

## ***Saint John Bosco Youth and Family Ministry:*** <https://www.saintjohnboscobranford.org/youth>

### [Life Nights \(High School\)](#) and [Edge Nights \(Middle School\)](#)

Teens are invited to fun, monthly gatherings where they can hang out with other parish teens, explore their faith in relation to teen issues/themes, and build friendships. Nights are planned around age-appropriate topics for high school and for middle school.

### **Youth Ministry Growth Groups**

For teens looking to deepen their faith, explore different ways to grow spiritually, and engage with other teens, groups will be offered monthly: Teen Book clubs, Bible Study, Music and Worship, Hot Topic discussions, Rosary groups, etc.

### **Stronger Together: Support Ministries**

Teens searching for support and a safe space to share the ups and downs of life and their faith are invited to join these groups. Stress management, anxiety, bullying, challenging relationships, body image, family issues, etc, will be the focus of small-group or individual meetings with our youth minister where teens feel supported in prayer and community.

### **Peer Leadership Team**

Confirmed teens interested in helping facilitate Faith Formation classes or serving as a model for other teens in the faith will participate in retreats, workshops, trainings, and meetings to strengthen and practice their leadership and discipleship skills. Teens work with our youth minister, Confirmation Coordinator, and parish priest. Applications are available from the church office.

### [Social Action Youth Group](#)

Teens interested in hands-on community work and volunteer efforts are invited to participate in monthly meetings with Jenny Smith to plan and carry out service activities throughout the year. Areas of work and awareness are in addressing world and local hunger/need, sacred life, education, and peace and justice. Several of these teens are trained global ambassadors who will be planning efforts to address needs around the world. Email [saintjohnboscoyouth@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnboscoyouth@gmail.com).

### [Mission Trip Team](#)

Teens invested in service and mission will participate with the parish Mission Team in a youth trip for 8 and 9<sup>th</sup> graders or week-long trip for 10 – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Local day trips will also be planned for grades 7 – 12. Fundraising, planning meetings, and team-building activities are planned throughout the year.

### **Children's Ministry**

Children Grades K–5 can participate in various fun activities that engage their interests and spark their faith. Pageants, Trunk-or-treat parties, holiday caroling, etc. will be announced throughout the year.

### **Small Hands**

Events and activities are planned throughout the year to involve children in Grades 4-8 in simple, meaningful community service projects.

#### **Other Youth-Related Ministries: see website**

- [Altar Servers](#)
- [Challenge](#)
- [Children's Choir](#)
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word**
- [K4J - Vacation Bible School](#)
- [Squires](#)

#### **Family Ministry: See website**

- Family Masses
- Pot-lucks
- Family Nights (Trivia, Game Night, Movie Night)
- Parent Support Talks
- Hot Topics in Catholic Context
- Marriage and intergenerational Retreats

## Confirmation Program Enrichment Hours

Teens will be asked to devote 10 hours during the year to involvement in any of the **ministries in our Parish** as a way to strengthen their faith and their understanding of our church and our faith. Activities or service outside of the church are highly encouraged and appreciated- but do not count towards the Confirmation hours.

If your teen has any trouble finding opportunities or is facing a particular situation that is making it difficult for him/her to complete the hours, please reach out to Jenny Smith or anyone on the Confirmation Team – we will work with you to make this a fun and rewarding part of your Confirmation preparation! You may also consider ways your whole family may want to participate in some of these ministries.

### Youth Ministry (Youth and Family tab on Website: <https://www.saintjohnboscobranford.org/youth> )

\*Life Nights/Edge Nights – fun nights of fellowship and faith (9-10 gr teens welcome to help at Edge Nights)

\*YM Growth Groups: to grow your spirit in creative ways (bible study, book club, Rosary group, etc)

\*YM Stronger Together - prayer and support for those struggling with daily stresses and teen challenges

Social Action Group – awareness and action of local/global need. Community service projects

- Ronald Mc Donald House – make/donate tree decorations for RMH Trees of Hope  
– collect soda tabs for RMH recycling fundraiser.
- Cans for Tyler – collect recyclable cans and bottles, sort at St Therese church 3pm Fridays
- \*Elderly Cheer – notes, cards, drawings, and faith rocks delivered to local nursing homes
- Rice Bowl Initiative – support parish fundraising/awareness of Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl

Peer Leadership Team – helping w faith formation classes, YM groups and nights, retreats etc

Faith Formation – teens gr 9-10 are invited to help adult catechists with younger grades.

Mission Trip Team – Service trips planned in spring and summer

Vacation Bible School – campers (gr K – 4) and captains (gr 5 -12)

Children’s ministry – help work with parish children in pageants, holiday parties/events, activities

### Parish Ministry (link to website: <https://www.saintjohnboscobranford.org/youthserviceopportunities.>)

\*Midnight Run – collection of toiletries and socks for NH homeless (drive ends Oct 3-4; more throughout yr)

\*Columbus House - monthly food collection to serve NH homeless (donors are contacted monthly to buy food and drop it off at church.)

\*Prayer Shawls/hats – learn to knit blankets/shawls/hats for the elderly, ill, or premature babies

Mass Service - lector, altar server, choir, sanitize, welcome, etc

Pro-Life Ministry – support awareness and prayers for unborn and mothers

Yoga and Centering Prayer – prayer-centered yoga classes at St Mary (schedule temporarily on hold)

\*Care Creation Team – encourages environmental efforts and awareness in the parish

Coffee and . . . – prepare and serve baked goods and coffee after Masses (suspended during Covid)

Church and Grounds help – clean church before holidays; help organize; help rake/shovel snow/weed grounds

\*Several of these activities can be done entirely/mostly from home during the pandemic

