



**Christ Our Light Catholic Church
Youth Ministry Office**

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Dear Families and Youth in Levels 7-10:

Enclosed is the registration form for 2015 – 2016. Every child and youth in the program is required to have information filled in for them. Our fees cover only a fraction of the cost of running our program. Please call my office if the fee causes your family financial difficulty. We can work out a payment plan. Registrations will not be processed without the registration fee. **The deadline for receiving registrations is July 20th. Any families new to the parish are asked to schedule an in person meeting before September 1, 2015.**

As you know, I will be leaving Christ Our Light at the end of June. There will be a parent and youth meeting at the beginning of the Faith Formation year when a new person comes in so that you may meet them. At that meeting, the youth who are moving up to 7th level will be welcomed. You will find some differences in the way we experience Faith Formation in the upper levels as well as introduce you into the life of comprehensive Youth Ministry which not only includes Faith Formation but also Justice and Service, Community Life, Prayer and Worship, Pastoral Care, Leadership Development, Evangelization and Advocacy. We will welcome you formally and provide parents with helpful information about moving up to Youth Ministry. Our veteran 8th-10th level young people will be welcomed back. Also at that meeting, our 10th level youth and parents will discuss what will be expected of them in order to enter Confirmation Prep in May of 2016.

Sunday night sessions will continue to be 2 hours, once a month. This means that each young person will only attend 14 hours of faith formation per year. That's less than a full day per year! Because of this, it is very important to attend and be on time for every session. We are continuing our retreats in January and April. Retreats are an essential part of faith development in young people as well as excellent ways to strengthen adult faith. It allows us to retreat from our everyday time and space to focus on our relationship with God and his people. Our retreats are part of the Faith Formation program and youth are expected to attend them. If any adult would like to experience an adult retreat, Elizabeth Schlesier-Flaska would be happy to help you find one that meets your needs.

We are also continuing the mandatory parents and youth sessions. You will find on your calendar that there will be one parent and youth session for levels 7 & 8, and another parent and youth session for levels 9 & 10 with outside speakers. They are different each year and are meant to encourage family participation and catechize both generations together. Statistics have consistently shown that if Catholic parents are involved in their faith life and parish community - visibly pray in their home, participate in the Mass, are active in a parish ministry, and/or attend parish events for example, the children of those parents are more apt to want to be involved in their parish community and develop their own faith lives. That means a closer relationship with God for you and your children, fewer arguments, a vibrant and active faith community, and more youth growing to adults with the love of God in their hearts, words and actions. Who wouldn't want that!?

The Youth Ministry website at www.christourlightym.weebly.com will be updated with the 2015-2016 Faith Formation dates on the calendar. The calendar can be found under the events tab. No paper calendars will be sent home. Thank you for a wonderful seven years. Enjoy making memories with your loved ones and friends this summer. You will be in my prayers and please keep me in yours.

Peace in Christ,

Sarah Raville