

St. Paul's Youth and Family Ministry

St. Paul's is in the process of redeveloping our youth and family ministry into an inclusive ministry that includes youth, their family members, parishioners, schools, and other faith and social community members. The purpose of this ministry is to meet the three goals of ministry through a four-pronged approach.

Three Goals of Catholic Youth & Family Ministry

1. **Empowerment**- to empower young people with their families to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.
2. **Participation**- to draw young people and their families to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community
3. **Growth**- to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person and their family.

Four prongs of engagement

1. St. Paul's Parish:

- Host a monthly Saturday Mass dedicated to youth and family. The youth with their family members would organize, minister, and participate in the 5 pm Mass. After Mass, there would be a dinner and an activity in the parish hall with youth, families, and parishioners that incorporates the three goals.
- Facilitate a strong Children's liturgy program.
- Encourage youth and their families to participate in the sacramental preparation programs.
- Host occasional family parish events.
- Create a program for young adults that have finished High school and want to contribute to the community while strengthening their faith.

2. Schools:

- Students at all four schools will participate in a monthly lunch group meeting which will be focused on the three goals. The

agenda of these meetings will be set by the students and would be supervised by staff and parish volunteers.

- Staff and students would work together to institute programs or events in the school to help promote the 3 goals.

3. Community:

- St. Paul's youth and family ministries will collaborate with other faith and community groups in programs and events that help achieve the three goals.

4. Home:

- Youth and families will participate in programs and events in the family home to help instill the three goals in their family lives.

To help promote age-appropriate growth, the young people will be divided into four groups. Grade 1 to 6, grade 7 to 9, grade 10 to 12, and young adults. This will allow running programs and events better designed towards the individual group. Though there will be times these smaller groups may need to meet, whenever possible the ministry should consist of the whole and allow members of the older groups, to mentor and be an example to the younger.

The possibility of events and programs that will meet our ministry goals is endless. It just requires involvement, imagination, leadership, and prayer.

It is the full participation of clergy, parishioners, youth, families, and community for this ministry to be truly effective. All have something to contribute.

What is needed:

- Youth participation
- Parent and family participation
- Parishioner participation
- Clergy participation
- School Participation
- Other faith and community group participation

A little from many is what is required for St. Paul's parish to have a vibrant and successful youth and family ministry that reaches all three of our ministry goals.

Seven-phase approach to creating and facilitating this ministry.

Phase 1: (September 2022)

St Paul's parish Youth and family Saturday evening Mass.

The third Saturday evening Mass of each month will be hosted by the youth and family members of the parish. This includes music, readers, altar servers, ministers of Holy Communion, and ushers.

The Mass will be followed by a family dinner in the church hall.

After the dinner, there will be a family event that meets the 3 goals of the ministry.

Phase 2: (September 2022)

Parish children's liturgy program

Children's liturgy will be offered at all weekend Masses.

Phase 3: (September 2022)

School bi-weekly youth and family ministry lunch gatherings

All four Airdrie catholic schools will host a bi-weekly gathering of students, staff, and parish volunteers. The purpose is for the students to grow their spirituality and plan activities and events that include family, parishioners, and community that meet the three goals of the ministry.

Phase 4: (September 2022)

Young Adult Program

Create a program that allows young adults that have finished high school to meet and contribute to the community while strengthening their faith.

Phase 5:

St Paul's parish youth and family special events

Different parish and community events will be planned and facilitated throughout the year.

Phase 6:

Family home programs

The parish will create programs and practices the family can carry out in their home together.

Phase 7:

Interfaith and community engagement

Youth and families will become involved with members and events of other faith and community groups to provide education, understanding, cooperation, and contribution.

Program requirements and needs

Saturday Youth and Family Mass

- **Music coordinator:** Arrange and supervise music, singers, and band members.
- **Ministries coordinator:** Schedule and supervise readers, servers, and communion ministers.
- **Dinner coordinator:** Create menu, arrange the food and supplies, schedule and supervise cooking, set up and clean up volunteers.
- **Event coordinator:** Decide on an evening event, arrange supplies, schedule, and supervise volunteers.
- **Volunteers:** Meal set up, preparation, serving, clean up, and Event assistance with families.

School Student Lunch Gatherings

- **School staff representative:** work with students, staff, and parish volunteers.
- **Student representative:** one for each school to work with students, staff, and parishioners.

- **Parish Representative:** Schedule volunteers and liaise with staff and students.
- **Volunteers:** Assist staff, students, and parish representatives.

Children's Liturgy

- **Children's Liturgy Coordinator:** Arrange lesson content and supplies. Schedule and supervise volunteers.
- **Class leaders:** Supervise selected Mass liturgy groups and volunteers.
- **Volunteers:** Assist class leaders.

If you have questions, are interested in, or would like to become involved with our Youth and Family Ministry, please call or email the parish office.
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