



SAINT MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Welcome to High School Youth Group (Grades 9 – 12)

WELCOME!

We are so happy to have you join us for our high school youth programs. Our regular youth meetings are held on **Sunday evenings from 7-9PM in Annex Room 2**. In addition to Sunday night youth group meetings, we will also have occasional service **projects, socials, fun trips, and retreats**. While most of these events are held on our campus at Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church, some of these events will be off-site at various locations. Regular updates for upcoming events will be sent out to subscribing email addresses via Flocknote and will also be reflected on our parish website, in the weekly bulletin and through our social media accounts.

We welcome all students in Grades 9-12 to join our high school youth group no matter what form of high school you participate in (Public, Private/Parochial, or Home School). Participants do not need to be members of Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church or be Catholic so please feel free to invite your friends to attend any of our events.

Attached you will find a *High School Youth Group Membership Form*. Please have your parent or guardian fill this form out and return it to our Coordinator of Youth Ministry the next time you attend an event. This form serves as a Permission Form/Emergency Contact Form for all of our regularly scheduled meetings and one-day events. Certain retreats and privately sponsored events which we participate in may require additional permission forms – if this is the case we will let you know ahead of time.

A lot has changed in our world in recent times. With the growth of technology and our access to social media, we can get information out to our members quicker and with more ease, however we must be careful not to abuse these forms of communication and to always maintain appropriate boundaries with our youth group members. Because of this, your parent or guardian will be asked to sign off on each of the communication options we offer in addition to our normal permissions. I have included some directions on the back of this letter to help them fill out your membership form.

We look forward to getting to know you through your high school experience. If you have any suggestions for how we can serve you better, please let us know.

Blessings,

Amanda Deo

Coordinator of Youth Ministry

(Membership Form Directions for Parents/Guardians on Reverse)

- **Parent/Guardian Pick-ups:** Anyone listed as a Parent/Guardian on this form or the Emergency Contact will be permitted to pick-up your teen. We do not follow our high school teens out to the cars to verify who is picking them up. If you have a custody issue where a parent is not permitted to pick up your teenager, please make that clear on your form and please contact us as well.
- **Teen Carpooling:** We will not police teens who are driving themselves or friends to and from youth group meetings. Parents should discuss with their children whether they are permitted to accept a ride from another teen.
- **Photo Permission:** We will take photos occasionally at our events and sometimes use photos from our activities to promote future activities via flyers, the parish bulletin and social media.
- **Email Permission:** Most of our email communications will be through Flocknote which is a parish database system for sending group and individual correspondence, however if your teen emails our SaintMaryYouthMinistry@gmail.com account and we are responding to them using that account we need your permission. Please know that this will not be our first form of communication.
- **Phone Permission:** Most of our email communications will be through Flocknote Text Messaging or a Group Messaging App however in some instances (for example if we are expecting your teen for an off-site activity, are waiting to leave and want to verify they are still coming) we may want to reach out to them with a phone call or text. We would need your permission to do so. Please know that this will not be our first form of communication.
- **Social Media Permission:** We will be posting marketing information on our social media accounts. If your student wants to follow these accounts, we would prefer to have your permission as most of these accounts have a mutual following option. We may want to “like” something they post or wish them a Happy Birthday. Social media accounts will NOT be used as a form of ongoing one-on-one communication.
- **Emergency Contact:** We ask for a general emergency contact. This can be a parent/guardian or someone else who is available to be contacted if needed. You can always add an alternate contact for a specific event in the future if your emergency contact will not be reachable during a specific event.
- **Medical Information:** We cannot require you to share medical information with us but if there is something that you would like us to be aware of, we are listening. If your child is prone to an allergy or medical condition that could come up when they are in our care, we would like to be prepared so that we can serve them fully.
- **Tylenol/Ibuprofen/Tums/Benadryl:** Occasionally we are at an event where a teen has a headache or heartburn, or signs of an allergy they were unaware of. If we have permission to give them Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Tums or Benadryl at their request please let us know. All other ailments will result in us calling the emergency contact.
- **Transportation:** Off-site trips may be set up with a carpool system. (All of our adult volunteers are required to have a PA Background Check, PA Child Abuse Clearance, Archdiocesan Training for working with youth and Mandated Reporter Training. IN ADDITION Group Drivers must be at least 25 years old).
 - If you give permission for your child to be carpooled by our staff or volunteers in a group of 2+ students, please initial the form. In the unlikely event that one teen is being carpooled, 2 adults would be present. We will never have one adult and one teen in a vehicle for transportation to/from a youth event as per Archdiocesan policy.

Please return completed membership forms to:
 Mrs. Amanda Deo, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
 Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church
 40 Spring Mount Rd. + Schwenksville, Pa 19473
SaintMaryYouthMinistry@gmail.com