

Welcome to Corpus Christi High School Youth Ministry!

We are looking forward to having you as part of our parish youth group family. Here is some general information to help you get started.

Mission Statement: Corpus Christi High School Youth Ministry is facilitated by the parish youth minister and committed Catholic adults. It is open to all teenagers in grades nine through twelve. The mission of the ministry is to:

- foster fellowship and community among participants
- deepen personal relationships with Christ
- facilitate application of Catholic values to daily life
- encourage a life-long commitment to following Christ
- encourage lifetime participation in the Catholic Church

Your Ministry Team:

- The Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is employed by the parish in a full time position.
- Core Team Members are volunteers over the age of 21.
- Junior Core Team Members are young adults between the ages of 18 and 20.
- Parent volunteers are most welcome, desired, and (at times) needed. Please head here for information about clearances and training needed in order to volunteer with minors:

<http://corpuschristilansdale.org/welcome/safe-environment-clearances/>

What does a youth group meeting typically look like? Our meetings take place from 6pm-9pm (including Mass). Here's a walkthrough of our regularly scheduled meetings.

Teen Mass

The high school youth ministry meets each Sunday, and we begin with Mass at 6pm. This fulfills the Church's Sunday obligation, and teens are strongly encouraged (but not required) to take a ministry role in some capacity (altar server, choir/band, gift bearer, greeter, lector, usher).

Meeting Activity

The content of what takes place after dinner varies widely from week to week as we aim to highlight different parts of our mission. We rotate between social events, hot-button issue discussions, service projects, faith-based discussion, prayer/Eucharistic Adoration, and so much more. Meeting content is chosen based on a combination of factors: teen request, current events, liturgical relevance, and observed need. We conclude with a closing prayer at 9pm.

How do I register? It's easy! Please submit an online registration form. **These are required for participation.**

Trips and Events: Throughout the year you will hear about off-site retreats, conferences, and activities that are highlights for our teens each year. Please note that all deposits made for a trip are non-refundable, and that we work hard to provide fundraising opportunities when possible. Mark your calendars for the following events:

- September: Abbey Fest Faith and Music Festival in Paoli, PA
- December/January: Winter Retreat (various locations)
- June/ July: Steubenville Youth Conference in Steubenville, OH
- July: Catholic Heart Work Camp (various locations)
- July/August: Summer Splash Retreat at the Jersey Shore

Fundraisers: There are some events and trips that do cost money, and we will let you know those costs ahead of time. For most fundraisers, teens must be present at the fundraiser in order to earn money towards their trips. Each teen will have allocated funds distributed into individual “accounts,” based on the amount of profit earned and the number of hours worked at a fundraiser. The more you work, the more you earn, and the less you need to pay! **No teen will ever miss out on an opportunity due to finances.** However, any special financial needs should be communicated to the youth minister by a *parent, before a trip or event* – we are happy to help you, but we need to know there is a need for help. The first recommendation to meet special financial needs will always be participation in a fundraiser.

Communication: Weekly e-mails are sent out to all parents and permitted teens regarding news, updates, deadlines, and other information about the high school youth ministry. A GroupMe texting group is in place to communicate reminders and any last minute changes. We also have a youth group website (<https://corpuschristiyouthgroup.weebly.com/>), a private Facebook group (Corpus Christi Youth Ministry) and a private Instagram account (@corpusyouthministry).

Rules about communication with teens: Due to various child protection laws and policies, no adult on our ministry team is permitted to be alone with a teen (including cars). No one-on-one private means of communication are permitted. Limited communication with a teen is permitted with the following elements in place:

- A parent/guardian can permit communication in writing via our registration form.
- A parent/guardian must be copied on **all** forms of communication with teens (texts, e-mails, Facebook, Remind, speakerphone for phone calls, etc)
- If a teen communicates with an adult ministry team member without copying or otherwise involving a guardian, the adult ministry team member will not respond without connecting or copying a parent/guardian. If for some reason they are unable to do this, regardless of content, they cannot respond to the teen.

Confidentiality: Our youth ministry has created a “safe space” for teens to be open and vulnerable about what is going on in their lives. We honor and respect the confidentiality of our teens. All adults on our team are mandated reporters and must make appropriate referrals if there is any indicated potential for harm or danger to themselves or another.

Transportation: Unless otherwise noted for very special circumstances, parents are responsible for coordinating transportation for their teens. **Teens may not walk home from any event without written permission from a parent ahead of time.**

Turning 18 in Youth Group: We recommend reviewing communication and conduct boundaries when a teenager turns 18, such as limitation or elimination of unsupervised one on one contact/communication with minors, and Limiting or eliminating physical contact with minors. Some youth group activities will require those aged 18 or older to obtain 3 PA clearances in order to continue participation, and in some circumstances, 2 training sessions on recognizing and reporting child abuse. 18 year olds may not share lodging with minors. Please contact the youth minister with any questions about this.

Finally...this is YOUR youth ministry. Your feedback, opinions, and ideas are very important. Please communicate your thoughts to the youth minister, and encourage your teens to share their thoughts as well.

This letter and all pertinent information can be found on our website at <http://corpuschristiyouthgroup.weebly.com/>

God bless you, and welcome to the family!

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