



Youth Ministry
Statement and Vision
Sean Hansen Youth Director

Mission Statement

Mission of youth ministry at Holy Spirit Parish:

1. Community
2. Discipleship
3. Leadership

Vision of Youth Ministry

Holy Spirit's vision of youth ministry is about inviting teens into a relationship with God. "Come and you will see," (John 1:39), it's not just about a relationship with others where God is at the center. We invite teens to have a personal relationship with Trinity, the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. We build a community for teens to have a place where they are safe from criticism and able to build trust. Then, we journey with them to develop into the disciple we are all called to be through our Baptism. Through confidence and leadership we will be equipped to go out into the world to help people in need and to proclaim his name. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Communication to Youth, Parents, and Parish

Information concerning all youth ministry programs and events are distributed and available through:

- Parish Website: <http://holyspiritsf.org/>
- Youth Ministry website: <http://www.holyspirit youth.com/>
- Ministry Email: To Subscribe, to the newsletter and updates: contact Sean Hansen youthholyspirit@gmail.com
- Flyers available at Parish office and Youth Bulletin Board
- Social Media: **Facebook:** Holy Spirit Youth! **Instagram:** holyspirit_youth **Twitter:** @holySpiritSF

Parents are encouraged to introduce themselves to Youth Director and Core Leaders as they drop-off and pick-up their children for Youth group events. Parents are encouraged to keep the Youth Director and Core Group Leaders informed about:

- Achievements of child (sports, academic, extracurricular, etc.)
- Illness or hospitalization
- Family issues (death, peers, dating, etc.)

This information enables us to offer the best pastoral care for our youth. We can celebrate their achievements and support and pray for them through their struggles.

Discipleship Mentors/Parents/Adults

Mentors created the success of the Holy Spirit Youth Ministry. Parents/adults are welcome to visit at any time. There are also various ways to become more directly involved in the programs.

Occasional Involvement – Hospitality Team/Chaperones provide and serve snacks/refreshments. Aids with transportation. Present only for time of service.

Frequent involvement – Mentors aid in leading small group discussions/activities from regular evening gatherings to retreats. Present for entire event.

Regular involvement – Core Leaders has direct involvement in planning, organizing, and leading events/activities Present at prep meetings and for entire event planned.

Growth and Education

There are various opportunities for discipleship mentors and parents to grow in their faith understanding, knowledge, and youth ministry.

All volunteers are required by Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls to complete Safe Environment training and receive a background check.

<https://safeandsacred-sfcatholic.org>

Get Involved in Parish Life and the Sioux Falls Community

Liturgical Ministers

Youth are encouraged to take an active role in witnessing their faith and serving their parish community. Youth are welcome to serve the Holy Spirit parish family at the liturgies of the Eucharist in the liturgical ministries of Lector, Eucharist Minister of the Holy Communion, Usher, Greeter, Altar Servers and in the Music Ministries. Training sessions will be arranged several times through year.

Holy Spirit Servants

The life and teachings of Jesus call us to reach out and serve those in need. Our Catholic social justice teachings help us to understand our responsibility of Christian witness and service. Holy Spirit Parish total youth ministry is active in the educating and challenging our young people to live out this call within the parish and broader community.

Youth Leadership -- Core Group

There are multiple opportunities for youth to get involved in leadership, teams. Teams involving youth leadership include:

- Middle School Ministry
- High School Ministry

Structures of Programs

Expectation for Youth

In order to create a successful Catholic Christian community, members must realize the responsibilities and commitment involved in their membership to the Youth Ministry Community. Here are some expectations, that when modeled appropriately, will promote pride in self, others and the group, and build a comfortable and enjoyable atmosphere for all.

- An openness, respect, and willingness to enter into prayer with the group.
- Willingness to take ownership/responsibility for the group, planning meetings, participation etc.
- Some semblance of emotional balance and/or willingness to deal with their struggles.
- A spirit of giving and contributing to the group versus taking and getting from the group.
- Attending the proper group as designated.
- A respect for the diversity of the group's membership.
- A willingness to be open to varied ideals from one's ideas.
- Youth should work to be inclusive with other members of the group. Exclusive relationships at gatherings should be discouraged, dating behavior, closed friendships, etc.
- Youth should have respect for group and individual confidentiality. They must also know when it is appropriate to break a confidence and know how to do this.
- Youth should work to recruit other young people to join the ministry.

Group Norms

There are several ways the youth can model the above expectations and encourage fellow group members to do the same. Below are guidelines for group gatherings that will help facilitate healthy and prosperous growth of our Catholic Christian community.

- Participate in the group as fully as you are able.
- Be on time for all group sessions/events.
- Be concerned with your own feelings, thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.
- Accept responsibility for maintaining confidentiality regarding whatever is discussed in the group.
- Always speak for yourself never for someone else.
- Speak in the present tense. This will more aware of your own feelings and better able to communicate them to others.
- Work towards accomplishment of the group tasks.
- Suspend negative attitudes and put-downs toward yourself and others.
- When speaking of someone in the group, always speak directly to the person. Instead of saying, "John said," say, "John, when you said."
- Listen to what others have to say. Accept the thoughts' feelings, attitudes, opinions, and ideas of others as honestly being theirs. Avoid doubting what someone is saying before they can even explain their point.
- Stay on topic, keep focuses, and avoid rambling and detours.
- Give some acknowledgment to the speaker that his/her message had been heard.
- Use positive statements towards others.

Myths about Youth Ministry

My child attends Catholic School or Religious education; they get enough faith education. There's no need to participate in Youth Ministry. Holy Spirit offers more than just faith education. It is comprehensive. It is about discipleship, the living out of one's faith, building connections between faith experiences, connecting youth with their parish community, fostering a sense of Catholic identity within self, with peers and in the activates where teens find their passion. Offerings include a wide variety of experiences to develop the entire person well beyond just knowledge.

My child can't attend youth group regularly, so they can't come or aren't welcome to special events. All youth ministry events are open to anyone at any time. There is no required attendance policy or special membership. Whether a teen comes to one, none, or of the regular group meetings, they are ALWAYS welcome to come to the events that interest them. Every youth isn't always interested in youth group, but they may be interested in some of the special events (service, socials, and outings). This is why we offer a wide variety of events to meet as many needs as possible.

My child's friends aren't Catholic, they wouldn't fit in a Catholic youth ministry event. Every youth ministry event is open to any youth Catholic or not. The atmosphere is very warm and welcoming. We have some non-Catholics that attend just as much as our own parish youth. We are not out to convert, but offer opportunities for youth to gather comfortably in Christian community.

I want my child to go on retreat, but they don't want to go— so I won't force them to go. This is a tough situation. Holy Spirit offers great retreats that are designed to meet the needs and situations of where the kids are at, whether they want to be there or are present through strong parental encouragement. We support the parental encouragement of their child's participation. We are confident that in the quality ministry we offer that can provide a positive experience for almost any teen. We have kids that attest to their conversion experiences that were assisted by parental nudging to get involved!

Only the kids active in youth group are being ministered to. The young people of Holy Spirit do not become connected to their parish through youth group alone. Connections are built through relationships, meeting teens on their turf, invitations, and attentiveness to their needs.