

Dear High School Families,

Welcome to youth ministry. I am Makenzie Conner. I oversee 7th - 12th grade as well as the Young Adult Ministry at St. Patrick - St. Anthony Parish. We are excited to be able to offer our Mens and Womens Discipleship Small Groups to your High School student(s).

Here is what the Catholic Church is currently facing:

- 13 is the median age when someone has chosen to leave the faith
- by age 17, 85% of students have left the church
- 52% of youth have little to no trust in organized religion

Here is what we know about teenagers:

- they are seeking to be understood
- they are looking for a place to belong
- they are looking for guidance
- they need a place to be transparent
- they long to engage in critical thinking regarding faith and life

Knowing what we are facing and to meet these needs the parish is striving to form disciples in the faith. A disciple is someone who intentionally lives their faith daily and brings others alongside. We offer YDisciple small groups for high school youth ministry. Knowledge of the faith is part of the program, but we know a student needs to belong and believe first in order to be able to learn. We also create small group environments where teens are known, loved, and cared for by their leaders and other students.

Parents are the primary educators of the faith and studies show that no one has more influence on a teenager than their parents. We involve parents in what their student is learning with weekly letters and communication. We also seek parent involvement through volunteering. Based on feedback, this year registration will be one form for your entire family grades K-12. We invite you to register your student for high school youth ministry.

Please know I am available if you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming year. I am excited to serve and walk alongside you and your family in this journey of faith. If you would like to discuss high school YDisciple small groups in more detail prior to signing up, please let me know so we can set a time to meet.

Registration for this year's high school YDisciple small groups are now open. Below is more information. Please register by September 6th using the QR code below or online at stpatsgh.org/faith-learning/high-school/

- High School mens and womens small groups will meet on Sunday nights from 7:00 - 8:30 PM starting on October 6
- We will meet in the youth center.
- There will also be monthly Family Faith Formation Sundays after the 11:00 AM Mass.
- Keep an eye out for our fun kickoff event for 7-12 grade on Sunday, September 29.

If you are receiving this letter in error please let us know by completing the Parish Database Form via the QR Code below or stpatsgh.org/faith-learning/high-school/

- you have moved parishes
- have left the Catholic Church
- received the letter but your student isn't in high school
- or another reason. If you would like to speak with someone please email Makenzie at mconner@stpatsgh.org

**QR Code for Faith Formation
Registration**



**QR Code to update Parish Database
Form**



Blessings,
Makenzie Conner
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