Origin Youth Ministry
Grades: 8th – 12th
2021-2022

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Youth Nights:

Origin: Youth Nights are where we offer a place for our teens to not only connect with their peers but to be empowered in a life of the Holy Spirit. So often we have categorized our youth as the future of the Church when in fact they are the very life of the Church!

Young people in 8th - 12th grade are at a pivotal moment in life where they are wrestling with their identity and trying to establish who they want to become. We want to give our teens a place to belong, empower them to bring Christ to their friends and community, and invite their peers to encounter Christ at our parish.

These special nights will have both fun and faith and will meet during the school year.

- Students in 6th - 8th grade will participate in **Origin: Middle School on Sundays from 5:30pm - 7pm**.

- Students in 9th - 12th grade will participate in **Origin: High School on Sundays from 7:30pm - 9pm**.

Following our family faith formation model, we will have additional supplemental programming available periodically during the year for our parents to continue the conversation of faith with their child in the home and make Church a home for our Youth.

Sacrament Preparation:

All students in 8th - 12th grade will participate in our Origin: Youth programming on Sunday nights, including those participating in Sacrament Preparation.

First Eucharist Preparation (includes First Reconciliation)

Since each circumstance for our students in 8th-12th in need of First Communion preparation is unique, a member of our Youth Ministry team will be in contact with you to provide additional information for Eucharist Sacrament Preparation and any additional sacrament preparation fees that may be required after you register your student for Origin: Youth. Only the Faith Formation registration fee of $115 will be due at the time of registration.

Confirmation Preparation:

At St. Francis, we have implemented a Readiness Model for preparation for the sacrament of confirmation, offering our Youth a customized journey towards the sacrament of Confirmation between 8th and 12th grade.

The preparation period is a time of ongoing discernment for receiving the sacrament of confirmation and dedicating themselves to discipleship with Jesus.

Candidates will be encouraged to take ownership of their preparation towards the sacrament of confirmation with the support of their parents and sponsor.

Candidates will self-identify as ready to move forward with preparation when they:

- are attending Mass on a regular basis
- are participating in formation (Youth Nights)
- personally express a desire to receive the sacrament of confirmation

Opportunities for potential candidates to step forward will be a made in a variety of ways through youth nights, retreats, liturgy, and other opportunities.

Once the candidate comes forward and submits their Confirmation Inquiry, we will contact parents (using the contact information provided on the student registration form) to begin the milestone process for Confirmation preparation.

At youth nights and retreats, all youth (including candidates), will have opportunities to encounter Jesus and grow in their relationship with God and knowledge of the faith. Youth will also have opportunities to connect with a small group of peers to pray, support and celebrate candidates on their journey.

During this time, parents will be empowered to accompany their child on their journey to discipleship through prayer, participation at Mass as a family and living out their faith together by loving and serving others.

The readiness model aligns with the church's mission of creating missionary disciples who encounter Christ humbly, serve others joyfully and proclaim the gospel BOLDLY. It is our fervent prayer that these youth and their parents will be provided with the best opportunity to become missionary disciples in the community and not simply check a box in a classroom.

Following this model for readiness, parents are not able to register their student for Confirmation preparation at the time of registration.

If/when students come forward to begin a formal inquiry while participating in our Youth Nights, additional registration for the sacrament of confirmation information will be sent and any additional sacrament preparation fees will be due.

You can best support your child while they await opportunities to formally inquire about confirmation preparation by:

- attending Mass regularly as a family on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
- bringing your child to Youth Nights & Events
- praying as a family
- Joining us as an adult volunteer

We look forward to getting to know your child through our Origin: Youth Nights!