



From: Youth Minister, Saint Ann, Ashland

Subj: 2017-18 Youth Programs at Saint Ann

Dear Parents!

I am sending this letter and information to let you know our current plans for Youth Programs at St. Ann this year. As I begin my eleventh year as Youth Minister at St. Ann, I am very excited about the prospect of making our faith come alive for our young people. I feel that my job is to reach out to each and every youth and invite them to explore and embrace our faith and to do what I can to complement your effort to instruct them in the faith and to learn of God's love for them.

Please forgive the length of this letter as there is a lot going on! And please consider supporting these programs for your Youth by providing opportunities and encouragement for them to participate. As most teens do not regularly check their email accounts, **I really depend on parents to pass along info** and to make these programs a priority. (I regularly send texts to Saint Ann teens to reach out and make them aware of what is going on. If you think I may not have your teen's number and would like them to receive these texts, please pass me their phone numbers and I'll include them.)

Included in this letter is our current Youth Programs calendar of events for the coming school year. Please review this calendar and the attached event detail information with your youth so you and they are aware of all that will be going on this year. **Four events that are coming up soon** are high school **Pizza, People and Praise! (P3) this Sunday**, the Diocesan Youth Day at Busch Gardens (Oct. 7) and the Christian Awakening retreat (for 11th and 12th graders) (Oct. 13-15), and MS Game Night (Oct. 13).

I want to call special attention to retreat opportunities for our high schoolers. **"Discovery"** (for 9th and 10th graders) and **"Christian Awakening"** (for 11th and 12th graders). These retreats offer outstanding opportunities for our youth to spend a short time away with other Catholic youth and to learn what it can mean to live a life with the love of God alive in their hearts. The youth will encounter peers who have come to know what it means to discover the joy and peace of sharing in the ever-present person of Jesus. In the past years, over 60 youth from St. Ann have made their Discovery and/or Christian Awakening retreat and not one has ever regretted going. In fact, the great majority is thrilled to have gone and almost every single one has asked to return the following year as a peer leader on team, even those who may have hesitated to attend initially. In my experience, no other single event has greater potential to have lasting effect on these young people. Knowing that you will want this for them, please speak to your teens about this opportunity and look ahead on your calendars to try to make this happen for them. I will help in any way I can! (Registration form attached.)

The program summary included here is loaded with information. I invite you to try your best to put the offered youth events on your calendar soon! Will pass along any additions we make as I work with the youth to develop the plan for the year. Please contact me with any questions you have. I am always open to suggestions for new ideas and activities, and would welcome any offer for help to make these events successes. I pray and work for our youth for themselves and for the future of our faith. I feel privileged to be able to spend time with them and to share our faith with them. Thank you for the opportunity to do so!

Maria Davis
mariadavis@stannsc.org c - 836-3008

Saint Ann Youth Ministry Schedule 2017-18

10/5/2017

Updated:

Middle School Game Nights - Fridays - Parish Hall - 7-10:00 pm

Oct 13
Dec 1
Jan 5
Feb 2
Mar 2
Apr 13
May 4

High School Pizza, People & Praise! - Sundays - Parish Hall - 5:30-8:00 pm

Oct 1
Oct 29
Jan 21
Mar 4
Apr 15
May 6

Diocesan Youth Ministry Events

Oct 13-15 - Christian Awakening Retreat (11th and 12th graders)
Oct 28 - Middle School Youth Rally - Charlottesville Catholic School*
Dec 8-10 - Discovery Retreat (9th-10th graders)
Jan 18-19 - National March for Life*
Feb 9-11 - Diocesan Youth Conference (8-12th graders) - Richmond
Mar 3 - Scouting: Catholic Heritage Hike - Richmond*
Mar 11 - Scouting: Annual Diocesan Scout Mass - Richmond*
Jun 23-29 - Diocesan Work Camp*
July 10-14 - MS Day Camp*
July 25-27 - Fiat Days - Older girls HS Retreat*
July (TBD) - Quo Vadis: Young Men's (HS) Camp - Richmond*

*If any individuals/families would like to participate, please let Maria know!
(mariadavis@stannsc.org)

Please visit the Diocese Office For Evangelization Youth page
at www.evangelizerichmond.org for details on many Diocesan events!

Confirmation Preparation Schedule (Including FYI for those registered - normally those high schoolers in 10th grade or older who have not yet been Confirmed. Maria is also the Confirmation Coordinator for the parish - please let me know if you have questions.)

- Oct 11 - Information Session - Parish Hall - Set up 6-6:30, Meeting 6:30-8:30

- **Nov 05** - Discernment with Father Chris (During CF +) 12:15-1:45
- **Jan 07** - Class #1 - Parish Hall - (During CF +) 12:15-4:00
- **Jan 28** - Class #2 - Parish Hall - (During CF +) 12:15-4:00
- **Feb 03** - Retreat/Mass/Dinner - Shalom House, Parish Hall - Hall Set Up 12 - 5:00 pm (Retreat - 8:30
4:30 - Candidates meet at Saint Ann 8:00 to carpool to location TBD) (Mass - 5:00, Dinner - 6:15 - 8:30)
- **Feb 25** - Class #3 - Parish Hall - (During CF +) 12:15-4:00
- **Mar 18** - Class #4 - Parish Hall - (During CF +) 12:15-4:00
- **(TBD** - Confirmation Mass and final class (Mystagogia))

Explanation of activities:

High School Pizza, People and Praise (P3) - High school youth (grades 9 - 12) will be meeting on Sunday evenings most months from October through May. The program for the year (including other activities depending on interest) will be developed early on with the youth, so it is sure to be interesting and fun! We will usually chip in \$5 each to have pizza to share – 5:30 - 8 p.m., Parish Hall.

Middle School Game Night - Middle school youth (grades 6 - 8) will be holding Game Nights for fun and fellowship on one Friday of each month October through June from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall (or occasionally at alternate locations). Bring a snack to share. (Drinks are provided.) Friends are welcome! (Adults are needed each month to help out. MS parents will receive an invitation to an online volunteer program.)

Middle School Youth Rally – Oct 28 – Charlottesville - The Middle School Youth Rally is a one-day diocesan gathering of middle school youth (grades 6-8). This event is intended to be a high-energy day filled with great talks from a keynote speaker, fun activities and games, and a chance to meet other youth from nearby parishes.

High School (Grades 11-12) Christian Awakening Retreat – Oct 13-15 – CA is a peer-ministered retreat held by the Diocese which enables teenagers to come to know and experience Christ, and to see him in themselves and others. They're invited to look at ways of serving others and becoming better, more fully committed Christians. Again, please consider this opportunity for youth to grow in their personal journey of faith. (Registration form attached.)

High School (Grades 9 and 10) Discovery Retreat – December 8-10 - This is a peer-ministered retreat held by the Diocese which encourages teenagers to discover their own identity and their relationship with God. The retreat is incredibly dynamic with talks, small group interaction and community-building experiences. As in past years, St. Ann youth have returned to Discovery as team members. (Maria is serving as the Retreat Assistant/Coordinator for the Diocese for this retreat.) Please seriously consider this retreat. (There are two other Discovery retreats in later months, but the December retreat is much closer to Richmond.) It is not to be missed! (Registration form attached.)

Diocesan Youth Conference – Feb 9-11 – Richmond, VA - This annual event was attended by 50+ parishes and over 800 participants this past February and is the big event for our Diocesan Youth for the year. Participants spend the weekend at the retreat venue downtown and participate in many youth-centered activities and events. St. Ann has sent a delegation for the past eight years and it is always a fantastic time for all. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Youth Ministry Coordinator for MS/HS for 2017-2018 is Maria Davis. I can be contacted at mariadavis@stannscc.org or on my cell at 836-3008. **We need more parent/adult volunteers on the YM team!** Especially if your children are in grades 6-12 and being served by this ministry, I am asking if you would please become involved and help make all of these activities and plans come together.

God's peace, Maria