

As part of the development of Holy Name of Jesus Church's 5-to-1 plan, the formation of Youth and Young Adult Ministries has been identified as a high priority. It is our belief that this significant aspect of parish life can be enhanced to provide additional vibrancy to our existing youth-based programs, both spiritual and socially. This is a tremendous opportunity to help our youth grow closer to Christ.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries seek to recruit, train, empower, and support faith leaders to minister effectively to youth (in junior high and high school) and young adults (age 18 to 39) by accompanying others, forming servant leaders, fostering authentic Christian community, and proclaiming the beauty of the Gospel in a relevant way. While often combined, the emphasis for each ministry differs because each age group deals with different life situations and challenges.

Youth Ministry enables young people to experience what it means to follow Jesus Christ and to live as His disciples today, empowering them to serve others and to work toward a world built on the vision and values of the reign of God. All ministries with youth are directed toward presenting young people with the Good News of Jesus Christ and inviting and challenging them to become his disciples. Youth ministry provides experiences in all areas of church life, including: advocacy, catechesis, community life, evangelization, justice and service, leadership development, pastoral care, and prayer and worship.

Programs already in existence include the parish school of religion and Confirmation preparation classes. These programs provide catechetical instruction to children and youth so that young people can grow in intimacy with Jesus, be knowledgeable about their faith, and integrate the teachings of the Gospel into their lives. Parish religion programs also prepare young people for the reception of first sacraments.

Holy Name of Jesus Church is planning to unveil a youth ministry program in the coming year. If you are interested in joining youth ministry, volunteering with youth ministry, or volunteering as a Catechist or Confirmation leader, please contact Kelsie Bordelon at [kbordelon@hnjschool.org](mailto:kbordelon@hnjschool.org).

The Young Adult Group is a community of those 18-39 who seek to grow in friendship and faith through formation, prayer, service, and social events. Our goal is to create a home for young adults in this parish and accompany them as they embark on the journey of adulthood in their studies, their work, and their build relationships with others. We want to invite you to the first meeting of the group **THIS Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the North Room**. Father Mark will give an evening of reflection for the group and we'll discuss future plans for this ministry. Please join us! Contact Everett Fulmer, the moderator of the group at [ecfulmer@loyno.edu](mailto:ecfulmer@loyno.edu), or Diane Blair, staff liaison at [dblair@loyno.edu](mailto:dblair@loyno.edu). We'll also post a Zoom link on the parish's website for those who want to join remotely.