



Dear Youth Ministry Families,

Welcome to the Youth Ministry Program!!

A quick introduction, my name is Brittany Garcia, the youth call me "Bee". I recently celebrated 4 years at St. Helen Catholic Church working in Youth Ministry. I honestly couldn't have asked for a better community to spend my time with these last 4 years. God willing that we can continue working through the craziness of COVID-19, and I am able to stay ministering our Junior High and High School youth!

In this letter you will see the goals, COVID-10 protocols, and expectations for both in person and virtual Youth Ministry for this year. It is very important that we (Youth Ministry) and all of our parents are on the same page.

Youth Ministry Goal 2020-2021

Our goal, is to lead our youth into a deeper spiritual and prayerful relationship with Jesus Christ. We know this year has been such a challenging year for everyone. In the last 6 months we have all lost something or someone, been expected to adapt, been expected to survive without social interaction, and most importantly been expected to survive without the church.

Church, as little "c", for is our community. The body of people that make up the big "c" Church. We have been expected to handle and adapt to all of these changes quickly - while feeling alone, vulnerable, and potentially filled with fear.

This year we will be searching deep in our hearts for the love that so deeply connects us to God. How are we going to respond to his love? How will we live out the teachings Jesus left for us? How can we learn to surrender our desires to the will of God?

"I see four men unbound and unhurt, walking in the fire, and the fourth looks like a son of God."
Daniel 3:92

COVID-19 Protocols

Before you come to Youth Ministry:

- All parents, and families, are responsible for ensuring that a daily self-screening of each youth occurs prior to attending Youth Ministry.
- Check youth's temperature before leaving the house - parents should not medicate their child in order to reduce fever. Please keep your child at home if they've had a fever within 24 hours before attending Youth Ministry.
- All youth, volunteers, adults, etc. will be required to wear masks or face coverings that cover their mouth and nose at all times during Youth Ministry events.
- All youth, volunteers, adults, etc. will be required to practice appropriate physical distancing, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- All youth, volunteers, adults, etc. will be asked to sanitize their hands upon entering the Narthex of the building.
- All youth, volunteers, adults, etc. should regularly wash their hands for 20 seconds, at least once during Youth Ministry.
- No food or drinks will be allowed during Youth Ministry nights. Plastic/disposable water containers are allowed.

****Only water will be allowed. Any water containers left at the end of Youth Ministry Nights, will be thrown out.****

In-Person Youth Ministry

Youth attending Youth Ministry in person will be required to follow all COVID-19 protocols. Any youth that finds these protocols overwhelming, will be advised to attend Youth Ministry from home via our Google Meets.

High School Youth Ministry

Sundays, 6:30pm-8:00pm

KICKOFF - October 4th

Will begin every night in the Church. Our welcome, announcements, and keynotes will take place in the church!

For this first semester, we will not be meeting in Small Groups. Instead we will take time for prayer, personal reflection, and meditation in the presence of Jesus. A lot of this first semester will be about prayer and our personal relationship with Christ. Please begin to talk to your students about this.

Part of the reason to hold off on Small Group Time is the social distancing, and sanitizing of the Educational Facility before and after Youth Ministry nights. Once everyone is comfortable attending Youth Ministry, we will revisit the protocols for Small Group Time!

NOTE: We will finish early this first semester (7:30pm), since we will not be going to small groups in the classrooms.

Youth will still be assigned to an adult who will check them in for the evening - attendance will still be counted ESPECIALLY for our first and second year Confirmation Students!!!

Youth will be asked to spread out within the center two sections of the Sanctuary with appropriate social distancing in mind.

Attire - as a reminder we will be in the Sanctuary for Youth Ministry Nights. Absolutely no hats are to be worn in the Sanctuary, and of course we should all be mindful of our attire.

Junior High Youth Ministry

Wednesday, 6:30pm-8:00pm

KICKOFF - Oct. 14th

Will begin every night in Helena Hall. Our welcome, announcements, and keynotes will take place in the hall!

For this first semester, we will not be meeting in Small Groups. Instead we will take time for prayer, personal reflection, and meditation in the presence of Jesus. A lot of this first semester will be about prayer and our personal relationship with Christ. Please begin to talk to your students about this.

Part of the reason to hold off on Small Group Time is the social distancing, and sanitizing of the Educational Facility before and after Youth Ministry nights. Once everyone is comfortable attending Youth Ministry, we will revisit the protocols for Small Group Time!

NOTE: We will finish early this first semester (7:30pm), since we will not be going to small groups in the classrooms.

Youth will still be assigned to an adult who will check them in for the evening!!!

Chairs will be placed 6 feet apart throughout the hall to maintain social distancing!

Virtual Youth Ministry

Youth attending Youth Ministry virtually will have instructions below to join our Google Meets weekly.

High School Youth Ministry

Sundays, 6:30pm-8:00pm

KICKOFF - October 4th

For this first semester, we will not be meeting in Small Groups. Instead we will take time for prayer, personal reflection, and meditation in the presence of Jesus. A lot of this first semester will be about prayer and our personal relationship with Christ. Please begin to talk to your youth about this.

Part of the reason to hold off on Small Group Time is the social distancing, and sanitizing of the Educational Facility before and after Youth Ministry nights. Once everyone is comfortable attending Youth Ministry, we will revisit the protocols for Small Group Time!

Youth check-ins will still happen virtually, especially for our youth in their First and Second Year Confirmation.

Junior High Youth Ministry

Wednesday, 6:30pm-8:00pm

KICKOFF - Oct. 14th

For this first semester, we will not be meeting in Small Groups. Instead we will take time for prayer, personal reflection, and meditation in the presence of Jesus. A lot of this first semester will be about prayer and our personal relationship with Christ. Please begin to talk to your youth about this.

Part of the reason to hold off on Small Group Time is the social distancing, and sanitizing of the Educational Facility before and after Youth Ministry nights. Once everyone is comfortable attending Youth Ministry, we will revisit the protocols for Small Group Time!

Youth will still be assigned to an adult who will check them in for the evening!!!

Expectations for all virtual learners:

Youth will be expected to be as engaged as possible - actively listening. Because we will not be going to small group as often as we used to, parents as the Primary Catechist for your child, you will be asked to engage your youth at home in what is happening virtually. Parents, if you and even your entire house could join us for the evening that would be great!

Phones, extra devices, or anything that could be potentially distracting needs to be put away.

Attire: I know youth will be in the comfort of their own homes, but they should still be respectful of their clothing and the background behind them. There should be **no inappropriate** logos or images visible.

Avoid sending our Google Meet links to anyone. If a family doesn't have access to the code, have them contact me to make sure that they are registered in our system to attend Youth Ministry at St. Helen!

SIBLINGS

If you have children in the same age group (6th-8th or 9th-12th), please have them sign in to their perspective grade levels so that we can take attendance accordingly

Confirmation Preparation Program

Congratulations you made it to your final year of preparation toward receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation!

We will have a few parent meetings at the end of October. This meeting will be for our 11th and 12th grade youth who are in their final year of Confirmation Preparation! The Confirmation Preparation program is 2 consecutive years, beginning in the 10th Grade. Only youth who attend Catholic High Schools are exempt from their first year, and may join the Confirmation Preparation Program in their 11th Grade year!

Youth who are candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation are known as Confirmandi.

Confirmandi will meet once a month during regular Sunday night hours, to receive the lesson and prayer opportunity we have scheduled for them! We will discuss these dates during our parent meetings.

If a family doesn't have access to the code, **have them contact me!** This means that there may be an issue with their Youth Ministry Registration.

Parent Meeting Dates/Times

In Person Meetings:

Last Names A-L Tuesday, October 27th 7:00pm
Helena Hall

Last Names M-Z Thursday, October 29th 7:00pm
Helena Hall

Virtual Meetings:

Last Names A-L Tuesday, October 27th 5:00pm

Last Names M-Z Thursday, October 29th 5:00pm

Access to the Google Classroom with all paperwork information and the Virtual Meetings will be sent out to all Registered families via EMAIL! If issues arise please contact me, Bee.

Virtual Youth Ministry

There will be a minister on the Google Meet monitoring the chat and the youths screens. These volunteers will be able to answer any questions the youth may have via the chat!

Any questions, comments, concerns should be taken care of through the chat, so that other youth aren't distracted - especially during our keynotes and prayer moments.

If at any point any a youth becomes a distraction on the Google Meet, they will be asked to log off and can potentially affect their participation in our Youth Ministry Program. All virtual learners will be asked to sign the *Code of Conduct* on the final page and be asked to return to Youth Ministry by Friday, October 9, 2020.

My office hours are below - because of COVID-19, I am working only part time and those hours include the evenings we are hosting Youth Ministry for our youth. Please be patient with me in returning emails/phone calls as I am not in the office that often...

Tuesday: 1pm-5pm
Wednesday: 1pm-4pm

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