

Immaculate Conception Youth Ministry Parent Orientation

“The single most important influence on the religious and spiritual lives of adolescents is their parents.”

National Study of Youth and Religion December 2004

Mission: Moving forward together in faith through service, community, and leadership.

Guiding Scripture: Ephesians 3: 14-19

Values around which our ministry operates:

Community	Faith	Inspiring	Fun
Spirited	Growth	Friends	Family
Amazingness			



Definition of Catholic Youth Ministry

“Youth ministry is the response of the Christian community to the needs of young people and the sharing of the unique gifts of youth with the larger community”

Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry,
United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, 1997, page 1.

Three Goals of Catholic Youth Ministry

- **Goal 1:** To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today
- **Goal 2:** To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community
- **Goal 3:** To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

Program Offerings

Junior High (Grades 7 & 8)

Junior High Youth Group – Young people gather to socialize, pray, work and learn together in an experience of Christian community. It meets on the first and third Saturdays of every month.

Boxtopia Sleep Out for Hunger – Annual event for members of the youth group to experience being homeless, and to introduce young people to the foundations of the Catholic Social Teaching principles and the two feet of service and justice.

Service – Some service trips are offered throughout the year for junior high youth including the fall and spring clean ups at Christ the King Seminary.

Senior High (Grades 9-12)

Senior High Youth Group - Young people gather to socialize, pray, work and learn together in an experience of Christian community. The group takes various trips throughout the year and participates in Diocesan events (Lights for the World, Bishop McNulty Dinner Dance and Convention.) It meets on the second and fourth Sundays of every month.

Faith Chat/Talk Nights – Throughout the year we offer these on specific topics.

Service – Various service trips are offered throughout the year.

Retreat Team – Confirmed young people (grade 11) may join our Retreat Team that creates and facilitates the tenth grade retreats in January.

Youth Leader – Tenth graders may be Youth Leaders which makes them members of the Youth Ministry Planning Team. They participate in a mandatory Leadership Overnight in the summer and serve on one of the planning committees for the Youth Groups or Service. They help plan and facilitate the meetings/trips of their respective committees.

Teen Music Group – Vocalists and instrumentalists who provide music ministry for the 11:15am Mass once a month. They practice on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Diocesan Events

Lights for the World – A one day mini-conference for senior high youth. The day includes a keynote speaker, lunch, two rounds of breakouts (workshops) and Mass. It is held at Christ the King Seminary in September.

Bishop McNulty Dinner Dance – This annual Awards Dinner Dance will be held on Friday, November 19th from 6:30pm to 12 midnight at the Hearthstone Manor in Depew. The cost is roughly \$25 per person. Youth and adults receive awards for their service to youth ministry, and the dance follows the awards program.

Diocesan Youth Convention – It is a weekend conference in February for senior high youth and adult chaperones. Liturgy, reconciliation, keynote speakers, breakouts (workshops), award presentations & dance. It will be held on February 18 – 20 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Buffalo. The cost is roughly \$165/person and we will hold a fundraiser prior to the event.

One Day Retreats – Two Senior High Retreats and one Junior High Retreat are offered throughout the year. All of them are held at Harvest House in Buffalo. Participating in a retreat is a great way to strengthen one's faith. The retreats are facilitated by the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team comprised of high school and college age youth, who share their own faith journeys during the experience. Their witnesses help young people know that they are not alone if they experience challenges in their faith journeys.

The dates and times are as follows:

Sun., Oct. 17th 11am-5pm (Senior High Retreat)

Sat., Mar. 12th 12-5pm (Junior High Retreat)

Sat., Mar. 19th 11am-5pm (Senior High Retreat)

Getting Involved

Volunteering Bi-Weekly – Both of our youth groups can always use additional chaperones. Those who assist in this way are called C.A.P.'s which stands for Consistent Adult Presence. Even if you can only help a few times a year, having an extra set of eyes and ears always helps.

Drivers – We always need drivers for all of our trips. If you wouldn't mind transporting young people to a social trip or service opportunity, please let us know.

Event Food Help – For events like Boxtopia and the Senior High Lock-in it would be helpful to have people help with the food service for the meal/snack times.

Snack Donations – Feel free to send in bags of non-perishable food, bottles of pop, or cans of powdered drink mix. This helps us to provide a refreshment time during our Youth Group Meetings.

Youth Ministry Planning Team - Members of the Youth Ministry Planning Team collaborate with each other to design the parish's ministry with you. Planning team members conduct ongoing needs assessments, set goals, plan strategies to address needs, and recruit and develop other parish leaders. Members of the planning team will have the satisfaction of organizing a comprehensive ministry with youth.

You Name It – What do you like to do? What gifts/talents could you share with our youth ministry program? We are always looking for new ideas as our youth ministry program continues to grow.

Contact Information

Website: www.tinyurl.com/iceayouth (or click on "Youth Ministry" on the parish website)

Phone: (716) 652-6400

E-mail: iceayouth@gmail.com

Facebook Page: Immaculate Conception, EA Youth Ministry