

Hi Youth Group members and families!

We had an awesome first meeting for October with great attendance. Happy to see all the new faces. Because of our large number and the age/maturity level, we will be able to split the group into two separate groups. Before we never had enough for either group. So 6th & 7th grade will be our Junior Youth Group and 8th-12th will be our High School Youth Group. We will all meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the basement church hall for our snack and opener. Then the High Schoolers will go to the Upper Room for their meeting and the Juniors will go into the back room in the basement area which used to be a ccd classroom. This will allow us for more age appropriate discussions. We plan on decorating that room so we are looking for couches and bean bags to fill the area. If you have anything or know someone who'd like to donate to us, please let me know!

We are still collecting the forms from everyone so if you haven't filled it out yet, please do and return it for the November meeting. If you want to fill it out, take a picture and text it to me or email it that works too! text to 724-664-5225 or email to rblose@dioceseofgreensburg.org. I've attached a pdf of the registration forms that is interactive. You can just fill it out right on your computer and send right back to me!

Also, please join our Remind text group! Even if you don't have the Remind App, you can get the group texts. This is our main way of communicating, esp. last minute. Just text "@ppy0" to the number 81010. If you are unable to text, let me know and I will call you. Also I will email forms and upcoming notices.

We have a facebook page: Partner Parish Youth Group and an instagram. Just look for us!! I try to share pictures of all the activities we do.

If any of you parents have your clearances with our parishes, please let me know - you can come at any time and help out! Especially with car pooling to events. That's a big one! If you'd like to get your clearances, just contact me and I'll help you. Once again, it is crucial that we have parental support for our youth group. We are in desperate need of adults to help lead the junior group. Malinda is still wishing to "phase out" of running youth group, but she was pulled back in when I had a family emergency this past summer/fall and was unable to even THINK about planning. If you have a tug in your heart, the Holy Spirit may be leading you to even try! You won't be on your own. Most of us are not trained leaders. We have just learned along the way as we taught CCD and then tried our hand at youth group. What's most important is that we have a group for our youth! They need a place to connect with other young Catholics and continue to learn about their faith, and take part in diocesan events. You eventually will hear about those!!

We have some events which are coming up on us quick. I know this is a busy time for everyone with the holidays, but please try and squeeze our projects into your schedule. Since we only have 1 meeting a month, I won't see everyone to remind them, so please look out for texts and facebook posts!

Here are some upcoming dates:

**Oct. 14th - Rosary Rally: Noon** • St. Francis Garden in Ford City. A group will gather to pray a rosary. Takes about 1/2 hour. We would love some teens to be involved. It's a visually powerful statement of unity. Refreshments to follow in Divine Redeemer Cafeteria.

**Oct. 22nd - NCYC Send off mass in Greensburg** • This is only for the Sr. High Youth already registered. Carpool info will be decided next week. Attendance is required by the diocese.

**Oct. 28th - Clean Guardian Angels Church: 9am - 11am.** The more people, the faster we get it done! This is an annual service the youth group provides for our church community so an annual mass can be celebrated in the church. There will be an All Soul's Day Mass held there the week after.

**Nov. 5th - Shoebox Packing Party:** St. Lawrence, following 9am mass. This is a project the Faith Formation is doing and one that we did as a youth group last year. I've attached an informational pdf about what to bring. Basically we spent about \$10 to bring items to pack in our shoeboxes. That then get shipped around the world to less fortunate children. We had fun doing this last year. If you have a financial hardship and still want to take part, please let me know privately and I will bring you items to pack a shoebox. It's a wonderful service project! For more information, please look up Operation Christmas Shoeboxes online. If your youth doesn't want to pack a box, and just wants to come help out with the elementary kids that would be great!

**Nov. 5-18th - NCYC:** Indianapolis • 5 of our senior high youth will be attending the National Catholic Youth Conference!

**Dec. 2nd - Breakfast at Bethlehem** • St. Lawrence: The Faith Formation kids will be doing this retreat to prepare for Christmas. We have been asked to come and help out. Please plan on coming and helping! This is volunteer service work!

**Dec. 10th - Christmas Party** • St. Lawrence 5-6:30pm: Our Annual Christmas Party!!!!!! Bring a food item to share and a wrapped, gender neutral gift to share (approx. \$10 value - If your family has a hardship, please contact me and we'll provide yours!)

**Mar. 16th - Shadows of the Cross Performance and dinner**

If at any time, you know someone who would like to join youth group, bring them with you! All are welcome!

It is important that we attend regular meetings and help in our church community. Regular attendance/participation will be counted towards not having to pay for the "fun" trips. Also if your youth is involved in Leos club at school or any other group where they need "volunteer service hours", have them bring their papers and we can fill them out. A lot of our service projects, and when they help out with the young kids count!

**SNACKS:** I'm asking for anyone who can/is willing, please donate cases of pop, water, bags of various chips. You can send them in anytime. These kids go through a lot of food!!! Also, if you would be willing to sign up to bring a snack, we like to have filling/light dinner type snacks. Sometimes we have a theme. I can have more than one of you bring things in since our group is so large. We would ask on your scheduled meeting to come 15 minutes early and help set up/serve/clean up the kitchen in the basement for the beginning of the kids meeting. It's a great way to see the kids too!

I look forward to this year and all we have coming up! I hope to pack a lot more in. We usually do a fun trip, visit a Catholic Landmark, practice for Shadows of the Cross. Lots of stuff!!

Thank you for all your help!

**\*\*Attached Calendar of Events, Registration Forms, Operation Shoebox Info\*\***

Robin Blöse  
Youth Ministry Coordinator  
Partner Parish Youth Group  
rblose@dioceseofgreensburg.org  
724-664-5225

### ***NEEDS:***

Couch/Loveseat

Coffee Table

TV Trays

Newer flat TV

Dvd Player

Cases of Pop

Water

Bags of Snacks (individual ones are great!)

Paper Towels

Paper Plates

Napkins

### ***PARENT VOLUNTEERS***

for Meeting Snacks/Light Dinner/Setup/Serve/Cleanup)