

**Mississippi's Andrew's Youth Ministry St.**





## *AN INVITATION*

**Maturing in Christian faith is a lifelong journey for everyone. It is a process of conversion, not a point of arrival. Adolescents are at a crucial point in this lifelong journey. While younger adolescents build their faith identity upon the beliefs, attitudes, and values of the Christian community, older adolescents are beginning to reflect critically on the community's faith, seeking to establish a personally-owned faith identity. They are beginning to take seriously the burden of responsibility for their own commitments, lifestyle, beliefs, and attitudes. The journey from accepting the faith of the community to owning their own faith within the community is often a time of deeper questioning and of anguished or even frustrating searching. (cf. CT 38) It is a crucial time of maturing. "Catechesis cannot ignore these changeable aspects of this delicate period of life." (CT 38) In fact, adolescent catechesis must view adolescents as maturing people who are growing in every way and who are experiencing their own questions, joys, struggles, and quests for meaning. Adolescent catechesis helps young people understand the relationship of Jesus and the Church to the important realities in their lives.**

**(cf. NCD 174) From: *The Challenge of Adolescent Catechesis: Maturing in Faith***

**Developed by: THE NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY  
1986 P.6**

**CT *Catechesi Tradendae* John Paul II, 1979**

**NCD *National Catechetical Directory*. NCCB. 1976**

**St. Andrew's Parish Youth Ministry Program**  
**120 Washington Avenue**  
**Westwood, NJ 07675**  
**Teen Office Phone Number 201-664-6777 Ext. 209**

**Web Page Address:**  
**HTTP://www.standrewcc.com**

**E-Mail Address: ymin@standrewcc.com**

<i>Rev. Paciano A. Barbieto</i>	<b>Pastor</b>
<i>Mr. Alan Pitman</i>	<b>Pastoral Associate for Teens</b>

**Youth Group is held on Monday and Wednesday**  
**From 7:00pm to 8:30pm**

**This booklet gives a basic outline and information about our Youth Ministry program and our Confirmation Process. Confirmation, here at St. Andrew's, is usually celebrated during high school. The process we use is similar to the R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). If after reading this booklet you have any questions, please feel free to call the Teen Office.**

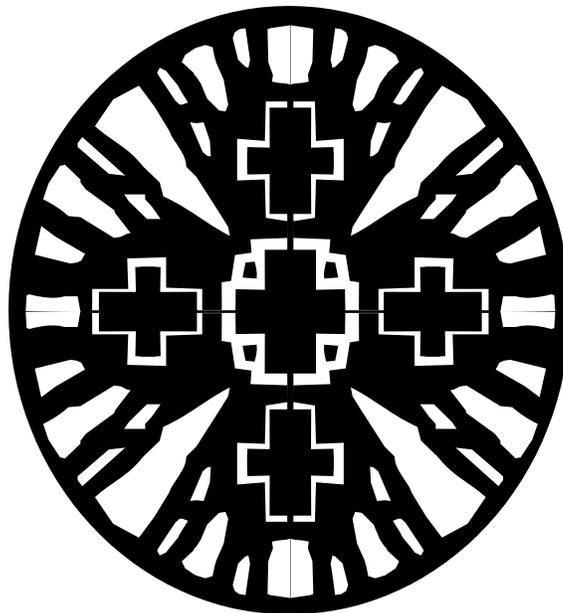
# **St. Andrew's Youth Ministry Programs**

## **YOUTH GROUP**

**Youth Group is held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Meetings consist of a variety of experiences. There are presentations, talks, videos, discussions, guest speakers and prayer experiences. PLEASE CHECK THE CALENDAR FOR SPECIFIC DATES.**

## **TEEN CHOIR AND BAND**

**Our teen choir and band consists of teens with a desire to have fun and share their musical talents by proclaiming the Lord's message in song. Anyone and everyone is invited to be a part of this.**



## *SPIRITUALITY*

Our journey in faith is most important in our growth as a person. During the year, a variety of prayer/liturgical experiences are offered to invite teens to deepen their experience of God. Among them are weekly shared prayer, scripture sharing and participation in the parish celebrations of Reconciliation and Eucharist.



### *Parent Involvement*

Adults offer to youth the gift of knowledge through experience. Encouragement and support are essential to young people in their growth to maturity. Parents are the primary models and teachers of their children. We invite parents and adults of our parish community to be involved with our youth. Your participation is important and valued.

Although there is not a weekly need for adults, there are times that we do need people to volunteer in various areas. Some needs for volunteers are as chaperones, cooks, shoppers, service leaders, guest speakers, or Confirmation sponsors. Please contact us at any time.

# **Confirmation Process**

**The Confirmation Program at St. Andrew's Parish is one based on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. We believe that members of our Christian community who wish to be confirmed should be of an age and attitude to be able to commit themselves to a process that began in Baptism and for which now they can take personal responsibility.**

**Anyone who is of high school age may begin the process. There is no particular "right" age. The process takes a minimum of two years and includes the following stages and requirements.**

## **REQUIREMENTS**

### **YOUTH GROUP ATTENDANCE**

**Youth Group takes place on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30pm. It is open to all teens confirmed or not. Meetings are a variety of experiences that are social, spiritual, and educational.**

**Attendance at Youth Group meetings is both important and expected. We do, however, understand that there will be times when attendance at a specific meeting might be impossible due to situations beyond your control (sickness, vacation, excessive homework). This is why we offer the flexibility of attending either Monday or Wednesday meetings. In order to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, attendance at the required number of youth groups is essential.**

## **SERVICE**

To belong to a community implies that one share the gift of oneself with others. Jesus calls us to serve one another as brothers and sisters. He invites us to discover our gifts and talents and to share them in the light of the gospel. We do this by engaging in different service experiences.

**Halloween Party**

**Music Ministry**

**Folding Clothes**

**Shopping for shut-ins**

**Palm Cross Fundraiser**

**Wreath and Grave Blanket Fundraiser**

**Baby-sit for a parent who needs to come to a ministry meeting**

**Altar Serving**

**Youth Choir**

**Leaf Raking**

**Food Pantry**

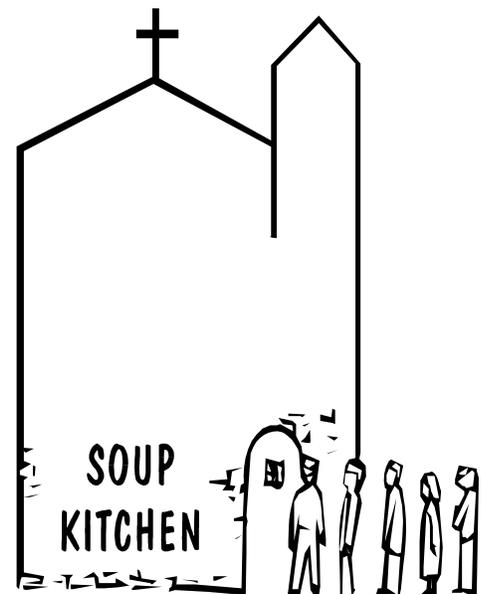
**Snow Shoveling**

## **SERVICE REQUIREMENTS**

A total of 25 service hours is required, 10 of which are to be served in the community of St. Andrew's. All service hours must be completed by December 31st of Year II.

*It would be preferable to have at least 3 different service experiences throughout the year. Service sheets are to be handed in after the service is completed.*

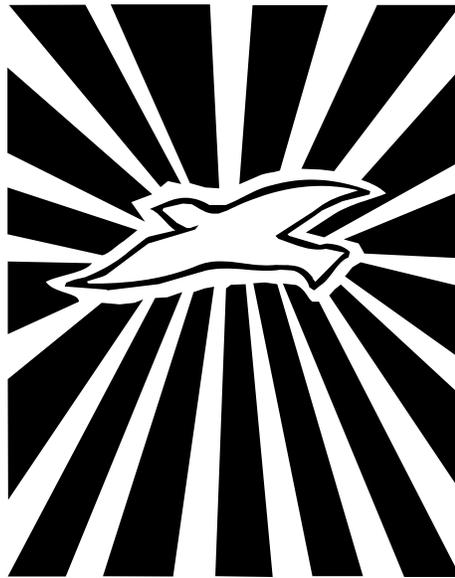
*A parent's signature is not acceptable.*





## **POTTERY RETREAT**

**The pottery retreat is a Year I requirement. This year it will be held from 6:30 to 9:00pm. It is an evening of spiritual and social fun conducted by a guest speaker and the Youth Minister. An opportunity for personal and communal growth is provided.**



## **RITE OF CHOICE**

**The Rite of Choice takes place at the celebration of the Eucharist. All Year I candidates are required to attend. At this time, the candidates state their intentions to continue in the Confirmation process and ask their families and parish community for support and prayers.**

## **SPONSORS**

By the end of the first year, each candidate chooses a sponsor. The sponsor should be someone with whom they can share themselves and their faith experience. The Church requires that they be a fully initiated Catholic (received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist). They must be in good standing in practicing their faith. It is preferred that the sponsor be the same as the baptismal godparent. However, if for whatever reason that is not possible, another may be chosen who fits the above requirements. Church Law does not permit parents to be sponsors for their children.

The sponsor should meet on a regular basis with the candidate to share in each other's faith journey and to be a support to the candidate. The format may be whatever is most comfortable for both candidate and sponsor. At the end of the process, the sponsor is required to write a letter of recommendation verifying the readiness of the candidate for Confirmation. The sponsor also witnesses the candidate's commitment at the Rite of Enrollment, joins in prayer and preparation the evening before Confirmation, and presents the candidate to the bishop. The hope and belief is that the sponsor will be a lifetime faith support person to the newly confirmed.

## **CONFIRMATION PREPARATION SESSIONS**

There will be 4 Confirmation preparation sessions that will be held on Monday and Wednesday during the second year of the Confirmation process. Year II attendance at each session on either Monday or Wednesday is a requirement to receive the sacrament. Check the calendar for the dates of each session. In the event of illness a make-up will be required.

## **RETREAT**

One of the most significant preparations for the reception of Confirmation is the Confirmation Retreat. This retreat consists of a weekend (Friday night to Saturday night) of prayer experiences, talks given by parish peer ministers, and other activities that enable the person to be open to the Spirit of God already present within them and which they will receive in a special way in Confirmation.

This retreat is a requirement for Confirmation. The date is given early in the year so as to be able to plan one's other activities around it. If for some serious reason, such as sickness or death in one's family, the candidate is unable to participate in the regular retreat, another retreat, approved by Alan may be substituted. The communal aspect on this retreat merits that it be the prime experience. There is a significant loss in not sharing with the others to be confirmed.



## **RITE OF ENROLLMENT**

At a given Mass, the candidates enter into the final time of preparation for the reception of Confirmation. They symbolize this to the Parish community by a Rite of Enrollment. The sponsor witnesses with the Christian community gathered to the candidate's signing of his/her name in the Parish Confirmation Book.

## **INTERVIEW**

In order to verify the personal choice of the candidate to receive the sacrament, an interview is required. The interview basically examines why the person wishes to be confirmed and how this fits in with their present faith development. It also allows for individual contact and input on the part of the candidate into the process.



## **OTHER ELEMENTS**

### **CONFIRMATION NAME**

As Confirmation is part of full initiation, it is preferred that one retain one's baptismal name. If for some significant reason, such as great devotion to a particular saint or relationship with a person who has made a spiritual impact on the candidate's life, the candidate may choose a new name. The name and reason for taking a new name should be submitted in writing prior to Confirmation.

## **CONFIRMATION PRACTICE**

The evening before Confirmation, the candidates and their sponsors gather in the church in prayerful preparation for the next day.

## **CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

The celebration of Confirmation takes place in the spring. The Confirmation candidates gather with their sponsors and families to celebrate their full initiation into the Church.

After Mass, the candidates, their sponsors and families join the conferring bishop for pictures.



# **Peer Ministry**

**Confirmed Juniors and Seniors are invited to participate in a leadership role in Youth Group. Through the peer ministry program, their role may include giving talks, leading discussions and serving as team members for the “Confirmation Retreat”. For more detailed information or questions, please call the Teen Office.**

# **Responsibility**

**It is assumed that all young people attending Youth Group and any activity related to Youth Group act in a responsible, respectful, and legal manner. Any infractions of the rules will not be tolerated and parents will be notified.**

**PEACE**