

September 8, 2019

Dear Youth Group Parents,

Welcome to our 2019-2020 Youth Group year!

We look forward to another great year of meetings, fun activities, trips and serving the community.

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Rob and I welcome Father AJ De Silva to our St. Agnes parish family as our new parochial vicar, and he will serve as our Youth Group moderator. We look forward to working with him, and he is excited to get to know us, our program, and the YG kids.

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Our tradition of attending a mass together as a Youth Group each month will continue this year.

We hope that more YG members and families will join us for our masses throughout the year. YG families are invited to sit behind us on the choir side of church.

From October through December, our YG masses will remain at the parish 9:30am mass. However, we have had discussions with Father AJ about the possibility of creating a Sunday night mass once a month prior to our YG meeting. More detail to come as January approaches.

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We have been so fortunate over the years to have so many great parents willing to do anything to help us with Youth Group. For the most part, the only time we need parental help is as drivers for our trips.

For our new parents, in order to comply with Archdiocesan policy, all volunteers working with youth must complete the Protecting God's Children program. Without doing so, one cannot volunteer with YG, even as a parent driver.

In order to ensure that our three fall trips can happen without parents having to drive more than once, we ask that at least one parent for each YG member complete the Protecting God's Children training program.

There are three components to the PGC program - course certification, a background screening and a volunteer packet.

We are grateful that so many parents have cooperated in order to make the trips happen.

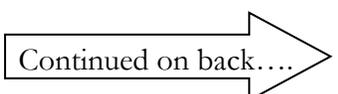
PGC course certification is good for 5 years, at which point you'll need to recertify.

For our new parents, we ask that you please register to take the PGC course - either at St. Agnes or another parish.

- **We have scheduled a PGC course at St. Agnes for Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**, which will happen simultaneously to our YG meeting that night. Parents attending that course can drop their YG kids off to the meeting early, and we'll extend the meeting time for those kids until the course ends.
  - (Please note: younger siblings cannot attend the YG meeting nor the PGC course.)
- There are also a number of courses offered locally over the next two months, so you can sign up for one at another parish that works best for your schedule! See the "PGC Registration Instructions" sheet and Virtus website for more information.

Please read through the pages regarding PGC in the fall notes or in the registration packet for more information.

Once we submit our list of parent volunteers to the parish's Safe Environment Coordinator, you may hear from Rob, myself, or the coordinator directly if any paperwork is outstanding.

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In order to be fair to the parents who sacrifice their time to keep their PGC certification current and commit to driving for a trip, their children will take first priority for the fall trips.

- Should any seats remain, YG members whose parents opted not to certify/keep their certification current will have their names pulled at random to determine who goes on the trip, and who will not.

All we ever ask from our YG parents is a few hours of their time over the course of the entire year – going through the PGC program, driving for a fall trip, and new last year – driving for and chaperoning our Six Flags trip.

- Rob and I are **volunteers** running the Youth Group – we both put in hundreds of hours to run YG for the benefit of your children, so we hope that you'll cooperate with us for these extra few hours.

Our YG fundraisers will remain the same as previous year – the discount card (launching in December), and our year-round clothing drive.

We never want to put a financial burden on parents and charge dues, so we ask that every YG family actively participate in our fundraisers. Both of our fundraisers are easy – one saves you money, and everyone cleans out clothing periodically.

Please spread the word about our clothing drives to family, friends and neighbors. We collect **year-round** (for the quarterly pickups, more if necessary), so if at any point throughout the year you or someone you know has bags of clothing to donate, bring them in to a YG meeting, or contact us to set up a dropoff time.

Note: The metal bins in the church parking lot do **NOT** benefit our YG clothing drives, they benefit the Archdiocese.

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Please bookmark our Youth Group website: [www.StAgnesYouthGroup.com](http://www.StAgnesYouthGroup.com)

- It's the best way to stay up-to-date on YG news.
- The schedule, forms, permission slips and Handbook are all available to download.

If you have any questions, our YG email is [saintagnesyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:saintagnesyouthgroup@gmail.com)

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Regarding start-of-year paperwork, please read over the YG Handbook, Fall Notes, and complete the following items:

- 1) Complete and turn in the attached "Registration Packet"
  - Only one packet needs to be completed per family.
- 2) New parents only – come in at the start or end of a meeting to sign the YG book.
  - Parent signatures from previous years are kept on file, so you do not have to come in every year.

The Trip RSVP/Parent Driver Form and Fall Permission Slips will be distributed at the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, and will be due back no later than October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we begin the 2019-20 year!

Sincerely,



Barbara Dietrick  
Director of Youth Ministry