

August 9, 2017

Dear Youth & Parents/Guardians,

The 2017-18 Youth Faith Formation year is coming soon. Please mark your calendars!

- **REGISTRATION NIGHT** - Wednesday, September 13th 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- **PROGRAM BEGINS** - Wednesday, October 4th at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

My vision for the youth ministry department came about through many discussions with Father Cesar, Rose Meyer (our Religious Ed director) and various small group leaders. Our hope is that by participating in all 4 years of high school youth group, each young person is equipped for a more balanced faith life once they have graduated. While graduation is certainly not the end of our faith journeys, we hope that each one of you is prepared with tools to help you along the way.

Freshmen group will be solidifying the base of their understanding by focusing on learning more about the mass (Why do we go to mass? What is the importance of it? What exactly is happening during mass?) along with a series called *You: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body*. What I especially appreciate about this particular program is that its focus is more on self-identity and presents youth with an extraordinary story of their creation as unrepeatably individuals.

Sophomore group will be preparing for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. We will be moving confirmation group back to Wednesday evenings and youth will be required to attend mass every weekend. There will also be a required Confirmation retreat in January. Through the Confirmation program, teens will review the seven sacraments, and delve deeper into learning about who God is, the Holy Spirit, prayer, morality, and what it means to be part of the Church community.

Our **Junior** group will focus on Scripture studies and learning about what God says to us through the Bible. As Pope Francis said in *Evangelii Gaudium*, "The study of the sacred Scriptures must be a door opened to every believer. It is essential that the revealed word radically enrich our catechesis and all our efforts to pass on the faith. We do not blindly seek God, or wait for him to speak to us first, for 'God has already spoken, and there is nothing further that we need to know, which has not been revealed to us.'"

Seniors will use the year to learn more about the social teachings of the Church. Working primarily with the DoCat, the seniors will be presented with a wealth of resources for how to live out the faith in pursuit of charity and justice. Leaders will help the youth to respond effectively to Pope Francis's challenge to work for greater justice in the world.

Program materials will be available for parents to look through at Registration Night on September 13th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in Room #3 (activity room) and to view a short Safe Environment video. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

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I am including registration forms for each child. Green is for 9th, 11th, and 12th grade. Pink is for 10th grade and older students needing the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please read and complete the entire registration form – one per youth – and mail to 5315 Tieton Drive, Yakima, WA 98908. More forms are available in the church, parish office, and Religious Ed. office. (The youth office has relocated to the main parish office.)

Confirmation students please use the PINK form. You **MUST** attach a photocopy of your baptismal certificate. Please note requirements on the back of the registration form.

I am looking forward to getting to know each one of you and journeying with you this year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you and God Bless,

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Don't forget to pick up your
2017-2018 Class Schedule on the
first day of class!
As always, schedules are subject to
change.