

Saint Joseph Parish in West Milford New Jersey

Youth Ministry

in the High School Years
with Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

The goals of youth ministry at St. Joseph Church are to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person, to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the church, and to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

Youth ministry provides opportunities for prayer and worship, retreats, ongoing faith formation, peer ministry, social activities and service to others. At St. Joseph Parish teens are encouraged to participate fully in youth ministry and parish life. They are invited to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Music Ministers, Catechist Assistants and Ministers of Hospitality. They are encouraged to visit the elderly, feed the hungry and help the poor. It is through these actions that one can truly live as a disciple of Christ.

The personal and spiritual growth of an individual does not end after the Sacrament of Confirmation has been received. **It is LIFE LONG !**

“We don’t receive a sacrament and then walk away; We receive a sacrament so that we can walk in a different way.”

What should I know about Youth Ministry ?

This ministry encourages life-long learning and offers teens an opportunity to make choices and take responsibility for their individual path to discipleship.

- ∂ The ministry is open to all high school teens ~ those preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation and those who have already received their Confirmation.
- ∂ Youth ministry provides the prerequisites needed prior to the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Completion of the prerequisites is designed to take 18 months. However, it may take more than 18 months. Teens may begin youth ministry in 9th grade or later; they may be confirmed in 11th or 12th grade or later.
- ∂ Most learning sessions will be held on Sunday evenings for teens only from 6:30 – 8:00 pm or with other households at Generation of Faith.
- ∂ There will be additional opportunities to learn, serve and pray. The dates and times will be announced as they are planned.
- ∂ At St. Joseph Church Confirmation is celebrated each year in the Fall.

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What should I be doing if I want to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation ?

Those who wish to prepare for Confirmation have the desire to grow closer to God through prayer and the sacraments. The preparation sessions are scheduled immediately before the sacrament is celebrated. Before a teen can register for these sessions they should:

- ∂ Be faithful to attending Sunday Eucharist (mass).
- ∂ Make a Statement of Commitment after registering for Youth Ministry.
- ∂ Attend the required number of faith formation sessions.
- ∂ Perform a minimum of 10 hours serving in the parish and 10 hours serving in the wider community. This service must include at least one session of helping with bingo at Milford Manor.
- ∂ Participate in two retreats during the first year of youth ministry.
- ∂ Attend an overnight, Antioch retreat. (Teens must be in at least 10th grade).

What are the objectives of the sessions for the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation?

- ∂ To have an understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Roman Catholic tradition
- ∂ To know the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Catholic
- ∂ To be aware of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and to appreciate and use them in our daily life

- ∂ To know what happens during the Rite of Confirmation
- ∂ To understand the effects of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation
- ∂ To understand the role of the sponsor

What are Faith Formation Sessions?

Each young person may continue their life long learning by signing up for Faith Formation with their family as part of Generations of Faith (GOF), or as part of our Sunday evening sessions. The Sunday evening sessions are for teens only.

If a teen chooses to attend the Sunday evening session, they will be assigned to a reflection group. A catechist or catechist team facilitates this group.

Attending the faith formation learning sessions (GOF or Sunday evening) is required before teens can begin the immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. (See section **What should I be doing if I want to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation?**)

What Does the Calendar Year Look Like?

Please see the calendar on website. Print and post it in a prominent place.

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What About Worship and Prayer?

- ∂ Faithful attendance at Sunday Eucharist (mass) is expected. There is a youth mass each month at 12 noon in the church.
- ∂ Retreats – The retreats offered during this period of faith formation are a unique experience of prayer, reflection, community building, sacraments, games, activities, personal growth and fun!
- ∂ Prayer - Prayer nourishes our relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Christians give service by taking time each day to pray for the intentions of others. People to pray for:

- armed service persons
- Pope Benedict XVI
- young people facing difficulties
- our pastor, Fr. Steven Shadwell
- teachers
- parents & family members
- Bishop Arthur
- people who work with the homeless
- our parish family
- world leaders

How Can I Serve?

Service is given by practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. "I was hungry, you fed me; I was thirsty, you gave me a drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in; I was naked, you clothed me; when I was sick, you took care of me; when in prison, you visited me. God said 'Whatever you do for the least important of my followers, you did it for me.'" Matthew 25: 35-40

- ∂ Food Pantry –Work in the food pantry or perhaps organize a food drive. *A teen must call to be placed on the schedule to*

work at the food pantry; they cannot just show up. The pantry is open on Saturdays from 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm. There is room for 2 teens at each food pantry session. Contact – Pat Mattera 973.697.1020 chapmat@optonline.net

- ∂ Generations of Faith – Help with meals, watch young children or serve as a catechist assistant .
Contact – Sr. Geraldine 973.208.0636
- ∂ Buildings and Grounds – Assist in small projects around parish grounds. Contact the parish office – 973.697.6100
- ∂ Area 'Walks' –
 - Crop Walk in October
 - Hope House - 4th Annual Share the Hope Walk-a-Thon October 3, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. Call Angela Vance at 973.361.5555 x 143
 - Diabetes Walk etc.
- ∂ Bingo at Milford Manor - Contact: Sr. Janet 973.697.2846
- ∂ Eva's Kitchen – Serve food at soup kitchen located in Paterson (as groups form).

Alternate Ideas

- ∂ Volunteer at the monthly blood drive in town.
- ∂ Volunteer at the township animal shelter.
- ∂ Serve as a hospital volunteer.
- ∂ Tutor a child.
- ∂ Visit a homebound person.
- ∂ Help the elderly with shopping.
- ∂ Collect clothing or food for the needy.
- ∂ Organize to send "goodies" to our local servicepersons stationed overseas.

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How can I be a good steward ?

∂ Many groups depend on our support so they can reach out to others. Consider giving the cost of a movie or your earnings from an evening of childcare or part-time job.

Please think about contributing to one of these groups.

- The Rice Bowl collection during Lent
- Walks-for-Causes (CROP Walk etc.).
- St. Joseph's Food Pantry can always use food items and paper products. Check the bulletin for specific needs. Buy and donate some of them.

As parents, what are our responsibilities ?

Parents are encouraged to take an active role as their teen participates in youth ministry and prepares for the sacrament of Confirmation. Parental participation includes:

- Faithful attendance at Sunday Eucharist with your teen. Make the effort to attend Youth Mass each month
- Discussing with your teen the material presented at each session
- Making sure that your teen is current with all assignments
- Providing transportation to all meetings and youth ministry activities
- Being a faith-filled role model to your teen, and all other young people in our parish community
- Attending any parent meetings and offering help whenever possible
- Praying for your teen and all of youth in our parish

What about Behavior Standards ?

We are very proud of the behavior of the children and teens who are members of our parish. They are expected to be respectful of each other, the staff and the volunteers who serve them. They are expected to care for any property – including facilities – provided for their use.

Who is there to help us ?

Youth Ministry is staffed by our Youth Minister and Coordinator of Adolescent Faith Formation under the leadership of our Pastor. We welcome you to contact us regarding youth ministry or the faith formation of your teen.

Contact Information

- ∂ Mailing Address:
St. Joseph Church
454 Germantown Road
West Milford NJ 07480
- ∂ Parish Office : 973-697-6100
Web Address: www.stjoseph-nj.org
Fax Number: 973-697-3716
Faith Formation Office: 973-208-0636
- ∂ Pastor: Fr. Steven Shadwell:973-697-6100
- ∂ Youth Minister: Camille Kluge 973-492-0521
ckluge@verizon.net
- ∂ Coordinator – Adolescent Faith Formation:
Pat Mattera 973-697-1020 chapmat@optonline.net

