

St. Joseph Youth Ministry

~ a way for high school youth and their families to live out their baptismal call with the opportunity to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation ~

454 Germantown Road

siparish@optonline.net

September 8, 2018

Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear Parents and Teens,

Welcome! We are happy that you have decided to participate in Youth Ministry at St. Joseph Church. The years during high school are a beautiful time of spiritual growth for our young parishioners as well as a time for questioning their faith. Properly nurtured, growth can be a result of this questioning.

We would like to share some important information with you.

On Sunday evening October 7, 6:30-7:45 pm we will be meeting for our youth ministry prayer service and reflection and discussion of the upcoming year. We ask that teens and at least one parent attend, as this is required. After the prayer service, the adults will have an opportunity to ask questions about the upcoming year while the teens will have an opportunity to meet with our peer ministers. We hope to give you a better understanding of what we do as a parish to help your teen grow in their faith and to participate in the life of the church. We will review the goals of St. Joseph Youth Ministry and the expectations of those participating in the ministry. Our evening will begin in the church at 6:30 pm.

I would like to remind you to use the Faith Formation website, faithformationnj.org. There you will find valuable information for Generations of Faith and Youth Ministry. We highly recommend that you look through **all** of the Youth Ministry information prior to your Generations of Faith session. To access the Youth Ministry information:

- For an overview of Youth Ministry, select the **'Programs'** tab. Under this tab select **'Youth Ministry'**. We highly recommend you become familiar with this page. It contains general information about the ministry.
- **FAQ (frequently asked questions)** can be found under the **'Programs'** tab as well. Please read through this material as it contains the details of the ministry.
- The **Calendar** can be found on the upper left-hand side of the 'Faith Connections' home page. This calendar will provide you with all the dates for events happening in Youth Ministry as well as parish and Generations of Faith events for the upcoming year. This calendar is updated as events become available. It is clearly marked Year 1 or Year 2. Where it is not marked Year 1 or Year 2, it is available to any teen in high school. If you have any trouble viewing this, please contact Camille Kluge.
- Assignments – **Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor and Confirmation Name assignment** can be found by typing in 'assignments' in the search bar of the faith formation website. Both of these assignments are due December 31, 2018. The **annual Christian Service assignment** can be found there as well. The Christian Service assignment is due at the time of the interviews.

During 7 and 8 grade of Faith Formation, teens were asked to complete the **Christian morality** workbook, **'Life in Christ Jesus'**. After each chapter, teens were asked to complete an online chapter review. If your teen did not complete this work (we have record of test results in the rectory office) they must complete by July 1, 2019. Teens who attend Catholic High School are

exempt as they will study morality at school. The book can be purchased on Amazon, or perhaps you can borrow it from someone who has already completed the work. Teens do not need to write in the book. The directions for taking the quizzes will be sent out under a separate email. Please note if your teen does not follow these directions (i.e. name is very important!), they may not receive credit for taking the quiz as the results may not come to us. I have attached a photo of the book cover to this email for your information.

To assist you in being faithful to your commitment, we have attached a form to this email containing important events and dates. It is also available on the website under the FAQs tab. We refer to this form as the '**at-a-glance**' form. Please look at this carefully and keep it in your family binder. **We ask that you bring this form with you on October 7.** This form contains many of the required dates for the upcoming 2018-2019 year. This form is for your records as well as ours. We will be meeting with each teen in April 2019 to discuss their experience thus far. This **completed** form will be collected at this time. It is the teen's responsibility to keep track of all their requirements and to make sure this form is filled out. **We recommend that you keep a copy for your records.**

We encourage all teens to attend and participate in the youth masses that are held at the 12:00 pm mass in the church. The youth mass dates are listed on the attached 'at-a-glance' form.

Please make sure we have your current family email address on file. Email is the primary means for us to communicate with families. Last year we began using a communication platform called 'Flocknote'. It enables us to communicate with you more effectively. The platform allows us to send out emails and texts. Please make your cell phone is on file with the office if you would like to receive texts. If you would like your teen to receive this information, please send us their contact information. Please let us know if you have difficulty using Flocknote. We are happy to help you.

Finally, please find attached to this email, a Medical Release Form and a Youth Ministry Activities Fee Form. We ask that you complete both of these forms and return to the rectory as soon as you can. This fee covers only a portion of our expenses for speakers and retreats. This year we have 2 ways of paying. You can either mail your form in with a check, or you can email us the form and pay electronically. Instructions can be found on the form.

We are grateful for your support as your teen continues their faith journey. We are looking forward to a wonderful year with the teens of our parish. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

May God bless you!

Camille Kluge
Youth Minister
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973.513.2791

Attachments

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454 Germantown Road
West Milford NJ 07480
sjparish@optonline.net

Youth Ministry Activities Fee

Each family with a young adult in the Youth Ministry program is being asked to contribute an activities fee of **\$75.00** to help with a portion of the cost for our first year retreats, guest speakers, meals, and class materials for our special sessions. It also includes the cost for administering the Sacrament of Confirmation.

- To pay **electronically** go to **<https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/926>** . You can either log in, create an account, or just click on "Quick Give".
- If you prefer to pay by check, please make checks made payable to: St. Joseph Church and mail along with your Activities Fee Form to St. Joseph Church, 454 Germantown Rd., West Milford, Attn: Activities Fee.

Financial Assistance is available if needed. Please contact Mary Beth Ferriola at 973-697-6100 or you can email her at sj-business@optonline.net.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please return this form along with your activities fee to the parish office by **October 1, 2018.**

Thank you.