

Hello St. James Youth,

What a journey this year has been!

Father Vincent, Father Troy and your whole Youth team wanted to reach out and explain what to expect in these next few months from this ministry. We are so proud of the resilience and independence you have shown over a year of constant change and uncertainty.

We want to apologize to our youth if they have felt abandoned or forgotten through leadership change, the constant evolving health crisis and the day to day changes in your lives. We recognize that you have ridden a roller coaster of expectations and surrender.

We had all hoped that at the end of my maternity leave we would be able to start back up some form of regular in person youth gatherings; unfortunately that is not yet possible. However, St. James Youth Ministry thrives when we think outside of the box. We have a foundation of strong community and service. These current restrictions will not limit our ability to be the living essence of the Good News in our world. Through our social media accounts, email and the other occasional virtual gathering we will continue to grow in the peace of Christ and His good will to share that same peace with the world around us.

Through the Advent season we will come together through initiatives where we will share in joy, faith, love and peace, through prayer, reflection and acts of service. This opportunity is for anyone and everyone. Loneliness is a real worry. Trust that God can handle all of the experiences, choices and feelings that have built up over the course of this past year. For more information please check into our social media accounts, and the parish bulletin.

Your Youth Ministry Team, as well as your Parish would love to hear about how you are doing. We would love to be able to share good news through your eyes and experiences. It is our hope to balance the angst of the current struggles with exerts of happiness and of love. If you have a story to share please email it to youth@stjamesparishrc.com. These moments you share do not need to be extravagant, we see God intimately through his small miracles.

On one final note to all the amazing Youth; we have not stopped and will not stop praying in Thanksgiving and hope for you. Your gift of self to the world is priceless. There is no replacement for the part of God's divine nature that He has placed within you. Your love is a part of His perfect plan to restore all hearts to His. As St. JP II reminds us, "Be not Afraid". I challenge each of you to put the Litany of Trust somewhere you can read it throughout the day. If there is a line that is difficult to say, pray just that one line, that day. Allow the Lord to wash over you and restore you.

God Bless you and Keep you,
Amy Heggenstaller-Boon & the Youth Ministry Team