

Holy Family Catholic Church

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Dear Teens and Parents:

Youth Ministry here at Holy Family will be changing. Effective immediately, we will suspend Friday night meetings. This is due to the low turn-out/participation of our youth. Our goal is to serve the needs of our faith community; it seems evident that most parish families and their youth have not identified involvement with Church youth ministry as a need with priority.

However, for now at least, certain events and activities will still be planned. We hope to offer one, if not two events, to choose from each month. Joint events with St. Edward's youth group and other parish groups will still be encouraged. However, given the drastic decline in participation from previous years, even these activities may cease or be curtailed.

Our parish High School PREP will continue, although it also has seen a decrease in consistent participation.

Given our secular culture, we would hope that our families would want to do all they can to keep their youth, "Catholic." Structured association with other believing teens can help preserve their values and reinforce Catholic identity. Supporting our youth and saving their souls should be at the top of all our lists. We will not surrender to frustration, despairing of the situation. As people of hope, we need to be creative and willing to turn matters around. We want to help you. *But we have to work together.*

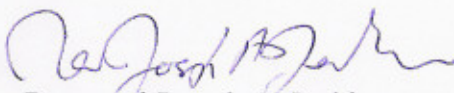
Communication from our teens/parents is also lacking in effectiveness. Currently, we use flyers, e-mails, webpage updates, Facebook posts, bulletin inserts and announcements to get the information out to you. However, rarely do we get a reply of any kind. Even if the response is "no" at least we would know that you are getting the information and have considered it.

So, what we need now is prayer and reflection on what it is that you truly want from the parish in regard to youth ministry. How may we serve you more effectively?

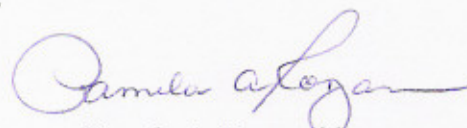
Finally there are two upcoming events that have been posted through the above methods: Souper Bowl of Caring and the Joint High School Retreat. So far, the Souper Bowl has only one participant (so it may also be canceled) and the Joint High School retreat (which has only one RSVP). The pastor has offered to help families with the retreat costs and still there is little interest. Why is this? Deadline to RSVP for the Souper Bowl is January 23. The retreat deadline is February 1.

Thank you to those who have supported and participated in this ministry. We look forward to hearing from you and serving you in the future.

Yours in Christ,



Reverend Joseph A. Jenkins
Pastor



Pamela A. Rozanski
DRE/YM