

# High School Ministry

This mission of this ministry is to attend to the spiritual and social needs of our young people in order to foster an environment where the youth of our parish can feel a sense of belonging to our faith and community. The High School Ministry provides Youth Nights, Service Opportunities, and a Retreat Ministry.



“When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, ‘I used everything you gave me.’ ”

— ERMA BOMBECK

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH  
614 Route 517  
Vernon, NJ 07462  
[www.stfrancisvernon.org](http://www.stfrancisvernon.org)

## Goals

- ◆ Enabling today’s youth to be tomorrow’s Catholic leaders.
- ◆ Connect youth with the larger church, getting them involved in parish and focused on Eucharist.
- ◆ Provide a positive safe environment.
- ◆ Provide a comfortable sharing environment, a place that is upbeat and inviting.
- ◆ Nurture the youth with positive Catholic values of love, honesty, courage, peace and non-violence, fidelity, chastity, generosity, tolerance, respect for life from conception to natural death, care and compassion, service to those in need, equality, social justice, integrity, responsibility, and community.
- ◆ Promote positive self-image, a sense of self-esteem, a sense of purpose in life, a positive view of one’s personal future, and humble acceptance of one’s self as lovable and loved by God and others.

## Talent required

Individuals wishing to consider a commitment to the High School Ministry should be a model of faith that is alive, conscious, and active with a desire to share God’s message through word and action. They should have an understanding of the needs, concerns, and wishes of today’s teens; as well as being compassionate, a good listener and someone who likes to laugh and have fun.

## Social

Youth Ministry is a relational ministry. Those involved in the ministry, both adults and teens, walk on the faith journey together, getting to know God, each other, and themselves better through fun interactions and community building.

## Service

Providing youth with the opportunity to do service is important. But even more important is helping teens to develop an understanding of God’s call to each of us to serve our brothers and sisters. Through service activities and events, teens will be encouraged to not only provide a service, but to learn what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ.

## Spiritual

Young people will be given opportunities to encounter Christ through prayer experiences, activities, and discussions. While the young people will learn about their faith, the emphasis of this ministry is to foster a relationship with God and the faith community.

## Youth Nights

Approximately two times a month youth will gather for an hour and a half to explore a faith topic. Nights are comprised of an activity, discussion, and prayer experience. A volunteers level of involvement is determined by the volunteer.

## Retreat Team

There is one “mini” 5-hour retreat and one weekend retreat each year. Adults will help upperclassmen to plan these retreats during a series of meetings and then help the teens facilitate the retreats.

## Training

Adults working with the youth of the parish are required by the Diocese of Paterson to attend the “Protecting God’s Children” workshop and undergo a criminal background check. No other training is necessary. Volunteers who participate in the youth ministry program work collaboratively and will be provided guidance, so that each person may contribute in the ways he or she feels called.

Facilitator: Linda Allen-Poole — Email: [youthmiistry@stfrancisvernon.org](mailto:youthmiistry@stfrancisvernon.org)

We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith, that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, in accord with the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ. *2 Thessalonians 1: 11-12*



WE ARE THE HANDS  
OF CHRIST ON EARTH ...