

Welcome to Youth Ministries! During your middle school and high school years, we hope to offer you many different opportunities to explore our catholic faith both spiritually and socially.

Comprehensive Youth Ministry, is comprised of eight separate components: Advocacy, Catechesis, Pastoral Care, Community Life, Evangelization, Justice and Service, Leadership Development, and Prayer and Worship. These ministries address today's religious and spiritual needs for youth in junior and senior high school.

ENROLLMENT

Annual enrollment in the program is required. Enrollment is typically held the Sunday and Monday following Labor Day. A parent or guardian must be present at enrollment to sign the required paperwork. Tuition payment is due at enrollment.

At enrollment each September all Youth Ministries Participants will select their catechetical sessions **and** community service choices for the year.

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

Each 7th-10th grader is expected to complete:

- 1. two mini-courses each year**
- 2. workshops (2 prior to Confirmation)**
- 3. community service each year**

MINI-COURSES

Mini-courses are grade level and topic specific, discussion based courses that meet over four consecutive weeks. Participants are required to complete two topics during the year. Attendance at all four gatherings for each topic is required. Specific course topics as well as days and times are published annually on the Parish Website prior to enrollment.

YOUTH NIGHTS

Keep your eyes open for many great social outings offered throughout the year. We have a variety of activities such as monthly movie nights, seasonal outings, laser tag, trampoline park and more! Your friends are always welcome to any event throughout the year. We are always looking for new fun ideas ó if you have an idea of an outing or an event that would be good for Youth Ministries please let us know.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

We are always interested in your feedback. Any questions or comments should be directed to the Pastoral Associate for Youth Ministries at (518) 399-9203 or cicyouth@nycap.rr.com

CONTINUING COMMUNICATION

Youth Ministries Events, Activities and Scheduling is constantly changing for a variety of reasons. There are several ways for participants to stay up-to-date with YM information:

Regularly check the Youth Ministries page on the parish website www.icglenville.com

Like us on Facebook òImmaculate Conception YMö

Download the Parish App and join the Youth Ministries Group ó be sure to click to turn on notifications to receive text reminders

Send us an email to be added to the Youth Ministries Email Group Listing

CONFIRMATION

Before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, candidates need to demonstrate that they desire to be confirmed. Confirmation is offered to those 15 years of age and older, typically in the spring of the Junior year of high school.

Diocesan guidelines state that anyone who wishes to be confirmed needs to complete:

1. the previous year's catechetical requirements
2. catechesis for immediate sacramental preparation
3. a Confirmation retreat
4. a service opportunity, not project.

To fulfill these guidelines, you will need to:

1. Satisfactorily complete catechetical instruction, workshops, & service opportunities through the tenth grade year.
2. Attend immediate sacramental preparation including all sessions, prayer experiences and workshops.
3. Attend the Confirmation Commitment ceremony.
4. Complete a Confirmation Retreat.
5. Complete individual and group community service.
6. Complete all the necessary paperwork.
7. Attend Confirmation Ceremony.

SENIOR GROUP

Our newly-confirmed members of the parish meet monthly typically on Sunday evenings in the Youth Center. These facilitated sessions explore issues relevant to a graduating senior. They adopt a family for the holidays, plan their graduation liturgy and more

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

In compliance with the requirements of the Diocese of Albany and in an effort to ensure a safe environment for all enrolled in our programs, everyone is expected to attend safe environment training program, annually. Teens will choose the day/time that works best for them. Parents have the right to opt their child(ren) out of the program, however, this opt out must be in writing and submitted to the Youth Ministries Office each year. To preview the materials please contact the YM Office.

CONDUCT

All participants are expected to conduct themselves according to Christian values in regard to attitude, behavior, language, and dress. In the event your behavior results in your catechist asking you to leave the room, you must report to the office. You will be asked to call your parent to explain the situation and get immediately picked up. If you are sent to the office on a second occasion, you will only be allowed to return to class after a meeting with yourself, your parents, the catechist, the youth minister and pastor.

POLICIES

- No electronic devices, including cell phones (unless specifically to be used in your session and ok'd by your catechist in advance) ó inappropriate use of any electronics during session time will result in the device being held in the office until the end of the gathering.
- Individual classroom rules are at the discretion of each catechist
- Smoking is NOT permitted on church property.
- Any participant who exhibits signs of being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol will not be permitted to participate in any parish/diocesan functions.
- Violation of any policies will be brought to the attention of the Pastoral Associate for Youth Ministries.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Ideally, there should be no absences. Each group gathering is valuable. We do, however, recognize that everyone gets sick, and teens are pulled in more than one direction at a time, etc. If you know you will not be able to attend a session, **please call** the Youth Ministries Office prior to that session. If we have not heard from you, out of concern for the safety and well-being of your child, a parent or guardian may be called. **NOTE – missing more than 1 week of a mini course topic will result in needing to select a different topic from those available.**

CANCELLATION OF SESSIONS

From time to time inclement weather necessitates a cancellation of classes. **NOTE:** The cancellation of school does NOT necessarily mean the cancellation of evening sessions. If road conditions improve by late afternoon, sessions will be held. The cancellation of school is not an excuse for an absence. Please call the Youth Ministries Office if you have questions as to whether or not classes will be held. A recording will indicate that classes have been cancelled.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES WILL ALWAYS BE POSTED ON THE PARISH WEBSITE, PARISH APP and LOCAL MEDIA OUTLETS AS WELL AS ON THE YOUTH MINISTRIES VOICEMAIL at 518-399-9203

WORKSHOPS

Workshops are special programs (typically a one evening presentation) on various topics of Faith. Each participant is required to complete two workshops prior to Confirmation. Ideally, one workshop would be completed during middle school (7th -8th grade) and one during high school (9th -10th grade). However, families and participants are welcome to complete workshops on a schedule that works best for them. Workshops are often guest speakers that are sponsored by other ministries within the parish. Most workshops are open to teens and adults. Workshops are scheduled throughout the year on various dates and times and are announced on the parish website and bulletin. Advance sign up maybe required and a reflection form needs to be submitted after attending.

MINISTRY & MISSION:COMMUNITY SERVICE

Through Baptism we are called to be Disciples of Christ and to live the Gospel message of Christian Service in our lives. Each participant is expected to complete a minimum of two service opportunities each year ó one Ministry Service (formerly called öinsideö service) and one Mission Service (formerly called öoutsideö service).

Ministry Service directly benefits our Parish Community by volunteering alongside existing Parish Ministries

Mission Service takes our young people out into the world completely service that benefits the community at large.

At the time of enrollment you will be asked to choose your service commitments for the year. If there is some other service that you wish to perform, please contact the Youth Minister.



PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

**Office of Youth Ministries
Church of the Immaculate Conception**

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