

ST. THERESE YOUTH GROUP (STYG)

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them." – Matthew 18:20

Parents,

We are excited to be kicking off another year of STYG (6th – 12th Grade)! This year we will be using a small group format, beginning the year with both online and in-person options. We will be following the guidance of the Knoxville Diocese and will notify you of any changes that may be necessary throughout the year. The key this year is going to be flexibility as we do not know how things are going to progress.

Though change can always be difficult, we are excited about our new small group format! It will not only allow us to better protect your children, but it will also help to foster more authentic relationships among peers and leaders. Our ultimate goal this year is to grow our relationships with the youth and help them to navigate these difficult times knowing that God is with them and so are we.

Registration

Registration is OPEN! Forms are available in the Vestibule or Online at <https://sttheresecatholicchurch.org/STYG-registration>. Please register as soon as possible in order to help us determine how many groups we will need and make sure we have enough adult leaders.

In-Person, Wednesdays (7:00-8:30pm)

At this time our most requested format has been in-person. To allow for adequate distancing, we will be limiting our in-person groups to no more than 8 youth. Doors will remain closed and no youth will be permitted to enter prior to 6:55pm. At 8:30pm we will have a staggered dismissal time and our leaders will walk their groups out of the building.

Protective Measures:

- Screening:
 - All Youth and Leaders who are exhibiting multiple symptoms associated with COVID-19 (Cough, Chills, Difficulty Breathing, Muscle Pain, Abdominal Pain, New Loss of Taste or Smell, Headache, Sore Throat, Rash, Fatigue, Vomiting, Diarrhea) or have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 should remain at home!
 - All Youth and Leaders will be screened at the entrance of the building. Temperatures will be taken and if you have a fever (100.4 or higher) you will not be permitted to attend group.
- Hygiene & Sanitation:
 - Hand Sanitizer will be readily available. We will request that everyone use hand sanitizer every time they enter and leave the building. Hand Sanitizer will also be used when touching shared objects.
 - Spaces and supplies will be cleaned and disinfected before and after every gathering.
 - Bathrooms will be cleaned twice a week – before Youth Nights and Religious Education Classes.
- Physical/Social Distancing:
 - We will make every effort to ensure appropriate physical distancing according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the CDC recommendations. This is defined as three (3) to six (6) feet.
- Personal Protective Equipment:
 - Everyone will be required to wear face masks when entering the building and must remain on, covering nose and mouth, for the entire time we are gathered. Face Masks will also be required for outdoor events.

Online

For our new online platform, we will be using a combination of Zoom, YouTube, Text, Email, and GroupMe.

Format:

- Once a month, as we are starting a new series, we will do a series introduction night via Zoom. This will include not only an introduction to the new series, but also face to face time with their groups. During this time they will play games, check-in on one another, discuss the new series, and pray together.
- Weekly:
 - Every week we will post a new video teaching for that week's session on YouTube.
 - Our small group leaders will be checking in with their groups every week via text, email, or GroupMe. They will be checking in on how they are doing that week, how they can offer prayer, what they thought of that week's video teaching, giving them a challenge to complete for the week, and checking in on last week's challenge.

Volunteers

Please consider giving of your time and talents to support STYG. Here are some ways you could lend a hand:

- Small Group Leader (Online or In-Person)
- Small Group Substitute (Online or In-Person)
- Set-up / Clean-up Team
- Check-in / Screening Crew
- **Pray for the success of our program and growth in the faith of our youth!**

Mark Your Calendars

August 12 – Kick-Off, Drive Thru Event – Come meet Miss Amanda and your Small Group Leaders – from a distance.

August 26 – First Youth Night! – Join us either in-person or online via ZOOM.

We look forward to seeing you, and to seeing how God will work in the lives of our Youth this year!

God Bless,

Miss Amanda and The STYG Team!

A PARENT'S PRAYER

Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings. We thank and praise You. Thank You for the gift of our children. Help us to set boundaries for them and yet encourage them to explore. Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start. May our children come to know You, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. May Your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love, so they may know peace, truth, and goodness. May their ears hear Your voice. May their eyes see Your presence in all things. May their lips proclaim Your Word. May their hearts be Your dwelling place. May their hands do works of charity. May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Lord. Amen.

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