



Youth Ministry Office  
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Praised be Jesus Christ!

**Dear Parents,**

Peace be with you!

**Welcome** to St Peter Religious Education/Youth Ministry. We have an exciting and engaging year planned for our High school and Middle School Religious Education Program.

In youth ministry, our approach is one of “**discipleship**”; it is not enough to be a Theologian (the study of religion). Jesus calls us to be His disciples (someone who embraces, follows and assists in spreading the teachings of Jesus) as He tells us in **John 15:8** “By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; and become My disciples.”

**St Peter Religious Education/Youth Ministry Program** involves two interactive classroom sessions per month, a class or grade level retreat experience and a service component. **Classes meet from 7pm – 8:30pm, on Monday for High school and Wednesday for Middle School.** Please drop your student off and pick them up from the front door of Clare Hall. We will utilize the St Peter School Gym and Clare Hall meeting rooms.

The retreat and service component we call “**Faith In Action Testimonial**” or “**FIAT**” – fiat is the word the Blessed Virgin Mary said to God when the angel Gabriel told her she would be the Mother of God’s Son, it means ‘yes, let it be as You desire.’ FIAT retreat and service opportunities are our way of saying “Yes, we will follow Jesus; we will be His disciple in life.” By experiencing faith outside the classroom, with these retreat and service opportunities, our teens grow in their understanding of how to live practically as a disciple of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In addition to the **16 scheduled classes**, each student is asked to complete **6 FIATs** - the one scheduled class retreat, a service opportunity and 4 other FIATs of choice.

**Faith Formation Sessions:**

We follow a Youth Group style of Class Structure:

- **Class will begin in Large Group with a 30 minute presentation on the main focus for the night. School Gym for MS, Lunch Room for 10+11 grade, Saint John Paul II Room – basement of Clare Hall for 9 grade**
- Then we will move to Clare Hall for small, grade specific, groups/classes, to discuss how we apply what we learned to our daily lives – in other words – what should our “loving response” look like at home, at school and in the work place.

- **Student Worksheet:** Each student is given a worksheet that corresponds to the small group discussion. Students are expected to take notes and/or write answers on their worksheet
  - The worksheets are to be taken home in their student folder for you, their parents and guardians, to review, so you know what we are learning about in faith formation.
  - We learn through many avenues; by Hearing and seeing in the large group PowerPoint or Video, reading, discussing and writing in small group.
  - Students: Please bring your student folder with you each time we meet
- At the end of every year, we give **perfect attendance awards**. Students can earn perfect attendance by completing every worksheet, attending all sessions or doing make-up worksheets for the sessions they must miss, and by completing 6 FIATs
- Opportunities for FIATs are also on a calendar on the website, you will notice that there are several opportunities every month for FIATs, so don't wait until the end of the year, choose one per month.
  - Some of you already have a good start on your FIATs for the year through Summer Youth Events: Middle School Mission Camp (4 FIATs), High School Mission Trip (4 FIATs), and Steubenville Catholic Youth Conference(4 FIATs),

#### **Youth Happenings Newsletter:**

I will send you an email newsletter at the beginning of each month, so that you know what is coming this month, I will also post this on the website and our St Peter Youth Facebook page, please let me know if you do not have access online – I will mail you a copy.

Also on the St Peter Slinger website, on the Christian Formation page, you will find a Parent Resources tab: where you will find everything you need: **Parent Handbook, all Formation Calendars, Newsletters, Permission Slips, FIATs.**

#### **Please take time to Review the Parent Handbook.**

Some notable policies:

- **Dress code** - Please remember you are coming to a Church or Parish event, not your friend's house, Please dress appropriately. Please hide all undergarments, no visible bra straps or underwear. No tight fitting or revealing clothes.
- **Inclement Weather:** If Slinger Schools are closed, or after school activities canceled – our classes are cancelled also. I will post cancellations on the St Peter Youth Facebook page.
- **Cell Phone Policy:** No cell phone use during class. If a catechist sees a cell phone in use, that student will be asked to place their cell phone in the basket in the middle of the table until the end of class.

For those families that enjoy growing in their faith together, we offer a **Sunday Morning Family Faith Formation Program** two Sunday mornings a month; beginning with 10:30am Mass. We then move to Church Hall for a light breakfast and faith presentation / discussion, we conclude the day by 1pm.

#### **Faith Goals:**

I encourage you to set a "Faith Goal" for your children. They already have school goals and sports goals, and future college or workplace dreams, but do they have a "Faith Goal"? Encourage them to grow in faith this year. Attending Faith Formation and FIATs are a big part of that – help them to strive for perfect attendance – and to do "make up" if they do have to miss a session.

Take a look at the calendar and plan the FIATs now, rather than just trying to fit them in if nothing else is going on that day. I know summer is wrapping up, but plan for next summer now, it fills up quickly with camps and vacations. Encourage your teen to plan to participate in one of the summer youth events; it will make a difference in their life.

**Summer Youth Events:**

- **Middle School Mission Camp** – June 18-21, 2018
- **High School Mission Trip** – TBA
  - Through Mission Trips and Camps, our teens get the opportunity to step outside themselves and experience the grace of God through service. They become more compassionate toward the difficulties of others; they become more grateful for the blessings in their own lives. They experience the love of God through meeting the needs of another person.
- **Steubenville Youth Conference** – July 12-16, 2018
  - Teens who go to Steubenville experience the profound love of God through an intimate personal encounter of God. They grow in their faith and love of God and they grow in knowledge of self and love of others.

We have a choice in life, we can “Build our lives around God” or we can “try to fit God into our already over-committed lives”. Teach your children to place God first and He will help you take care of the rest.

We are so glad to have you and your family here at St. Peter. Our prayer, our mission is to help your family grow in your loving relationship with God, to help you to come to know God’s Love and Peace and Joy in a world that would deny such Knowledge.

An informal **Parent/Student Orientation Meeting** is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 10am. If you are new to St Peter Youth Ministry or if you have further questions about the program or if you just want to stop in to hear about the program again in person, please plan to attend this meeting – RSVP to [resecretary@stpeterslinger.org](mailto:resecretary@stpeterslinger.org) by September 3, so we can plan for the proper amount of Eileen’s home-made scones and gourmet coffee. We will meet in Church Hall, between Sunday Masses.

God bless you and your family.

Your servant in Christ,



Eileen Belongea  
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