

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH & ST. JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM

TRIPLE V YOUTH MINISTRY

2020-2021 HANDBOOK



Dear Parent,

It is our great joy to inform you that St. Francis of Assisi Parish and St. John Neumann Parish have combined resources to form a common High School Youth Ministry Program! We are very excited about this new program. This handbook will serve as a guide for you and your teen as we navigate this official merger and the ever-changing structures that are a result of COVID-19.

In this Handbook you will find information about the Triple V Youth Ministry Mission, Leadership, and Four-Year Plan. We would be honored to have your teen take part in our program. Upon reading this document, if you are interested in registering your teen for Triple V, please email [Triplevym@gmail.com](mailto:Triplevym@gmail.com)

For the most up-to-date information as well as Catholic parenting resources, please sign up for our Sunday Youth Ministry Newsletters. You can sign up by emailing Youth Minister Sarah Seyed-Ali at [Triplevym@gmail.com](mailto:Triplevym@gmail.com).

God bless you,

*Sarah Seyed-Ali*

Sarah Seyed-Ali

Triple V Youth Ministry Coordinator

[Triplevym@gmail.com](mailto:Triplevym@gmail.com)

301-956-3286

## TRIPLE V YOUTH MINISTRY VISION & MISSION

### Official Name

Triple V Youth Ministry (Via, Veritas, Vita); These words are the Latin translation of Jesus' words in John 14:6 (Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.")

### Vision Statement

The parishes of Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint John Neumann seek to form a Catholic youth discipleship program that quenches their thirst for a personal relationship with God and with one another, sets the hearts of teens on fire with an authentic experience of faith, and encourages them to be an integral part of parish life.

### Mission Statement

Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint John Neumann parishes partner to form disciples of Christ. The program emphasizes the importance of a personal relationship with Christ, a deep love for the truths of the faith, and an atmosphere where Jesus enables youth to be noticed, named, known and valued.

## TRIPLE V YOUTH MINISTRY PARENT SUPPORT

**Roles & Responsibilities:** Youth Ministry happens comprehensively – it is more than programs and events. At the heart of ministry with young people is the presence of caring, supportive relationships where youth experience the Good News in the flesh.

*"Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children in the faith, prayer, and all the virtues. They have the duty to provide as far as possible for the physical and spiritual needs of their children." CCC 2252*

The Triple V Youth Ministry Program serves and supports your primary role in your teen's faith formation. Many studies reveal that parents are the biggest influence on the decisions made by their children (yes, even your teenage children). What you say and do teaches your children and influences their decisions and choices. Raising your children in the faith is a privilege. It is a grace and a gift from God.

*"Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God." CCC 2226*

Parent involvement is critical to the success of Youth Ministry. Please make participation in Mass, the sacraments, and parish community activities, a family priority. In addition, be sure to inform us of any special needs your teen may have including learning, allergies, or other medical needs that we may need to know.

**Monthly Parent Meetings:** Every First Monday of the Month, there will be an online networking meeting on ZOOM for Catholic parents of teens, regardless of whether or not their teen is in the youth group. These meetings have as their aim the empowerment of parents and their encouragement in the practice of the Catholic faith. Please look for an email from [Triplevym@gmail.com](mailto:Triplevym@gmail.com) for the ZOOM link to join.

**Snow/Emergency Cancellation Policy:** If Montgomery County Public Schools announces cancellation of weekend school activities, any in-person Triple V Youth Ministry event will also be canceled.

## TRIPLE V YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Sarah Seyed-Ali Triple V Youth Ministry Coordinator <a href="mailto:triplevym@gmail.com">triplevym@gmail.com</a>	Fr. John Dillion St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastor Triple V Youth Ministry Pastor Supervisor <a href="mailto:jdillon@sfadw.org">jdillon@sfadw.org</a>
Msgr. Robert Panke St. John Neumann Parish Pastor Triple V Youth Ministry Pastor Consultant <a href="mailto:pastor@saintjohnneumann.org">pastor@saintjohnneumann.org</a>	Fr. Stefan Yap St. John Neumann Parish Associate Priest Triple V Youth Ministry Pastor Moderator

**Youth Minister:** The youth minister is appointed by the pastor to administer the parish youth ministry program. The youth minister is Christ centered and concerned with today's youth and leads teenagers in their spiritual and personal development. Using leadership qualities and experience in sharing God's word, they lead the youth activities, outreach programs, and youth services within the church; recruit, motivate and train other volunteer staff members; demonstrate Godly character; and lead by example. The youth minister will work with and support parents to nurture students in their relationships with Jesus Christ through discipleship and service.

**Adult Leaders:** The success of any youth ministry program depends on the dedicated ministry of volunteer leaders. Adult youth ministry leaders are people of faith who respond to a call to teach the faith and lead others to a deeper relationship with Christ. They give witness to the faith by their word and by the example of their lives. Their faith is expressed in a commitment to prayer and Sunday worship and a willingness to continue their own formation in the faith. All youth ministry leaders are expected to complete certification through the Archdiocese of Washington and to comply with the Child Protection Policy of the Archdiocese of Washington.

If you have an interest in serving as A youth ministry leader, please contact the Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Sarah Seyed-Ali at [triplevym@gmail.com](mailto:triplevym@gmail.com)

**Volunteer Opportunities:** The Youth Ministry program is staffed primarily by volunteers. Parents are encouraged to become involved and volunteer in as many ways as they can.

Adult volunteers are needed to:

- Be a CORE Leader at weekly Youth Group gatherings
- Chaperon community life events -social activities, recreation, sports, etc.
- Plan, participate and chaperon service projects (e.g. food bank, soup kitchen, homeless shelter, holiday baskets)
- Help with hospitality - coordinate food/snacks – bake/cook
- Provide rides to teens who can't get to a youth night
- Chaperon and participate in service work camps – trips to serve the poor and marginalized
- Coordinate, supervise, participate in fundraising activities
- Lead/coordinate/participate in bible study
- Plan, lead groups, chaperon, cook, and more at retreats
- Plan, coordinate, lead, participate in family programs and activities
- Pray for our Teens and the Youth Ministry Program

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for youth ministry, contact the Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Sarah Seyed-Ali at [triplevym@gmail.com](mailto:triplevym@gmail.com)

*"... the future of humanity lies in the hands of those strong enough to provide coming generations with reasons for living and hoping." — Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes 31*

## TRIPLE V YOUTH MINISTRY YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

*“Children in turn contribute to the growth in holiness of their parents. Each and everyone should be generous and tireless in forgiving one another for offenses, quarrels, injustices, and neglect. Mutual affection suggests this. The charity of Christ demands it.” CCC 2227*

Youth are expected to behave in a Christian manner: respecting self, others, leaders and the parish facilities.

### Sunday Night Youth Group Meetings

The Youth Group meets weekly on Sunday nights following the 5PM Youth Mass from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Youth Group gatherings follow the Life Teen style of programming. Life Teen is a non-classroom model of catechesis including large and small group ministry for all high school students. The program is in a large-group environment for gathering activities, teachings and prayer. In small groups, we break open the teachings and build solid, Christ-centered relationships that allow the teens to comfortably explore their Catholic faith and make it relevant to their everyday lives. This helps build safe relationships during some of the most formative years of a teen’s life. Every week guarantees fun, food, lots of friends, new people to meet, discussions and talks, games, activities, prizes, skits, comedy, music, and much more.

### Additional Youth Ministry Programming

The Youth Ministry Program includes a wide variety of events and activities in addition to the programs described above. Check the Youth Ministry Calendar for up-to-date information. Activities include:

Annual retreats/ MOUNT 2000, Adoration, Praise & Worship, Prayer services, Service projects, Summer mission trips, MCPS Sports events, Christmas Caroling, March for Life, Souperbowl of Caring, Food Fast for Catholic Relief Services, Hoops for Haiti, Concerts, Movie Nights, Multi-Parish Activities- MICYM Dodgeball Tournament, World Youth Day

### Sunday Night Youth Group Meeting Locations

Triple V Youth Ministry accomplishes its vision and mission through weekly youth group meetings. Due to COVID-19, our youth group meetings will continue in a blended format of in person meetings with the option to join online and strictly online meetings. Please see our calendar for the ZOOM links to join. You can find our calendar [here as a Google Calendar](#). When we do meet in person, the meeting locations will be shared between the two parishes.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish -Youth Room (Bottom Level of the Rectory) 6701 Muncaster Mill Road Derwood, MD 20855 ,	St. John Neumann Catholic Parish -Neumann House (Across the Street from the Parish) 9001 Warfield Road Gaithersburg, MD 20882
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### Sunday Night Youth Group Meeting Structure

6:00-6:15PM	Welcome/Get-to-Know-You Questions
6:15-6:30PM	Opening Game
6:30-6:45PM	Opening Prayer & Introduction to the Theme of the Night
6:45-7:00PM	Praise & Worship according to the Theme of the Night
7:00-7:15PM	Activity for the Theme of the Night & Group Discussion
7:15-7:30PM	Activity for the Theme of the Night & Group Discussion
7:30-7:45PM	Closing Announcements
7:45-8:00PM	Closing Prayer

## Youth Leadership

*Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity - 1Timothy 4:12*

High School students who have been baptized and have had a year of participation in high school youth ministry may apply to be a Youth Core Team Leader. The Youth Core Team is a peer ministry designed for all types of adolescents who desire to serve the church and their peer community in various leadership roles such as facilitating small groups, leading youth group activities, participating on ministry teams that plan additional programming events. Core Team Leaders attend a training session at the beginning of the school year and meet weekly throughout the year for ongoing training and formation and to plan and evaluate the youth group program activities.

New this year will be the option for one on one weekly chat between a teen leader and the Adult Leadership team. More information will be forthcoming.

High School students that are interested in developing leadership skills and desire to serve for a term on the CORE team should contact the Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Sarah Seyed-Ali at [triplewym@gmail.com](mailto:triplewym@gmail.com).

## GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

Social Media	Method of Communication
Parish (Paper) Bulletin	<a href="https://sfadw.org/bulletins">https://sfadw.org/bulletins</a> or <a href="https://www.fataonline.com/bulletins/StJohnNeumannGaithersburg">https://www.fataonline.com/bulletins/StJohnNeumannGaithersburg</a>
Instagram	triplewyouth
Website	<a href="https://www.sfadw.org/youth-grades-9-12">https://www.sfadw.org/youth-grades-9-12</a> <a href="https://www.saintjohnneumann.org/">https://www.saintjohnneumann.org/</a>

Questions/Feedback/Suggestions As stated at the beginning, the youth ministry program and the youth minister work in partnership with parents and the parish community. If you have any comments, questions, feedback, suggestions, or just want to talk, contact Sarah Seyed-Ali the Coordinator of Youth Ministry, (301-956-3286), email: [triplewym@gmail.com](mailto:triplewym@gmail.com), or stop by the Youth Ministry Office (basement of the rectory next to the Youth room).

## 2020-2021 Academic Year Calendar

The Triple V Youth Ministry High School Youth Group will be in session from September 20, 2020- May 16, 2021. We will host Youth Group Meetings online on ZOOM every Sunday from 6-8PM. Occasionally, we will meet in person at St. Francis of Assisi Parish (Youth Room) or at St. John Neumann Parish (Neumann House). When we meet in person, there will still be an option to join in via ZOOM.

Youth Group Registration begins: August 10, 2020

Youth Group CORE Team Registration: August 10, 2020 – August 24, 2020

2020-2021 Youth Group CORE Team Leader Application Deadline: Monday, August 24, 2020

**CORE Team Kick Off Meeting: Monday, August 24, 2020 (Every Monday from 7-8PM)**

CORE Team Parish Service Day: Saturday, August 29, 2020 (10AM-5PM & Lunch Included)

**ONLINE Parent Kick Off Meeting: Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (Every First Monday of the Month from 8-9PM)**

CORE Team Kick Off Retreat: Sunday, September 13, 2020 (All Day)

**Starting Date/Youth Group Kickoff Party: Sunday, September 20, 2020 (Every Sunday from 6-8PM)**

CORE Team Closing Event/ CORE Team Appreciation Dinner: Friday, May 14, 2020

Ending Date/ ALOHA Party: Sunday, May 16, 2021

Special In-Person Monthly Events (look out for an email with more information):

- Fall Retreat at Neumann House- October 2-4, 2020
- SFA All Saints Day Party- November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- Christmas Caroling- December 20, 2020
- March for Life Youth Rally- January 29, 2021
- MOUNT 2000- February 5-7, 2021
- SJN Religious Education Pancake Supper- February 17, 2021
- CRS Food Fast- March 5-6, 2020 7PM
- Hoops for Haiti- March 13, 2020
- ADW Dodgeball Tournament- Late April

## TRIPLE V YOUTH MINISTRY STRUCTURE & BENCHMARKS

### Union with the Church

We strive to meet the objectives of a comprehensive youth ministry program as outlined in *Renewing The Vision - A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*. These objectives include:

- Empowering young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.
- Drawing young people to responsible participation in our Catholic faith community.
- Fostering the personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

This comprehensive approach to youth ministry utilizes the eight components identified in *Renewing the Vision*: advocacy, catechesis, community life, evangelization, justice and service, leadership development, pastoral care, and prayer and worship.

### Four Year Structure with ADW Curriculum Themes

	Fall 2020: New Stage of Discipleship	Spring 2021: Living as a Disciple	Fall 2021: New Stage of Discipleship	Spring 2022: Living as a Disciple
Goal 1 of the Vision: to form a Catholic youth discipleship program that quenches their thirst for a personal relationship with God and with one another	Christian Prayer (7) & Christian Living (6,10,11)	Liturgy (4)	Christian Prayer (7) & Christian Living (6,10,11)	Catholic Social Teaching (12)
Goal 2 of the Vision: to form a Catholic youth discipleship program that sets the hearts of teens on fire with an authentic experience of faith	Creed (1)	Creed (1)	Scripture (2)	Scripture (2)
Goal 3 of the Vision: to form a Catholic youth discipleship program that encourages them to be an integral part of parish life	Missionary Initiative (14)	Missionary Initiative (14)	Missionary Initiative (14)	Missionary Initiative (14)

Four Year Structure with ADW Curriculum Themes

	Fall 2022: New Stage of Discipleship	Spring 2023: Living as a Disciple	Fall 2023: New Stage of Discipleship	Spring 2024: New Stage of Discipleship
Goal 1 of the Vision: to form a Catholic youth discipleship program that quenches their thirst for a personal relationship with God and with one another	Christian Prayer (7) & Christian Living (6,10,11)	Catholic Church (8), (9), & (13)	Christian Prayer (7) & Christian Living (6,10,11)	Conscience (5)
Goal 2 of the Vision: to form a Catholic youth discipleship program that sets the hearts of teens on fire with an authentic experience of faith	Sacraments (3)	Sacraments (3)	Catechesis 101	Catechesis 101
Goal 3 of the Vision: to form a Catholic youth discipleship program that encourages them to be an integral part of parish life	Missionary Initiative (14)	Missionary Initiative (14)	Missionary Initiative (14)	Missionary Initiative (14)

Semester Structure

	Fall Semester: New Stage of Discipleship	Spring Semester: Living as a Disciple
Step 1 of the Vision: to form a Catholic youth discipleship program that quenches their thirst for a personal relationship with God and with one another	Invite all high school teens to the Monthly Special Events (see Calendar)	Invite all high school teens to the Monthly Special Events (see Calendar)
Step 2 of the Vision: to form a Catholic youth discipleship program that sets the hearts of teens on fire with an authentic experience of faith	Regularly Scheduled Catechist Certification Courses for both the Adult and Teen CORE Team.	Invite more teens to participate in Catechist Certification Courses
Step 3 of the Vision: to form a Catholic youth discipleship program that encourages them to be an integral part of parish life	Teen CORE Team must regularly participate in the parish community under the instruction of an Adult CORE member.	Invite more teens to serve in the parish community under the instruction of a trusted adult, to be part of the TEEN CORE team.

ADW Curriculum Standard Benchmarks

ADW Curriculum Standard	Our Faith Benchmarks
(1) Creed	*Subject to the Catechist Certification Course Curriculum
(2) Scripture	*Subject to the Catechist Certification Course Curriculum
(3) Sacraments	*Subject to the Catechist Certification Course Curriculum
(4) Liturgy	Lifeteen Curriculum Objectives or another accredited source
(5) Conscience	Lifeteen Curriculum Objectives or another accredited source
(6) Christian Living	In addition to Prayer Benchmarks, 1. Demonstrate ability to forgive and be forgiven 2. Demonstrate ability to be vulnerable with others 3. Demonstrate ability to make sacrifices for Christ and for souls
(7) Prayer	1. Participation at weekly Sunday Mass 2. Knowledge of Traditional Prayers & Ways of Prayer 3. Acknowledge their dignity as a Beloved child of God
(8) Catholic Church	YOUCAT Curriculum Objectives or another accredited source
(9) Ecumenism	YOUCAT Curriculum Objectives or another accredited source
(10) Catholic Relationships	In addition to Prayer Benchmarks, Acknowledge everyone's desire to love and be loved Acknowledge their own limitations and strengths Make healthy friendships with other teens in the youth group
(11) Vocation	In addition to Prayer Benchmarks, Acknowledge that God has a plan for every person Demonstrate openness to know their vocation by an openness to prayer daily for their vocation Demonstrate openness to learn about the priesthood/religious life.
(12) Catholic Social Teaching	Catholic Relief Services Global Education Resources or another accredited source
(13) Inter-religious Dialogue	YOUCAT Curriculum Objectives or another accredited source
(14) Missionary Vocation	Acknowledge their baptismal call to discipleship and to service Consistently and faithfully participate in one parish ministry Joyfully and habitually serve family members
Catechesis 101	Necessary for Catechist Certification