

## Pastor's Corner

Meet our New Youth Minister



**Our new Youth Minister: Mr. Ron Courtade.** When Fr. Thien and I arrived at St. Francis Parish in the summer of 2018, we visited 23 homes for a “Meet and Greet” with parishioners. One of the recurring requests we heard was to develop a vibrant youth ministry program at St. Francis. We already had a CYO Athletics program headed by Vince Liberto and an active Young Vincentians Program headed by Rob Adoue. What parents and youth wanted was a spiritual and social program for youth.

In response to those requests, we hired Charlotte Phillips as part-time Youth Minister. Charlotte began the process of building the CYO with Living Stations of the Cross, Putt-Putt, Bowling, Monthly Mass and Monthly Meetings. Unfortunately, in February of this year, Charlotte had to withdraw as Youth Minister for family reasons.

We feel super-blessed to have hired Mr. Ron Courtade as her successor. Ron is a husband, father, engineer, lawyer and has a Masters of Theology degree from Notre Dame Seminary. Ron has served as Youth Minister at St. Ann’s Church in Metairie and as Religion Teacher at St. Charles Catholic High School in Laplace. Our interview committee unanimously agreed that Ron was our guy.

Ron is tasked with jump-starting our CYO during Covid and helping us develop separate Junior (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders) and Senior (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grader) CYO groups. If you have a child in grades 6-12 who may be interested in this ministry, contact Ron through the Parish Office at 504-834-0340 or by email at [rcourtade@stfrancisxavier.com](mailto:rcourtade@stfrancisxavier.com). Welcome to St. Francis, Ron Courtade!

God bless,  
Fr. Joe