

**Roman Catholic Churches of
St. Philomena & St. Michael
(217) 762-2566**

Msgr. Michael Bliss, Pastor



**YOUTH GROUP HANDBOOK
2022 – 2023**

**Youth Group Parent/Student Handbook
2022 - 2023
Roman Catholic Church of St. Philomena/St. Michael**

**Youth Group Leaders:
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It is the mission of our Parish Family of St. Philomena/St. Michael to spread the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission for youth ministry is to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today; to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community; and to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

St. Philomena/St. Michael recognizes this and seeks to provide a learning environment that will reinforce the Roman Catholic ideals and practices students learn at home.

As role models, we try to create an atmosphere in which we all can:

- * seek to become more Christ-like;
- * grow in knowledge and Faith;
- * bear witness to the truth of the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church, by practicing the Faith

PRIMARY GOAL OF YOUTH GROUP

The primary goal of the St. Philomena/St. Michael youth group program is to increase the student's realization of God's infinite love for us and to enhance their response to His love by greater sharing and caring for each other. We strive to achieve this goal by developing and enhancing acts of Christian charity and team building. This includes youth group meetings, fundraising activities, and annual mission trip.

MEETING TIMES

Youth group meetings will be held on select Sundays from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. If cancellation of a meeting should be necessary, it will be announced through a phone tree or e-mail.

ATTENDANCE

Weekly attendance is required. Tardiness disrupts meeting sessions. We realize that at rare times this cannot be helped so we ask that any student entering the room after the youth group meeting has started to do so in a quiet and orderly manner.

Students register for the annual mission trip are required to participate in all fundraising activities.

DISCIPLINE

The conduct of students at St. Philomena shall be based on the sound principles of good behavior, with Christ himself as the universal example. Honor and respect shall be shown to all youth group coordinators and adult volunteers as an extension of the honor and respect shown to parents. Discipline, especially self-discipline, is necessary in every learning situation and must be fostered at all times. Students need kind, but firm, guidance from adults. Students are expected to respect all church property and the property of others.

Cell phones, text messaging and iPods are a disruption during youth group meetings and therefore not necessary. The youth group coordinators have the right and obligation to remove them from any student. Cell phones, texting and iPods and anything else that becomes a disruption will be returned to the student after the meeting.

A youth group coordinator having a student who continuously disrupts a meeting will report him/her to the parent. The coordinator will, if a second offense occurs, contact the parent to pick up the student. A third offense will result in contacting Pastor; no student will be allowed back in a youth group meeting

without seeing Pastor first. After meeting with Pastor, he will then determine if a student is allowed back in youth group meetings. It is unfair to the youth group coordinators and the rest of the students to tolerate an unruly student.

PARENTS COOPERATION AND EXPECTATIONS

It is hoped that parents will always seek to cooperate with the youth group coordinators for the welfare of the student. If problems or questions arise, it is important that the coordinators and parents confer. Your helpful comments and suggestions are always appreciated.

Our youth group program is not intended to be the primary education for the student faith development. We help to reinforce the religious ideals and practices that students learn in the home.

FOR OUR YOUTH GROUP PROGRAM TO BE SUCCESSFUL

Parents should:

- Be an adult Christian example.
- See that students participate in the celebration of Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation. Mass on Sundays and Holy Days are an integral part of the life of a Roman Catholic and is an outward and visible sign of our faith. Therefore, it is a privilege and an obligation for all parents and students to be a part of every Lord's Day Mass and Holy Day. "Remember, keep Holy the Lord's Day."
- Attend the scheduled Youth Group Parent Meeting each year.
- Continued involvement at home and in youth group related matters.
- Present good role models for student in regard to our Catholic Faith.
- Volunteer your time and talents in Church and in our local community however great or limited.

- Student attends every meeting and fundraising activity, except for very serious reasons and call the youth group coordinators.
- Show an interest in what is being taught in youth group meetings.
- Phone the youth group coordinators for advice, to make comments, or to offer helpful suggestions.
- Be at St. Philomena's Church Hall promptly after youth group meetings to pick up your student.

STUDENTS

Students should:

- Participate in Mass on the Lord's Day and on Holy Days of Obligation regularly and not leave Mass early.
- Participate regularly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance.
- Respect themselves and others.
- Answer politely in meetings.
- Respect St. Philomena's property, as well as their own and that of others.
- Be willing to learn more about the beliefs/practices of our Roman Catholic Faith.
- Devotional practices: Adoration/Benediction, Rosary, Stations of the Cross...

ANNUAL MISSION TRIP

The purpose of the annual youth group mission trip is to bring Christ into the world by providing a diverse range of experiences between church and community. Parents and students are required to attend the mission trip meeting in the spring to complete all required workcamp and diocesan paperwork and to learn more about the specific workcamp to be attended.

2022 -2023 YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

September

11 Meeting 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Selection of 2023 Mission Trip

October

3 Mission Trip Deposit Due
9 Meeting 7:00pm – 8:30pm
15 & 16 Poinsettia Pre-Sales after Masses
22 & 23 Poinsettia Pre-Sales after Masses
30 Halloween Party & Cookout 6-8pm

November

6 Meeting 7:00pm – 8:30pm
20 Bowling & Pizza 1:00pm – 3:00pm

December

1 1st Payment for Mission Trip Due
3 & 4 Poinsettia Pickup after Masses
4 Meeting 7:00pm – 8:30pm
11 Pasta Lunch after 10:00am Mass

January

8 Christmas Party 7:00pm – 8:30pm

February

1 2nd Payment for Mission Trip Due
5 Meeting 7:00pm – 8:30pm

March

12 Tentative Pancake Breakfast 7:00am – 11:00am
Mission Trip Parent, Chaperone & Teen Meeting
6:00pm
Meeting 7:00pm – 8:30pm

April

1 Final Payment for Mission Trip Due
16 Meeting 7:00pm – 8:30pm
30 Pizza & Movie Night 5:30pm – 8:00pm

May

7 Tentative Car Wash
End of Year Cookout 4:30pm – 7:30pm

June

TBA Mission Trip