

Lower Burrell and New Kensington Catholic Communities Youth Ministry

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you and your families are enjoying your summer and taking advantage of the warm weather. This fall we will be taking advantage of another opportunity that will involve the sharing of youth ministry resources and expertise as we gather to grow in the love of Christ.

This year I will be growing too! I am coming up on my first full year as a youth minister for New Kensington and Lower Burrell. I have grown much in my vocation to serve the youth of these wonderful parishes and I look forward to the opportunities of growth and learning in the 2022-2023 Catechetical year.

For the 2022-2023 year the following programs for youth ministry will be offered.

Middle School youth ministry: Middle school (grades 6-8) will meet every Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 pm at Saint Margaret Mary. We will focus on learning about our faith and deepening our relationship with Christ. Youth ministry allows us to do that in a wide variety of ways. Included in our evening of course will be snacks, and games while growing in fellowship with each other. Our first middle school youth group will be on Wednesday, September 14th.

High school youth ministry: High school youth ministry (grades 9-12) will meet twice a month on Sundays at Saint Margaret Mary from 12:00-1:30pm. The high school youth ministry program will be centered around building a relationship with Jesus and their peers through the study of our faith, volunteer opportunities, games and playful activities and of course, food. Our first high school youth ministry gathering will be Sunday, September 11th.

Confirmation program: The Confirmation program is for those in 8th grade. We will meet in Marble Hall at Mount Saint Peter on Thursday evenings from 6:30-

8:00 pm. A calendar will be given out with the Confirmation schedule at the parent meeting on Thursday, August 25th. We will meet in Marble Hall at 6:30pm. A parent/guardian or sponsor is asked to attend the Confirmation meetings with the candidate. If your student intends on being confirmed this year, they must register for Confirmation. You may find the registration form in the enclosed packet.

Both the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry programs will kick off the year with a Mass at Memorial Park on Monday, September 19, 2022 at 6:15 PM. Food will be provided by, LB-NK-CC but we ask families with the last name beginning with A-L to bring small bottles of water and the last name beginning with M-Z to bring cookies.

The CORE team: The CORE Team is a group of Catholic youth from the parish and school that have applied and been accepted to hold a leadership role in the LB_NK_CC youth ministry program. The job of the Youth Minister (Heather Hensley) is, as the title clearly says, *to minister to the youth*, and what better way to do that than to have the help of the youth themselves. This year we are looking for a group of high schoolers to make up this team. High schoolers will work together to plan events that are specifically for their age group and for the youth of the parish as a whole. This team will be the voice of youth to the parish, and the voice of the parish to youth. CORE is a great opportunity for students to develop and practice the much sought after leadership skills. If your student is interested in applying for the CORE team, the application can be found on the New Kensington Catholic Community and Saint Margaret Mary websites.

Enclosed, you will find registration forms for the middle school and high school youth ministry programs. If your child is interested in participating in youth ministry please fill out the registration forms and return them to the parish office so that needed information will be on file.

For questions regarding the calendar for the programs, there is a google calendar on the New Kensington Catholic Community and Saint Margaret Mary websites. This calendar is updated regularly with events regarding the youth ministry programs. Please refer to the calendar with questions regarding the schedule.

May God bless you and your family,

Heather Hensley