

# St. Mary's Church

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Alton, IL 62002  
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# The God Squad

“To encourage one another  
and build one another up.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:11

## God Squad Code of Conduct (as of Jan 2019)

Guidelines are needed to promote a fun, safe learning experience for our youth at St. Mary's. The core of the guidelines is *respect* – respect for self, for each other, for leaders, for property, and above all, respect for God. As a privileged member of the God Squad, I pledge to maintain the following:

- I will respect myself, other people (especially the parish staff and adult mentors and leaders), other peoples' property, and the church property.
- I will participate and contribute in a positive way in all group activities.
- I will obey the instructions of the mentors, leaders, and chaperones.
- I will be an encourager, not one who ridicules, makes fun of, or criticizes.
- I will deal peacefully with anger and disagreements. I will not bully or use physical intimidation, sexual harassment, or unjust discrimination.
- I will use language that reflects a Catholic attitude. I will not use offensive words or other foul or derogatory language.
- I will wear clothing that is modest in both cut and fit, and not provocative.
- I will respect others by keeping my hands to myself: no tickling, wrestling, piggyback rides or inappropriate touching (which means: do not touch anyone anywhere that a bathing suit would cover). Boys' and girls' sleeping areas will be strictly enforced.
- I will not be “on a date” at God Squad activities (e.g. holding hands, being socially exclusive, etc.), even if I am in a relationship with another member.
- I will not engage in sexual intimacy of any kind.
- I will not possess or access pornography (including indecent photos/videos of peers).
- I will only post photos and video on social media with others' permission, and I will **always** use social media in a way that reflects well on the reputation of the God Squad.
- I will not use cell phones, or other personal electronic devices during activities without first asking permission from the adult mentors.
- I will stay with the group at all times in the designated area for each activity. If we are on a trip, I will stay with my assigned group.
- I will not leave any activity, service, or trip before its published ending time without approval from a parent or guardian in person or by phone.
- I understand that teen drivers are not allowed to carry other teen passengers to a youth group meeting, activity, or trip without prior written consent from a parent or guardian. Sibling passengers are at the discretion of the parents and do not require written consent.
- I will not use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other illegal drugs **at any time**, especially at a God Squad activity.

**I agree to abide by these guidelines. I understand that breaking this code will result in a warning, or contacting my parents, or being suspended or terminated from the group.**

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Youth Name (Print)

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Youth Signature

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Date

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Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date