



# Pier Ministry

At St. Patrick - St. Anthony Parish  
Grand Haven, MI

## Pier Ministry Leadership

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PIER MINISTRY



## Mission

A high school leadership team who are well formed disciples of Christ who “inspire every heart to know, love and serve Jesus Christ”, especially middle school students and peers.

## Pier Minister Description

A Pier Minister is an active practicing Catholic high school student willing to serve as a disciple of Christ to middle school students and peers while upholding the teachings of the Catholic Church and good morals.

## Scripture

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

## Patron Saints

St. Peter the Apostle & Blessed Carlos Acutis

# Catechism of the Catholic Church

542 Christ stands at the heart of this gathering of men into the "family of God". By his word, through signs that manifest the reign of God, and by sending out his disciples, Jesus calls all people to come together around him. But above all in the great Paschal mystery - his death on the cross and his Resurrection - he would accomplish the coming of his kingdom. "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." Into this union with Christ all men are called.

787 From the beginning, Jesus associated his disciples with his own life, revealed the mystery of the Kingdom to them, and gave them a share in his mission, joy, and sufferings. Jesus spoke of a still more intimate communion between him and those who would follow him: "Abide in me, and I in you. . . . I am the vine, you are the branches." And he proclaimed a mysterious and real communion between his own body and ours: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him."

730 At last Jesus' hour arrives: he commends his spirit into the Father's hands at the very moment when by his death he conquers death, so that, "raised from the dead by the glory of the Father," he might immediately give the Holy Spirit by "breathing" on his disciples. From this hour onward, the mission of Christ and the Spirit becomes the mission of the Church: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you."

425 The transmission of the Christian faith consists primarily in proclaiming Jesus Christ in order to lead others to faith in him. From the beginning, the first disciples burned with the desire to proclaim Christ: "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." It And they invite people of every era to enter into the joy of their communion with Christ: That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us- that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete.

1816 The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it: "All however must be prepared to confess Christ before men and to follow him along the way of the Cross, amidst the persecutions which the Church never lacks." Service of and witness to the faith are necessary for salvation: "So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

618 The cross is the unique sacrifice of Christ, the "one mediator between God and men". But because in his incarnate divine person he has in some way united himself to every man, "the possibility of being made partners, in a way known to God, in the paschal mystery" is offered to all men. He calls his disciples to "take up [their] cross and follow [him]", for "Christ also suffered for [us], leaving [us] an example so that [we] should follow in his steps." In fact Jesus desires to associate with his redeeming sacrifice those who were to be its first beneficiaries. This is achieved supremely in the case of his mother, who was associated more intimately than any other person in the mystery of his redemptive suffering.

# Why should I be in Pier Ministry?

On November 20th 2019 in a video message to those keeping vigil at World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland, Pope Francis encouraged young people to “keep our hearts open to God, since we receive our strength from him, and we have to keep journeying, because in life one can never stand still.” He also called the young people to:

“I offer you these two pieces of advice. Never stay down, immediately get up; let someone help you to get up. That’s the first thing. The second thing is: Don’t spend your life sitting on a couch! Live your life, build your life, do it, keep moving forward! Keep advancing on the journey, get involved and you find extraordinary happiness. I can assure you of that.”

Pope Francis has called young people to live a life of holiness as we journey towards sainthood. Part of that is learning how to live our daily life Christ-like. Christ came to save us through the salvation on the cross but he could not have accomplished it without his disciples. He started his ministry alone and slowly asked others to follow him. In doing so they changed the way that they lived their lives. Everything became centered on Christ.

Christ asks us each personally to be a disciple of Him. When we choose to intentionally follow Christ, typically through prayer, discernment and an encounter of Christ it is then that the compass of our lives point towards Christ. He called the disciples from the life they were living, fishermen and tax collectors, from all walks of life to now walk with Him. They made an extraordinary change to how they were living their lives. It wasn’t just something they did but it was how they were living in the everyday world that made the difference.

To be a Pier Minister is a commitment to serve God, the Church, and the people, grow in leadership skills that will carry you the rest of your life, grow in faith and holiness, you don’t “have to have it all together” right now to be a Pier Minister, learn how the faith impacts your daily life if you are looking to go deeper in your faith, to be surrounded by others striving for sainthood who are your own age the Pier Ministry team could be the place for you. This is more than just helping out with middle school ministry, this is becoming a disciple, a follower of Christ that radically changes the way you live. As a disciple you are then there to encourage, serve, welcome and disciple the middle school students. As you know with the world around us today, it is so important to have an example to look up to.

Let me introduce you to Blessed Carlos Acutis. Carlos grew up in Italy he wore jeans and Nikes, and loved to play videogames with friends. He also had an immense love for God. His parents were not religiously devout, they hardly attended Mass. However he had a love for the Rosary and the Eucharist. He went to Mass as often as he could, making holy hours before or after Mass. He would go to confession weekly and always was asking his parents to take him on pilgrimages to visit places of the saints or the sites of Eucharistic miracles. Due to his deep witness of faith his mom had a conversion of her own. His parents never dragged him to Mass, it was actually the other way around! He was known by his friends at school to always defend kids who were being picked on. He loved to work with technology and built a website to catalog Eucharistic miracles that is still active today. He is known for saying “the more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven.” Carlos died very young at the age of 15 from leukemia. He would often offer his sufferings “to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church.” This soon to be saint didn’t live centuries ago. He was born on May 3, 1991 and passed away on October 12th, 2006. He wore jeans, he played on a PS2 and is often depicted in casual attire and wearing sunglasses. Carlos was like any teenager you might run into today, but there was a clear difference, he loved the Lord and strived to live his daily life as a disciple.

You still may be thinking why should I be a pier minister. I am not one of the disciples Jesus called or like Carlos. Those are lies by the Devil himself, everyone is called to follow Christ, knowing that we are all broken and in need of a Savior. Take time in prayer to consider where God is calling you to serve, and I can tell you one thing, sitting on the couch isn’t where he is calling you. Pier Ministry may just be where he is calling you to step off that boat, trust in Him and answer His calling to discipleship.

# Pier Minister Description

## What is a Pier Minister?

A High School student who serves middle school students as a leader through strong role models through authentic relationships. A Pier Minister strives to work and uphold the characteristics of a Pier Minister as listed below, knowing that we all are fallen and broken but seeking to live a fearless life of holiness.

## Characteristics of a Pier Minister

- Willingness to serve
- Loves to share the Gospel with others
- Kind and compassionate to all people
- Welcoming and inclusive of all
- Strong prayer life and personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Working towards Sainthood
- Humble in leadership
- Able to work well with others on the team
- Able to be professional and work well with adults and peers
- Living a chaste and holy life

## The Pier Ministers role in middle school ministry

- Welcome Students as they arrive
  - ◆ 1 or 2 Pier Ministers in this role
- Interact with students or play games as they are arriving and during free time
  - ◆ This could be one on one or running a large group game
- Help to lead games, prayers and activities as needed for that night
  - ◆ All of this will be planned with the adults when you arrive for the night
- Lead small groups
  - ◆ Using the training provided at the meetings
- Serve where you are needed and asked
- Praying for the students you are serving
- Helping with the retreats as needed and planned for the year
- Being a well behaved example at the programs or retreats you attend
- Pier Ministry is NOT
  - ◆ Only there to set up or clean up
  - ◆ To just be a participant of Middle School
  - ◆ To just all hang out together as Pier Ministers at Middle School
  - ◆ To be there to gossip or just be on your phone

## Time Commitment

A Pier Minister is asked to serve on a rotating schedule between 5th-8th grade ministry weekly up to 2 nights a month. This schedule will be released at the October Meeting once all applications are in. If there is a day Monday or Wednesday that does not work for you, please make that knowing your application under the question about time commitment. They are also committed to attending high school ministry regularly as well as weekly Mass. There is one fall retreat day followed by a Mass of Commissioning to attend. There is one Spring Discipleship Day. All Pier Ministers are encouraged to attend Young Apostles and Shine Youth Rally to serve as high school leaders.

Pier Ministry Monthly Meetings are held at 5:30 PM on the first Sunday of each month. Each meeting will include dinner, prayer, team building, discipleship training and planning for the month ahead. These meetings will lead right into the High School Ministry on Sunday nights.

When a Pier Minister is assigned to a night to serve the 5th and 6th or 7th and 8th grade groups they are asked to arrive 30 minutes prior to the session to meet with adults to go over the plans for the night. Pier Ministers are to be a welcoming presence to middle school students. Pier ministers are then to help facilitate any games or activities for that night as well as lead the small groups.

Pier Ministers are also asked to help with retreats for middle school students and the possibility of other events. This may also include parish activities when the help needed aligns with the purpose and goals of Pier Ministry.

As always there will be occasional opportunities to have fun as a team, support each other in life, sports, the arts or big accomplishments.

## The Goal

Pier Ministry is here to help a Pier Minister form valuable leadership skills, ministry skills and to help the individual student grow in discipleship. Pier Ministry is not a group to just serve but also to learn and grow in faith together. The group works together as a team to serve the middle school ministry and parish of St. Patrick - St. Anthony Parish.

# Year Schedule

\*Possible Changes and additions of events will be made

**September 1st**- Applications Ready

**September 26th**- All Applications are Due

**October 2nd** - Monthly Meeting

**October 29th**- Day Long Retreat

**October 29th** - 5PM Mass and Commissioning of Pier Ministers

**November 6th** - Monthly Meeting

**December 4th** - Monthly Meeting

**December 18th** - Advent Team Holy Hour

**January 8th** - Monthly Meeting (Please note it is not the first Sunday due to the holidays)

**February 5th** - Monthly Meeting

**March 5th** - Monthly Meeting

**March 25th** - Young Apostles

**March 26th**- Shine Youth Rally

**April 2nd** - Monthly Meeting

**TBD**- Spring Discipleship Day at the Franciscan Sisters

**May 7th** - Monthly Meeting

**June 4th** - End of the Year Award Dinner & Celebration of Senior Pier Ministers

**TBD**- Summer Pier Evangelizing

# Virtues & Upstanding Morals

As a Pier Minister you are held to high standards as a good example for those whom you serve. Please complete the following and keep a copy as a reminder for what you are agreeing to do while serving on the Pier Ministry Team.

I (first & last name) \_\_\_\_\_ agree to uphold these virtues, morals and actions while serving on the Pier Ministry Team for 2022 - 2023. I understand that if at any time I am not in conduct with these that I may be asked to stop my service until I can uphold them again. By checking the boxes below and signing my name I agree to:

- Be an active practicing Catholic and observing the precepts of the church: by attending Mass weekly and on Holy Days of Obligation, receiving the sacrament of reconciliation at least once a year, receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season, observe days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church, and help to provide for the needs of the church.
- Believing and living out all the Catholic Church teaches, even on topics of abortion, homosexuality, chastity etc.
- Following the 10 commandments.
- Watching my language especially the use of God's name in vain while at the parish and outside the parish.
- Attending High School Ministry regularly, I understand that all Pier Ministers are required to attend High school Ministry as well as Pier Ministry.
- Using social media with respect for others and myself and to only share things which align with the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Not using drugs, alcohol and other substances that are harmful to my body.
- Committing to a daily prayer life and relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Being kind and respectful to all those who I serve, my fellow Pier Ministers, and adult leaders.
- Staying humble in my servant leadership, just because I am a Pier Minister I am not entitled to more than those whom I serve.
- Sometimes I may not have all the right answers, I will seek guidance from an adult. Situations in which a student is harming themselves or others needs to be reported to an adult.
- Participating with an open mind and an open heart.
- Strive for discipleship in my everyday life.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I as the parent/ guardian am signing this acknowledging what my student has agreed to above. I as the parent/ guardian of the student listed above agree to help my student to the best of my ability in their agreements. I am also aware that my student is committing to serve on the Pier Ministry Team for the 2022-2023 year.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Pier Minister Application

The application must be accompanied by a registration for the High School Ministry along with a signed copy of the virtues & upstanding morals page. There is no letter of recommendation needed as there has been in years past. Please turn in your application by September 26th 2022.

## Information

First & Last Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: 9th 10th 11th 12th

My Favorite Snack is: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies to Food: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions

Please include typed one paragraph responses to each of the following questions and attach it to your application:

1. How would you describe your personal relationship with God? What is your prayer life like?
2. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? How are we called to be disciples everyday?
3. What are some gifts and talents that you have that could help you serve others?
4. Please share your current time commitments with work, sports, volunteering, clubs etc.