



September 28, 2020

Hello parents of high school youth!

My name is Michelle May and I'm the new Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at St. Paul Parish. It's good to "be home" and ministering to our young people.

I'm asking you to invite your high school students(s) to check out Elevate Youth Ministry. St. Paul Parish knows and recognizes you, the parent, are the first teacher of faith. Elevate Youth Ministry serves as an extra resource to help enhance and support you along their Catholic faith journey. We promote and encourage young parishioners to engage in their Catholic faith with support of peers and adult mentors.

Elevate YM offers opportunities for spiritual, social and service outreach. We'll provide youth nights with discussions on hard topics, prayer experiences, retreats, speakers, scripture, music, chances to serve, and local, Diocesan and national events. There's a lot we offer. We hope that it's a place your child can feel safe and accepted and know he or she can share faith without being judged. It's a chance to enhance and develop their faith life with peer leadership and adult mentors.

*If you no longer have a young person in high school, please notify me ASAP, so that I can change them over to my Young Adult contact list. I apologize in advance and hope we can correct this soon.

*If your high schooler has not been active in Youth Ministry, I invite you to ask them to think about it and "try it" for 4 weeks. It doesn't matter what grade level. This way they get a sample of the whole program over a month's time and can witness a variety of opportunities. Friends are always welcome to join!

*If your high schooler has been active, I encourage them to continue to attend and invite a friend and encourage them to take on a leadership role (leading a prayer, a game or welcoming a new person).

FORMS: Parents, please complete the registration form which I've attached the link to the email. Even if your son or daughter doesn't initially attend, fill it out & if there's an activity at a later date, that he or she wishes to attend, we'll have the information on file.

VOLUNTEERS: It takes a village. We need a variety of adults to volunteer their time or talent. We'll need those who enjoy donating snacks & drinks, we need adults to be mentors and have faith sharing moments, we need adults who would be willing to set up tables or technology or run games. When restrictions are lifted, we'll need chaperones to help with the traveling. You do not need to know the Bible or catechism inside and out to be a mentor. But, if you do, we'd love for you to join us. We are looking for adult volunteers who love their faith and want to share it. As we follow the Diocesan guidelines and requirements, we need at least 3-4 adults each youth event. I ask that you please discern this call to ministry. For details, just reach out to me as soon as possible.

RESTRICTIONS/GUIDELINES: from the Diocese and the State are still in place due to the Covid. We are still wearing masks and social distancing. At this time, we're not able to have "off-site" activities (canoeing, etc.). But we hope to offer those events soon! Please remember if your child(ren) are not feeling well, please do not allow them to attend Youth Ministry events.

GUESTS/VISITORS: Elevate YM is a St. Paul Parish Ministry. If other youth from other parishes do not have a youth ministry program, they are welcome to join us. But please make sure the parents complete the appropriate forms.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: for the Fall. Yes, dates and times are subject to change. We'll meet almost every Wednesday & the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Times are 6:30-8pm We meet outside in the parish parking lot until the weather over rules us.

Wednesdays:

September 30

October 7, 14, 21, 28

November 4, 11, 18

December 2, 9, 16

January, February, March, April, May TBA

Sundays:

October 4, 18

November 1, 15

December 6, 20

YOUTH COUNCIL: A group of youth from different schools and age/grade levels who help set the calendar and offer suggestions for events and bring up any concerns from their peers. Each year, the Council is revisited and new members added to replace non-returning members.

PRIORITIES: We realize family and school comes first. We do not expect all youth to attend everything offered. We recognize some youth only want to be involved in social activities, some only in service projects and others only in faith discussions and deep ones, at that. We're here when they need us.

COMMUNICATION: I will do my best to inform parents of upcoming events or youth nights via email. My goal is every 2 weeks send reminders of what's coming and if there are any changes or updates or needs, I'll use an email system. I'll also post info on Social Media.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Find us!

Facebook ~ Elevate YM

Instagram ~ elevatwym_sp

If you are not ready for your youth to attend in person, but would like some interaction of Youth Ministry, please reach out to me. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns, at the parish office 330-499-2201 ext. 111 or by email elevatwym17@gmail.com.

Thank you for sharing your faith with your child and I look forward to meeting you and your family!

Have blessed day~Michelle