



ST. HENRY CLUSTER YOUTH EVANGELIZATION

YOUTH MINISTRY

ST. HENRY CLUSTER PARISHES YOUTH EVANGELIZATION

Mission: *By being witnesses of Christ's great love and sharing the faith, we invite youth encounter Jesus Christ, and to fully embrace the adventure He is inviting them to.*

Vision: *Our end goal is to light the world on fire with the love of God and of neighbor. By focusing on one kid at a time, one heart a time, we have the opportunity to be part of a great ripple effect. Our witness of love and sharing the truth touches each heart we encounter. The goal isn't growing a kids' ministry - The goal is growing kids. We invite the kids dig deep to truly encounter God, enter into relationship with Him and empower them so they share this love with those around them. We provide a safe space where all are welcome, can share openly, and nurture friendships rooted in faith. As each heart is set aflame, the fire will continue to spread throughout our families and communities.*

OVERVIEW OF YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Small Groups are a safe space allowing kids to grow in friendships that are rooted in faith, to encounter God and enter into relationship with Him on a deeper, more personal level, and to get to know a mentor in the faith whom they can turn to and learn from. Small groups are the bread and butter of the entire youth evangelization program.

Ladies/Mens Nights are held every other month and are a gentle approach to drawing in kids on a more beginner level. We generally have a talk from someone in the community, then move into a lighter small group setting. The ladies will do a craft of some sort during small group. The men play cards (typically poker) in their small groups. These exist to allow kids to invite their friends to come with them on a more introductory level and to eventually dive-in deeper.

Breakfast Club is held once a week before school at 7am. Students grades 5-12 are all invited. We have donuts and juice together and every week is different. Some weeks students share testimonies with each other, others we play a game and attend mass together (once/month); others, we dive in a little deeper together by asking some challenging questions.

Service Projects vary throughout the year. Every Advent/Christmas season, we do the infamous Midnight Magi project together to serve those who are consistently serving us in the community. We do service with Rustic Hope to help kids understand how they can be actively pro-life here and now. On Good Friday, we gather together with the whole community to put on the Walk for Christ to help our community dive deeper into the greatest mystery of our faith. We hope to make a trip to Haiti or the like in the near future.

Youth Evangelization/Small Group Team

Expectations: Attend bi-weekly gatherings (and any additional men/ladies nights, retreats, service projects you are able) to build relationships and accompany youth on their faith journeys through facilitating small group conversation, sharing testimony, teaching the faith, and prayer.

Everyone has a baptismal call to serve. This is where you can be in a healthy, ministerial relationship with young people helping to lead teens closer to Christ, walking with them wherever they are in their faith journey. You will serve in a mentor-type relationship with teens and to help them understand their Catholic faith. Being a small group leader is about catechesis and relational ministry/discipleship; both teaching and listening. Teens are looking for authentic adults who will listen and walk with them on their journey of faith.

The best youth ministry programs are those that have diversity, being truly 'catholic,' universal; we need leaders that range in all ages, all walks of life, and all spiritual levels. All bring a vital part to our team. All that is needed is a faithful heart, a willing spirit, a love for God's teens, and a desire to help lead them to Christ.

Formation: We'll have a kick-off meeting near the end of summer to get to know each other, introduce the vision and content for the coming year and pray together as a team. Throughout the year, we will meet twice (fall & spring, about 90 minutes) to go through upcoming content, spiritual formation, and discussion.

You'll also be added to our GroupMe and sent updates/faith resources through the year to dive into for your personal growth. I would highly recommend the following resources:

- Watching/listening to The Search on the FORMED app (Visit Formed.org; Click Sign Up; Sign Up as a Parishoner; Find your parish by name or zip; Enter your email - St. Henry Cluster Code: N8WVAY)
- The Chosen series (download The Chosen App – 8 episodes about 1 hour each – trust me, you won't want to stop watching! Helps bring the Gospels to life in a new way.
- Bible in a Year podcast by Fr. Mike Schmitz (15-20 minutes/day)

Schedule: We are looking to create Four Teams. Below you will find a list of days and times for each group's weekly gathering, as well as specially events planned for that group.

Age Group	5 – 6 grades	7 – 8 grades	9 – 10 grades	11 – 12 grades
Days & Times of Gathering (During School Year)	Tuesdays, 3-5 p.m., one/month	Wednesdays, bi-weekly Men: 8-9 p.m. Women: 6-7 p.m.	Wednesdays, bi-weekly Men: 8-9 p.m. Women: 6-7 p.m.	Wednesdays, bi-weekly 8-9 p.m.
Length of Time Team is Needed	3:15-5:15 p.m.	Men: 7:45-9:15 p.m. Women: 5:45-7:15 p.m.	Men: 7:45-9:15 p.m. Women: 5:45-7:15 p.m.	7:45-9:15 p.m.
Special Events (optional; highly encouraged as you're available)	Men/Ladies nights every other month Life in the Spirit Seminar Retreat March 18-20 (grades 8+) JH Retreat March 26-27		Men/Ladies nights every other month HS Retreat December 4-5 Life in the Spirit Seminar Retreat March 18-20	

Support Team

We've heard the expression, "It takes a village..." and youth evangelization is no different.

We are a family comprised of youth (and their families), youth evangelization volunteers, subs, kitchen crew, drivers and chaperones, prayer partners, and donors who desire to see youth fall in love with Jesus Christ, "walk in him, rooted in him and built upon him and established in the faith...abounding in thanksgiving." (Colossians 2: 6-7)

Support Staff are those who are able to volunteer their time on a monthly or as needed basis in any of the following areas:

Youth Evangelization Sub

- Able to sub for a Youth Evangelist (relational ministry/small group)
- Perhaps open to assisting as a small group leader on a retreat.

Youth Evangelization for Special Events

- Perhaps open to assisting as a small group leader on a retreat.
- Willing to assist with service projects (a few times a year - i.e. Midnight Magi, Walk for Christ, Rustic Hope, etc.)

Kitchen Ministry

- Willing to bring dinner/snacks for the youth on Wednesday nights (for approximately 30 people). The hope is to have enough volunteers that they can be on a schedule to cook 1x/month. Food would need to be at the rectory 15 minutes before small groups begin.

Driver (Must be 21+ and insured)

- Willing and able to drive to "one-off" events, such as: Retreats, Movie Nights, Service Projects, etc.

Donors

- Running a youth evangelization program takes cluster resources to cover meals, supplies, and scholarships for retreats and conferences. If you are able to contribute to youth ministry by sponsoring a teen for an event, or making any sort of donation, it will be appreciated.



PERSONAL DISCERNMENT

This page is for your own personal reflection. You will not be asked for it.

Use the following as a practical “examine” and discernment of your heart and mind (where is God calling you to serve, in Youth Evangelization or elsewhere).

TAKEN

Am I offering God my gifts and talents, allowing Him to do as He pleases? Have I surrendered to His will for my vocation? Am I spending time in prayer, forming my own spirituality and relationship with God, so that I can then offer Jesus to others?

BLESSED

Am I seeking the peace of God in all things? Am I looking for that peace as a sign of knowing I am where He wants me?

BROKEN

Am I honest with God and myself about my struggles? Am I honest in seeking grace through the Sacraments, especially Reconciliation? Am I living my life in line with the Catholic Church and its teachings?

SHARED

Am I selfless in my giving? Do I take teens for granted? Do I take my parish for granted? What are my strengths? My weaknesses? Do I feel that my gifts and talents can be used in youth ministry – why and how?

ST. HENRY CLUSTER YOUTH EVANGELIZATION VOLUNTEER (2021-22)

Please return this page to Miranda by as soon as possible.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ DOB: _____ Gender: _____

Address: _____

- I have completed a Virtus Training, and am up to date on my bulletins.
- I need to undergo a Virtus Training.

If your Virtus is through another parish, please list: _____

Please list dates/times available to meet with Miranda: _____

Please check where you feel called to serve next year:

Youth Evangelist/Small Group Leaders

- Grades 5-6 (Tuesdays 3-5pm, once a month)
- Grades 7-8 (Wednesdays, bi-weekly – women, 6-7pm – men, 8-9pm)
- Grades 9-10 (Wednesdays, bi-weekly – women, 6-7pm – men, 8-9pm)
- Grades 11-12 (Wednesdays, bi-weekly, 8-9pm)

Youth Evangelist Sub

- Grades 5-6 (Tuesdays 3-5pm, once a month)
- Grades 7-8 (Wednesdays, bi-weekly – women, 6-7pm – men, 8-9pm)
- Grades 9-10 (Wednesdays, bi-weekly – women, 6-7pm – men, 8-9pm)
- Grades 11-12 (Wednesdays, bi-weekly, 8-9pm)

Youth Evangelist for Special Events

- I am willing to assist at retreats as needed (and based upon availability)
- I am willing to assist with service projects as needed (and based upon availability- Midnight Magi, Walk for Christ, Rustic Hope, etc.)

Kitchen Ministry

- I am willing to bring dinner/snack once a month on a Wednesday evening. If you are only available certain Wednesdays of the month, please let me know:

Additionally,

- I am willing to bring/purchase a meal (as a donation)
- I am willing to assist in the Kitchen for a Retreat

Driver

- I am willing to assist in driving for events as needed (and based upon availability)

Donor

Please accept the following one-time donation of _____ to be used for:

- Meals & Snacks Supplies for Youth Evangelization
- Scholarship Youth for Faith Formation, Retreat, Conference, or Mission Trip

Other

Please note any other gifts/talents you would like to share with our youth!