

CHRIST THE REDEEMER YOUTH FORMATION

Welcome to youth formation at Christ the Redeemer!

In the Fall of 2018 we began the implementation of a new diocesan vision for our youth. We began to make to enhancements to our CCD program in an attempt to better love and serve our young people. Where the previous model of CCD focused on forming the mind, the new vision aims to form the whole person. Because of this, one of the changes that we've made is a change in vocabulary. We no longer use the term "CCD". Instead, we call it Youth Formation. The language helps us to remember that we are doing more than simply transferring information, we are forming disciples.

In order to help us transition well, we have developed a three-year plan. In the first year (2018-2019) the focus was on our high school formation. Last year, we introduced a new structure for our high school students. It was not perfect, but the Lord did amazing things in the lives of our team, our families, and our teenagers! As we begin year 2, while we continue to take steps toward better serving our teenagers, our focus will include an intentional formation plan for our middle school students. Next year (2020-2021) will focus on our elementary students. By the summer of 2021, it is our hope that we have a process in place that better serves our young people!

An overview of the formation offered for each of our age-specific groups can be found below. As we move forward, we are committed to being as intentional as possible. We are no longer doing things just for the sake of doing them. "This is how we've always done it" or "It's on the calendar" are no longer enough for us. Our young people deserve the best possible formation, and we desire to find ways to offer that. Parents, please continue to be patient with us as we continue to transition. Thank you for trusting us!

Because we believe that Mass is vital to the success of all that we do with Youth Formation, our Sunday evening Mass will be returning to the 5pm time slot this fall. All formation that we do with our 6th-12th graders takes place on Sundays, either preceding or following Mass.

HIGH SCHOOL (9TH-12TH GRADE)

There are 3 main parts that make up the high school formation calendar: they are Life Nights, Small Groups, and Mentor Formation.

Life nights are designed to be fun and to challenge the teens to go deeper in their relationship with God and to know more about their Catholic faith. Life Nights are offered about once a month and provide the opportunity for us to come together as a large group. Life Nights are open to **all** 9th-12th graders, so feel free to bring a friend!

About twice a month, our teens will meet in small groups. The small group setting allows our teens to foster authentic peer relationships and healthy connections with our adult mentors while providing a space for deeper processing and understanding of the faith.

In addition, we will spend a lot of time forming the adults that work with our teens. About once a month, the teenagers will have the week off and our adult mentors will gather for their own formation. We're committed to offering training and formation to our adult mentors so that they may continue to grow in relationship with Jesus. It is important to us that we are investing in our adults and that our team is spiritually healthy!

All of our high school formation will begin with the 5pm Mass and end between 7:30 and 8pm. See the calendar for specific end times.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (6TH-8TH GRADE)

Our 6th-8th graders will be engaged in large group nights once a month before Mass. They will begin at 3pm and culminate in the celebration of the 5pm Mass. They will be structured much like the high school Life Nights, with opportunities for fellowship, a teaching, discussion, and prayer. Each session is designed to be engaging and hands-on as we grow in community with each other and relationship with Jesus Christ. While the middle school formation takes place in a large group setting, we do have intentional times for small group discussion built in.

In addition to these monthly meetings, our middle school mentors will also meet for their own continued formation.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (1ST-5TH GRADE)

Our 1st-5th graders will continue to meet on Monday nights. In an effort to create an environment that allows us to foster deeper connections and provide more hands-on learning opportunities, we are going to further divide this age group. Instead of 1st-5th being grouped together, we will group 1st-3rd and 4th-5th. These groups will meet separately on alternating Monday nights throughout the year. This gives us the opportunity to make the best use of our facilities and to give much more attention to the children in our care. We will gather together in the church at 6pm to pray together as a group before moving into the Family Life Center. Students may be picked up from the Family Life Center at 7:15pm.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me!

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