



Holy Family/Sacred Heart Parish Youth Group
Young Disciples for Jesus Christ



Father Sebastian and Father Kyle are excited to announce a new group for parish youth in grades 9-12. The group presents an inspiring new way to teach and foster faith in our parishes. Small groups of students meet with a mentor of the same gender to discuss religious topics freely among friends, twice each month, until graduation from high school. Participation in a group may meet the requirements for Confirmation instruction, with Confirmation occurring in a student's junior year. The groups will continue to meet until the student graduates from high school.

The program will use 2-3 minute videos from the website Formed.org to launch discussion of religious tenets of our faith and answer questions that our young parishioners face each day.

The key to the success of this program is strong mentors. The mentor will meet with the same student group throughout their high school career and hopefully maintain contact with their group long afterward. Our young people need to have a person with whom he/she can discuss topics that may be uncomfortable to discuss with a parent. It is worth noting that some of these topics may be difficult for a parent to discuss with his/her own child as well.

Mentors will meet with 4-6 students in a group to discuss topics contained in the FORMED videos. Thereafter, mentors will provide feedback indicating whether the topic discussion went well, what worked or what did not, etc. From that feedback, the parish will know that the students are learning about their faith and also learn how best to modify the program, if necessary.

In addition to monthly meetings, the small groups will meet together with Father Sebastian and/or Father Kyle at least 3-4 times per year for fun activities and to check on the progress of the program. Small and large groups will participate in service opportunities to benefit our parishes, such as Fall Fest, nursing home visits, etc., as part of their regular meetings.

The goal of this program is to offer a new way for teens to get in touch with their faith and continue to grow as Catholics with the help of someone who can lead them in faith throughout high school. We are hopeful that by fostering a strong sense of faith in our youth, they will grow to become mentors as the program grows.

Again, the key to success is a strong mentor. We invite any parishioner interested in acting as a mentor, or any students who wish to form a group, to contact the Holy Family Parish Director of Religious Education, Jeri Marsolek, at the parish office: 608-323-7116 or email: dre@holyfam.com.

We also hope that you will keep our youth in your prayers as we begin this journey in faith.