance Use and Personal Conduct

Participants may not possess, consume, or be under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs at any JP II Homeschool Ministry activity. This includes marijuana and its derivatives (synthetics, vapes, waxes, edibles, or other forms). Such substances have no place in our ministry environment and are contrary to our faith-based mission.

12. Private Agreements Between Members

Occasionally, families may develop personal connections and choose to engage one another for private services such as babysitting, tutoring, pet-sitting, or house-sitting. These personal arrangements are individual and not sponsored, managed, or endorsed by JP II Homeschool Ministry.

It is each participant's personal responsibility to conduct any desired vetting, background checks, and references prior to engaging another member for private needs. The ministry is not liable for any matters arising from private agreements between members.

13. Photo and Media Release

JP II Homeschool Ministry may take photographs or short video recordings during ministry events, classes, liturgies, and other group activities to celebrate our community life and share the mission of Catholic homeschooling. These images may be used in ministry materials such as newsletters, bulletin boards, slideshows, social media, or the JP II Homeschool Ministry website.

By participating in ministry activities, members acknowledge and grant permission for themselves and their children/dependents to be photographed or recorded in both group and candid settings. These images may be used, without names or identifying details, unless previously authorized, for ministry-related purposes only and will not be sold or used for commercial gain.

Families who prefer not to have their child or family photographed or included in ministry media should notify the JP II Homeschool Ministry leadership in writing prior to the first activity of the program year. The ministry will make every reasonable effort to honor such requests.

14. Catch-All Statement

This Code of Conduct cannot anticipate every situation. Members are asked to use good judgment, guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church, this Code of Conduct, and the spirit of mutual respect, modesty, and responsibility in all interactions.

Acknowledgment and Agreement

I/We have read and reviewed the JP II Homeschool Ministry Code of Conduct Agreement and understand its importance in creating a safe and faith-filled community. I/We agree to uphold these expectations and to review them with all children/dependents in our household before participating in any JP II Homeschool Ministry activity.

I/We understand that participation in JP II Homeschool Ministry events and activities is a privilege and that failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct may result in loss of participation in current or future activities.

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Names/Ages of Children in Household: _____

Continued: _____

☐ *I have reviewed this Code of Conduct with my children/dependents.*

This signed form should be returned to a member of the **St. John Paul II Homeschool Ministry** leadership team. Digitally signed or ink-signed copies are accepted.