



# St. Gabriel Parish YOUTH MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

October 2024

WELCOME to Youth Ministry! Our mission at St. Gabriel's Parish is to enrich our youth's faith formation while offering activities and studies that enhance their understanding and strengthen their relationship with God. We celebrated Opening Night on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> for high school students and September 29<sup>th</sup> for middle school students. We started the evening with a student-led prayer thanking God for bringing us together. We continued with "friend introductions" and briefly discussing what brings our students to Youth Ministry (besides their parents! Lol) and the kind of learning and activities that would keep them coming back. I'm always amazed at some of the ideas these students come up with and appreciate their creativity and energy. We laughed, overcame some personal fears, gained some self-confidence, then shared some treats. Our goal of bringing our young people together in Christ's name and for His glory starts with these small steps.

As always, if your student or friends of your student are interested in joining us, we will continue to accept registrations for all grades. Please call the parish office at (989) 662-6861 or download the registration form from the Youth Ministry page on the parish website.

Also, if you are anyone you know is interested in assisting with either or both groups, please call the parish office. We need you to make this program successful!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 6 – HS group time

Sunday, October 13 – Service Project

Sunday, October 20 – NO GROUP

Sunday, October 27 – Trunk or Treat. Please sign up at the church entrances if you are planning to attend/participate.

## WHAT IS PRAYER?

Many people are uncomfortable with praying. The most common reason I hear from students is that they don't know how. As a teen myself, I remember thinking the same thing.

I also remember how my mom responded to this reply because she had spent so much time praying with us and sending us to Catholic schools to learn everything we needed to know. The problem was NOT that I didn't know HOW to pray, but that I didn't know how to feel connected through traditional prayers. The problem was HOW I viewed praying!

Prayer is a conversation with God. It does not need to be formal, scripted, or well versed. Talking to important people can be intimidating, especially when it's God. But God our Father, much like our parents, just want us to talk to Him. He's listening. Always. Never judging, always loving. And so our "prayers" should be a comfortable conversation just as a talking to our parents and friends. And in case you're still unsure, here are a few tips to help you get started.

## Teach Me To Pray Matthew 6:9-13



**PRAISE** for who He is,  
for what He has done.  
**Our Father which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.**



**REPENT** of sins I have committed,  
of commands I have neglected.  
**And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.**



**ASK** For the needs of others, Then your needs.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil**



**YIELD** My Will to God's Will  
And My Agenda to God's Agenda!  
**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done  
in earth, as it is in heaven.**  
**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever. Amen.**

