

St Mary Youth Ministry

“THE ROAD”



Parent Information

2021 -2022

Sarah Kahaian

Youth Ministry

skahaian@delawarestmary.org

740-363-4641 x116

Office Hours: Tues & Wed 12-4; Thurs 8:30-4:30

Welcome!

Our Mission:

To provide a supportive community to teens as they walk the ROAD with Christ! St Mary Youth Ministry is open to all middle and high school aged (pre)teens and their families. Events are open to Catholics, Protestants, and anyone interested in learning about Christ.

2021/2022 Theme:

Hope does not disappoint!

The Vision:

I believe the purpose of a youth ministry program is to support the growth of life-long disciples of Christ. This road to discipleship may look different for each person and won't always be easy. Regardless of our age, we need to have a community where we can feel safe to be ourselves, ask difficult questions, develop relationships with mentors, and realize a greater purpose. I hope that youth ministry can help to shape this environment, especially with the support of the Domestic Church – your home.

This year's youth ministry will always aim to have a balance of programming to whet the spiritual appetite of all personalities: larger social events, charismatic worship, contemplative prayer, small group gatherings, book clubs, family-focused catholic culture events, service opportunities, and access to Scripture and the Sacraments.

About the Youth Minister:

I am a Catholic convert, wife, mother, step-mother, and most importantly, a member of the Body of Christ. I love science, board games, books, and coffee. I received my Bachelor's degree in Microbiology from Ohio Wesleyan University and worked as a scientific researcher for a decade. I've been feeling God nudge me towards a new calling and am happy to have found my way to St Mary's.



Expectations:

I expect all parents, volunteers, and youth participants to be respectful, responsible, and charitable. Be especially aware of your tone and intent when posting on social media, writing an email, or speaking about another in their absence.

Program Offerings:

Below you will find programming that I intend to develop this year (and grow in the years to come). Please note that this is not an exhaustive list nor fixed in stone. I simply want to share my excitement and ideas with you. If you see an interesting event, be sure to inquire about volunteer opportunities!

Sunday Night Youth Group with Damascus:

Open to those in 8th- 12th grade. Sundays after the 5:30 Mass, ~6:30- 8:30pm. Social time, topic discussion, music, games, dinner.

Dead Theologian Society:

Open to those in 6th – 8th grade. Most first and third Thursdays of the month, 6:15 – 7:45pm. This year the program will be led by our three Seminarian volunteers. Social time, learning about the saints, prayer, snacks.

Small Group Gatherings:

This one is up to you! I am challenging parents and other volunteers to form small groups that are meaningful for teens and their friends at a time and place that fits your schedule. Groups who register with the Parish will receive extra faith formation support and materials. See the attached Challenge Form and reach out to Sarah Kahaian for more information. Suggested reading: *The Art of Forming Young Disciples* by Everett Fritz.

Book Club:

Know any book worms? I hope to begin a book club at the start of the new calendar year (or sooner if possible). All the books chosen will have been vetted by me ahead of time. These books will be picked based on the sheer enjoyment of reading them, not for an academic exercise. They will be wholesome and discussion worthy. Open to 6th-12th grades.

Family Catholic Culture events:

The goal is for these events to be held monthly. There are so many cultural traditions that have grown from our Faith. These events will incorporate these traditions into our own Domestic Church, whether through a talk, craft, or service.

Family Worship Nights:

FWN is held the first Thursday of each month following the 5:30 daily Mass. The night consists of Adoration, a brief talk, music, prayer, and the opportunity for Reconciliation.

Retreats, Conferences, or other large events:

Retreats are being explored and will be determined soon. Goal: Retreats twice a year. Additionally, there may be occasions to participate in regional or national events such as The March for Life or other conferences.

Service Opportunities:

Ideas to explore are writing letters of hope to the incarcerated, fundraising for charity, preparing meals for the homeless. Reach out if you know of other opportunities.