



Dear Parents:

Welcome St. Andrew Youth Ministry! **Our youth ministry exists to reach students, connect them with other Catholics, help them grow in their faith, and to challenge the growing to discover their ministry and honor God with their lives.**

St. Andrew Youth Ministry will begin offering a weekly youth group for middle and high school students as well as monthly social or service opportunities for them to build community and put their faith into practice. High school youth group is open to ALL 9th through 12th graders while middle school youth group is open to ALL 6th through 8th graders.

What will youth group look like? Ah, excellent question. The structure of weekly youth group will include the following: a meal shared together as a community after Mass, fun games and activities, a faith-based talk, video, or presentation, small group discussion, and prayer.

Each faith-based teaching will run in a series, building off of one another, and geared towards deepening your child's relationship with Christ in order to fulfill His Great Commission "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19)

Youth ministry is not mandatory, but rather encouraged in order to help your child become a life-long disciple of Christ. While God does not force Himself upon us, I too do not desire youth ministry to be something forced upon your child but rather something they seek out for themselves.

All activities are paid for by the parish in whole or part. In order to continue this and perhaps even entirely eliminate the cost of some events, I ask that each family consider offering a donation to this ministry. There is no donation too small or too large. 100% of all donations are directly used to cover the cost of activities for current youth ministry participants so you can feel confident that your offering will immediately be put to use to support this year's programs.

My contact information is available on every item I send out as well as our bulletin. Please call/text/email anytime. I will also be posting to our Facebook and Instagram page (**St Andrew MB Youth**) about upcoming events.

I will require an RSVP for major events. Imagine trying to throw a party with 400 invited guests and no one has replied...quite the dilemma! Walk-ins are always welcome but please make the effort to give advance notice. Some major events will have RSVP deadlines because they involve a 3rd party (i.e. bus company, hotel, Diocese, material supplier, etc.) that impose a non-negotiable deadline. It is crucial in those cases that parents rsvp on time. Late responses have previously cost the ministry and parents a lot of time and money so please respect all deadlines.

I look forward to this upcoming year and to see what the Lord has in store! Remember, all teens are welcome regardless of religion, race, parish affiliation, etc.

The only requirement to participate is parent permission, respect, and a positive attitude! So, parish teens are encouraged to invite friends.

Thank you and God bless!

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