

The Church of Saint Henry

Discipleship Group Mentor - Job Description

Position Description: Discipleship is apprenticeship in the Christian Life. A Discipleship Group is an all-male or all-female small group of 5-8 youth led by 2 adult mentors, who commit to meeting regularly to grow in holiness together through study, sharing and discussion, prayer, and service. Using the method of “Teach, Show, Try, Do”, a Discipleship Group Mentor leads the group of teens as a mentor in the Christian Life.

Qualifications & Expectations:

Spiritual Expectations

- Desires to serve God with whole life
- Committed to spiritual growth through individual study
- Committed to faithful attendance of Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation
- Committed to daily personal prayer
- Committed to regular Confession (minimum of once a year)
- Committed to living the Precepts of the Catholic Church (see *CCC 2041-2043*)

Behavioral Expectations

- Committed to living as an authentic Christian witness (meaning your lifestyle should be a reflection of Christ: chastity, modesty, sobriety, positive speech and social media usage, support the Church’s teaching especially regarding marriage, sexuality and sexual identity, abortion, euthanasia, etc.). A Mentor’s role requires a genuine personal witness of this life because, “[m]odern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." (*EN 41*)
- Is compliant with the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Policy

Leadership Expectations

- Familiar with the Catechist Handbook
- Committed to attending and participate in scheduled meetings, trainings, and retreats
- Committed to being present and prepared to lead Discipleship Group meetings, according to provided material and syllabus
- Submits any outside material or resources to Director of Faith Formation for approval, prior to teaching
- Communicates with Director of Faith Formation regularly about the Discipleship Group, especially if any problems arise

Qualifications:

- Is an active member of the Church of Saint Henry (or other Catholic Parish) and in good standing with the Catholic Church
- If married, has marriage blessed by the Catholic Church (Sacramental marriage)
- Believes and supports all the Church’s teachings, especially regarding marriage, sexuality, and life
- Is Essential-Three Certified (background check, code of conduct, Virtus training)

Responsibilities:

- Prepare for Discipleship Group Meetings:
 - Review lesson material (video/book, see syllabus)
 - Review discussion questions
 - For home meetings: Communicate with host prior to meetings.
 - Communicate reminders to parents and students
- Lead Discipleship Group Meetings:
 - For each meeting, you and your co-leader should be the first to arrive and the last to leave (essential for home meetings)
 - Each meeting should be structured as “Connect, Discuss, Commit”:
Connect:
 - Create an atmosphere of belonging by getting to know teens. Teens experience conversion in this order: “Belong, Believe, Behave.”
 - Each week you should ask the questions, “1. how are you?”, 2. “how is prayer?”, and 3. “is there anything you want to talk about?”
 - Ask about the previous week’s spiritual growth challenge
 - Begin and end each meeting with prayer*Discuss:*
 - Lead the group in watching or reading the lesson provided (video/book/article, see syllabus) and discussion between segments.
 - Use the method of “Teach, Show, Try, Do” when mentoring virtues or other Christian disciplines
 - Be prepared to share your personal witness on different topics (see *1 Peter 3:15*).*Commit:*
 - At the end of each meeting, commit as group to a challenge
 - End each meeting in prayer
- Plan and Lead a Discipleship Group Service Project
- Support Students’ Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation:
 - Encourage and support students in their selection of, study of, and ongoing relationship with their Confirmation Saint
 - Encourage and support students in their selection of, conversations with, and ongoing relationship with their Confirmation Sponsor
 - Remind students of upcoming Confirmation assignments and due dates (see Confirmation Handbook). Discipleship Group leaders are NOT responsible for collecting assignments
 - Attend Confirmation Retreat (if possible).
- Teach Archdiocesan Safe Environment lesson to group (one a year)
- Connect with Parents:
 - Get to know parents.
 - For home meetings, spend time mingling with the host family before/after the meeting.

- Communicating with parents weekly by sending a follow-up message (e-mail or “Remind” message) with 1. a summary of the lesson and 2. at least one discussion questions that parents can use to talk with their child about that week’s lesson, and 3. details about the next meeting.

Time Commitment:

Training/Meetings:

- Discipleship Group Mentor Training & All Catechist Training: Wednesday, September 8 (7:15-8:15pm), 2021
- 11th & 12th Grade D-Group Reboot: September 15 (7:15-8:15pm), 2021
- Catechist Retreat: Saturday, September 25 (9:00am-3:30pm), 2021
- Discipleship Group Mentor Meetings: TBD
- All Discipleship Group Nights: Most Wednesday evenings, 7:15-8:30pm (See class calendar for dates). Discipleship Group Mentors are expected to arrive early (at least 15 minutes) and remain on-site until all students have left safely
- Discipleship Group Service Project. We ask each Discipleship Groups to plan one a group service project a year. Discipleship Group Mentors must communicate with Director of Faith Formation ahead of time in order to ensure compliance with Safe Environment Policies (chaperones and permission forms)

Personal Preparation:

- Personal preparation for Discipleship Group meeting: about 1-3 hours a week

9th & 10th Grade Confirmation Support (if possible):

- Confirmation Retreat (if possible):
 - Year 1 Confirmation Retreat: Saturday, October 16, 2021 (10am-3:30pm) at the Church of Saint Henry
 - Year 2 Confirmation Retreat: Friday, November 19 (4pm) – Sunday, November 21, 2021 (2pm). Trip to Big Sandy Camp in McGregor
- Confirmation Mass (if possible):
 - Year 2: Saturday, April 3, 2pm Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul

Length of Commitment: Four years (continue with same small group through their four years of high-school)

Responsible To: Jenna Montedonico, Director of Youth Formation and Ministry

Benefits from Position: There is great benefit in being a Discipleship Group Mentor. You will have the opportunity to meaningfully mentor a small group of youth and contribute to their spiritual growth through study, sharing and discussion, prayer, and service. What is unique to Discipleship Groups is it is a four-year commitment, thus providing an incredible opportunity for deep ministry and mentoring.