

Frequently Asked Questions

High School YOUth Ministry

Is there a regular gathering for high school students?

Yes. CTM – Christian Teen Ministry. All high school students are invited to share time together on Sunday evenings. We meet in the Parish Center Youth Room from 6:00-8:00 p.m. (this is the new time beginning in June, 2007).

What is a typical CTM gathering like?

Beginning in the summer of 2007, we will gather to share a meal, socialize and learn about our faith. We often do one or more of the following: have discussions, watch videos & movies, listen to music, do lesson-related activities, and plan events and service projects.

Who can attend CTM?

All high school students are welcome. You do not need to be a parish member or even Catholic to attend. You can always bring a friend or neighbor or cousin, etc.

Does CTM meet every Sunday?

Usually, but not always. It varies from month to month, depending on holidays and holy days, so it's important to stay connected to our ever-changing calendar. The Sundays we typically do not meet include Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day weekend, Labor Day weekend, and the weekend in January when we attend the Charter Hall retreat. Other holidays and holy days may also fall on Sunday, and certain parish events conflict with CTM. Please visit www.schoolnotes.com and read our Sunday parish bulletin for the latest news, events and calendar updates.

Are all CTM gatherings in the Parish Center?

Usually we meet in the Parish Center, however, we sometimes have special events or "field trips." These can include going bowling, ice skating, to a musical or play, to the movies, etc. We also meet occasionally at someone's home for a pool party or bonfire.

Are CTM gatherings chaperoned?

Yes. Parents are always welcome. Grandparents, aunts & uncles, and older siblings are also welcome to attend CTM gatherings. Adults who participate on a regular basis need to complete a background check form and sign a volunteer covenant agreement.

What is a lockin?

A lockin is an overnight event. Depending on the number of students attending, lockins can be held in the Parish Center and/or the gym. Some lockins are just for fun, like the Christmas vacation and Halloween lockins. These usually include movies, games, dodgeball in the gym, pizza and music. Other lockins have a specific theme, like the Confirmation and Work Camp lockins. Themed lockins usually include more prayer, lessons, and sometimes a service activity. But there's also free time for fun, like dodgeball and/or a movie.

Are there leadership opportunities for high school students?

Yes. Students are always welcome to “teach” a CTM lesson on a topic of their choice. High school students are also welcome to be assistant catechists for our younger grades in the parish religious education program and to help at Vacation Bible School. In addition, our parish has two high school students who serve as representatives on the diocesan leadership team. Within our parish, a high school student may serve on Pastoral Council; Parish & Family Life, Liturgy, and Social Concerns committees; and the Youth Leadership Team.

Does our parish do any activities with other parishes in the diocese?

Yes. We participate in the annual Progressive Dinner held near Thanksgiving and the annual youth rally held in March. There is also a Pitcher and Basin local work camp opportunity open to all high school students in the diocese. Depending on challenges with finances and coordinating calendars, there may also be other events like the Lenten Lockout. Diocesan events can vary from year to year.

If I sign up for CTM, do I have to pay a fee?

There is no registration fee for CTM. However, whenever we plan a gathering, like movies or skating, etc., students must pay the associated fee.

If I sign up, do I have to come every Sunday?

No. You may come as often as suits your schedule.

What do I need to do to sign up?

Contact the Youth Ministry office in person or at 410 392 3551 to receive registration forms and an Annual Consent Form. You may also download forms from the Youth Ministry web site and bring them with you. Every student must submit a signed Annual Consent Form each year. Each event lasting more than six hours, including overnight events, also requires an Event Specific Consent Form.

If my parents would like to help occasionally, what kind of help do you need?

- We would like to have parents volunteer to cook a simple meal (hot dogs, lasagna, sloppy joe sandwiches, etc.) once in a while for Sunday night CTM. We always use paper products and foil to keep clean-up easy.
- We need parents to **BE PRESENT** at our gatherings. Sometimes this involves helping with a small group activity. No experience is necessary.
- We need drivers and chaperones for any event off the parish property.
- We need both male and female adults present (and awake) at our lockins.

What if my parents want to help, but they are not available on Sunday evenings?

We appreciate donations of snacks & drinks and paper products throughout the year.

Can my parents or other adults volunteer to teach a lesson?

Absolutely! We love to have guests come and teach us. Our pastor, Associate Pastor, and deacon have all taught lessons for CTM. We also invite other parishioners who have special knowledge on a topic to lead our lessons. These have included topics such as Devine Mercy Sunday, Vocations, the Crop Walk for hunger relief, and Apologetics. Please contact the Youth Ministry office if you would like to share your knowledge with our high school youth.