

Youth Ministry

What is Youth Ministry?

Young people have gifts that can transform a faith community, if the community is open to those gifts and the changes that they may necessitate. Youth ministry is as much about helping young people as it is about helping young people to share their gifts with the parish community.



Youth Ministry, as defined by the US Bishops in *Renewing the Vision (RTV)*, includes middle school youth (**grades 6 - 8**) and high school youth (**grades 9 - 12**). These age groups should be ministered to within different programs and events because of age and developmental differences.

Goals of Catholic Youth Ministry:

- Goal 1: To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today. (RTV, p.9)
- Goal 2: To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community. (RTV, p. 11)
- Goal 3: To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person. (RTV, p. 15)

<http://www.usccb.org/about/laity-marriage-family-life-and-youth/young-adults/renewing-the-vision.cfm>



Comprehensive Ministry with Adolescents—It Takes a Whole Church

We have learned that it takes the entire Church to achieve the three goals we have established for ministry with adolescents.

The comprehensive approach is not a single program or recipe for ministry. Rather, it provides a way for integrating ministry with adolescents and their families into the total life and mission of the Church, recognizing that the whole community is responsible for this ministry.

**OLGC Comprehensive Youth Ministry (CYM)
NEW DAYS AND TIMES * Beginning Sunday August 14, 2016**

Grades 6 - 8



**SUNDAY
AFTERNOONS
3:00 – 4:30
Pastoral Center**

Grades 9 - 12



**SUNDAY
EVENINGS
6:30 – 8:30
Pastoral Center**

FAQ's

1. Does removing Confirmation from the context of a high school program miss an opportunity for a much-needed ministry to our youth at a time when they are looking for recognition and a sense of belonging?

The preparation for the celebration of Confirmation should not be used simply as a means to an end, however noble. The parish is to develop a proper comprehensive youth ministry program which attend to the spiritual needs of our youth and can be based upon a deepening of the sacramental grace received in the sacraments of Christian initiation. Parents, being the first teachers of their children, have the responsibility to educate their children throughout high school, in all areas including the Faith. Parents are to keep their children in religious education programs just as they keep their child in school until graduation.

2. How will this change impact ministry to teens and our youth ministry programs?

In the long run, we believe this is a great step for youth ministry. "Receiving" the sacrament can be used as a carrot or bottom-line motivation for attendance. Instead of drawing teens by our own creative efforts and quality ministry, we can easily be tempted to rely on having a "captive" audience who is required to be present. The problem with captives is that they may really feel and act like prisoners, as they are forced to be present at meetings they really do not want to attend. Also, because the sacrament tends to be the focus and goal, few teens stay involved once confirmation is celebrated. Instead of understanding the sacrament of confirmation as a beginning or the strengthening for a more committed Christian lifestyle, many teens walk away with a sense of relief that it is all over. As a result, it is viewed more as a rite of graduation from religious education. The irony is that confirmation celebrates an initiation into a church from which many immediately drop out. Parish based Comprehensive Youth Ministry programs are called to have the mission of the church as its purpose. They are called to incorporate the proclamation of the Gospel, through evangelization, growth in holiness and fullness of faith; and by loving and serving all those in need. Our youth ministry teams must evangelize, build teens up through formation, and send them out to minister, thereby help these young disciples, through the power of the Holy Spirit received in Baptism and Confirmation, become mature apostles to their peers.

3. What is the process for youth who completed year 1 of the past Confirmation program last year?

Youth who completed the first year preparation last year will be registered for and attend the CYM beginning August 14. In January, those students only, will be grouped together to finish the "Chosen" recourse they were previously using. When completed, they will return to larger CYM group. They will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation sometime in April or May (the date will be determined by the Diocesan Office of Worship based on the Bishop's schedule).

4. 2017-2018 Transition Year

Grades 1-12 will receive Confirmation preparation instructions within their respective religious education classes that year. Reception of the Sacrament for grades 2-12 will be on May 20, 2018 – Pentecost Sunday.

To register or if you have more questions or concerns, please contact:

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