

# Holy Redeemer Youth Group Handbook

## Youth Group



Holy Redeemer Parish  
4902 Berwyn Road  
College Park, Maryland

Holy Redeemer Youth Group (HRYG) is a ministry built upon Catholic Christian faith, fellowship, service to others, & leadership formation. All Holy Redeemer teens from grades 8 to 12 are invited to be a part of our Youth Group. These are the different types of events that the Holy Redeemer Youth group offers:

### **Total Faith & Friday Fellowship Evenings**

On most Friday nights of the school year, Holy Redeemer Youth Group offers Total Faith and Friday Fellowship Evenings. Our Youth Group teens are invited to gather in the Youth Center at 6:00 p.m. for Total Faith, which consists of discussion of how to mesh our Catholic Christian faith into the secular “real world”. Topics of discussion may include: alcohol & drug abuse, gossip & rumors, tough times within families, what to do when a friend is in trouble, dating, and sexual abstinence just to name a few. We follow up our Total Faith discussions with a Friday Fellowship Ice Cream Social which is an unstructured event. Our Total Faith & Friday Fellowship Evenings end at 9:30 p.m. There is no charge for these Evenings. If a teen absolutely cannot make it on an Evening, that teen may call, e-mail, or send a Facebook message between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and receive ½ credit towards that Total Faith & Friday Fellowship Evening.

### **Service Projects**

All Catholic Christians are called to serve their families, their church, their local community, and their global community following the example of Jesus Christ. During the course of the year, the Holy Redeemer Youth Group will be invited to join together in a variety of different service projects ranging from volunteering at the Harvest Bazaar to participating in the Catholic Relief Services Food Fast.

### **Retreats**

All Holy Redeemer teens from grade 9 to 12 are invited to take some time to peacefully reflect, recoup, and re-collect on our two weekend Retreats, one in the fall and one in the spring. Our Fall Retreat is a **lock-in** and is held on-site in the Holy Redeemer Youth Center. Our Spring Retreat is held at a retreat center away from Holy Redeemer.

### **Parish Council Representatives**

Each year, a new Youth Group Parish Council Representative is needed. Teens are needed to volunteer to representative the Youth Group every other month and give a report on the state of Youth Group to the rest of the Parish Council.

### **Youth Council & Pizza Lunch**

In order that our teens feel ownership over their Youth Group, the bulk of our planning of extra social excursions will be held during our monthly Sunday afternoon Youth Councils & Pizza Lunch held after the 12:00 noon Mass. Teens will come up with ideas for Saturday night excursions and once 5 to 10 teens have committed to participating in a particular excursion, the adults will assist the teens with logistics such as putting together permission slips, fees, and transportation. All teens from grades 8 to 12 are invited to participate.

### **Beach Trip**

The culmination of a great youth ministry year is our week-long Beach Trip to Avon, North Carolina on Hatteras Island in the Outer Banks. Individual beach houses are rented and are run by at least two “house parents”. The Beach Trip starts and ends with Mass at Holy Redeemer. Each day at the beach, the Youth Group will participate in prayer services of their own creation and work together to bond as a group. The number of beach houses that are rented will be determined by participation trends as of December 1.

- Beach Trip Eligibility
  - ✓ Participates in 10+ Total Faith & Friday Fellowship Nights per year
    - Must participate in 4+ Total Faith & Friday Fellowship Nights before December 1 OR put down a \$100.00 non-refundable deposit towards Beach Trip and complete the rest of the requirements for eligibility.
  - ✓ Participates in 4+ HRYG Service Projects per year
    - Must participate in 2+ HRYG Service Projects before December 1
  - ✓ Participates in 1+ HRYG Retreat per year
  - ✓ Participates in 4+ HRYG Youth Councils per year
  - ✓ Participates in 4+ HRYG Fund Raisers per year
    - Must participate in 2+ HRYG Fund Raisers before December 1
  - ✓ Must be a registered HRYG member (paperwork filled out annually)
  - ✓ Participates in the annual ½ hour Virtus Safe Environment session available a choice of three Friday Fellowships
  - ✓ **PARENT(S)** volunteer as a chaperon or as administrative support for 4+ HRYG activities per year

### **Fund Raising**

In order to keep the cost of Beach Trip affordable and to be able to give back a little to Holy Redeemer Parish, the Youth Group participates in many fundraisers throughout the year ranging from our fall Behnke Mums Sale to our spring restaurant nights.

### **Permission Slips & Minimum Participation**

In order to keep our functions organized and to enforce the idea that our teens need to be responsible and that their actions have consequences, we will **NO LONGER ACCEPT PERMISSION SLIPS AFTER THEIR DUE DATE** unless a *parent* has made arrangements with me *prior* to the Due Date of the permission slip. This includes the Beach Trip! The minimum number for a general activity is at least 5 participants. This means that if I do not have at least 5 Permission Slips for a general activity this event will be cancelled.

### **Parents & Other Adult Volunteers**

In order to volunteer to chaperon HRYG events and activities, all adults 18 years and older must be Virtus Certified. This is a four-part process:

- Fill out a Volunteer Application
- Register for the Virtus: Protecting God's Children training course
- Read the Archdiocese of Washington Child Protection Policy and return a signed copy of Appendix E of the Policy
- Make an appointment for fingerprinting at the Archdiocese of Washington Pastoral Center
  - ✓ To register for Virtus, read the Archdiocese of Washington Child Protection Policy, and make an appointment for fingerprinting:  
[http://www.adw.org/youth/protect\\_index.asp](http://www.adw.org/youth/protect_index.asp)

Holy Redeemer Youth Ministry is a collaborative effort between the teens, parents, pastor and other parishioners of Holy Redeemer, and youth minister. Without the full cooperation of all these parties, our Youth Ministry program at Holy Redeemer cannot be successful.

What are the roles of each of these parties? They are as follows:

#### **Teens**

- 1) The teens who participate in HRYG need to have open hearts and minds to the adults who minister to them and to their peers,
- 2) The teens who participate must follow the **Rules & Regulations** at all times. They must be clear about the fact that every time a rule is broken, the entire youth ministry program is jeopardized.
- 3) The teens who participate should learn to minister to each other. This means being kind to each other, accepting of each others' differences, and willing to lend a helping hand to each other.
- 4) The teens who participate should give all of the programs we offer a try. All of our programs offer the opportunities for fellowship, but they may also go deeper into social justice issues, stewardship, and Sacred Scripture.
- 5) The teens who participate must welcome the assistance of their parents to the program. Without parents being happily welcomed in to help, HRYG will not survive and thrive.
- 6) The teens who participate should feel free to call upon the youth minister for help and guidance.
- 7) The teens who participate should understand that central to youth ministry is the mission of Jesus Christ and his Church on earth.



## Parents

1) The parents of the teens who participate must be available to help the youth minister and the other adults who minister to their children. It is also important that parents who help out support the mission of the Catholic Church. Opportunities to help are numerous; there are areas that can fit into each and every parent's comfort zone:

- ❖ Helping to plan and presenting retreats
- ❖ Chaperoning Beach Trip and other away, overnight events
- ❖ Helping to plan service projects
- ❖ Helping to plan fund raisers and other development opportunities
- ❖ Helping to plan, prepare, and chaperon HRYG Dances
- ❖ Sitting on Youth Council as an advisor to youth
- ❖ Sitting on the Parish Council as the Christian Formation Representative
- ❖ Chaperoning on-site events like Total Faith & Friday Fellowship
- ❖ Driving teens to and from events
- ❖ Helping to coordinate HRYG Community Sunday's & Parish Pot Luck Nights
- ❖ Cooking for overnight events like the Fall Retreat
- ❖ Shopping for snacks or other supplies for activities
- ❖ Helping to create the quarterly Religious Education & Youth Ministry Newsletter
- ❖ Financially contributing to HRYG events that fall outside the budget
- ❖ Volunteering as a School of Religion Catechist or Substitute
- ❖ Volunteering as a member of the Confirmation Team

Some of these opportunities for parents to get involved are one-time events and some are long-term. Some are in the forefront with the teens and some are behind the scenes. All are equally important and provide the backbone of our youth ministry program.

2) The parents of the teens who participate should always feel welcome to play a part in youth ministry activities once they are Virtus certified. Parents should understand that they can have a positive impact on the lives of other teens even if their own teen is resistant to having their parent help the program.

3) The parents of the teens who participate must present a positive attitude while they are helping especially if they are around teens.

4) The parents of teens who participate should feel free to call upon the youth minister with comments and questions.

5) The parents of teens who participate must provide all paperwork (Annual Registration, Permission Slips, etc.) within the specified deadlines.

6) The parents of teens who participate should understand that youth ministry begins at home.

7) The parents of teens who participate should understand that central to youth ministry is the mission of Jesus Christ and his Church on earth.



### **Youth Minister**

- 1) The youth minister must love and respect teens.
- 2) The youth minister must support and promote the mission of Jesus Christ and his Church on earth.
- 3) The youth minister must be a positive role model in both word and deed.
- 4) The youth minister must work within the guidelines of the manual for youth ministry created by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), “Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry”.
- 5) The youth minister must create an environment where teens are and feel safe in mind, body, and spirit.
- 6) The youth minister must create an environment that is open to parents and teens to ask for help & guidance and to offer comments, questions, and even complaints.
- 7) The youth minister must be an advocate for teens and parents as well as for the Church on earth.
- 8) The youth minister must understand the youth ministry is a vocation and not just a job and treat it with the love and respect it deserves.
- 9) The youth minister must be able to delegate to parents, teen, and other volunteers in order to maintain a healthy balance between ministry and family.



### **Pastor & Parishioners**

- 1) The pastor and parishioners supply an adequate meeting space & budget as well as spiritual and moral support for the youth ministry program.
- 2) The pastor and parishioners should maintain a welcoming attitude towards the teens when they are encountered at liturgy and other events.



# Holy Redeemer Youth Group (HRYG)

## GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

1. You may not leave the Holy Redeemer property once you have signed in before the end of the HRYG activity unless:
  - a. your parent/guardian is picking you up,
  - b. your parent/guardian grants permission over the phone, speaking to the chaperone in charge,
  - c. or you have expressed written permission from your parent/guardian.
2. You may **NOT** go to Cherry Park from the time you sign in until the end of our scheduled HRYG activity. Our outdoor space is limited to the Youth Center Garden.
3. If you drive, please drive carefully. You are an example that others will look to when it is their time to drive. This means everyone in the car wearing seatbelts and the driver obeying the rules of the road.
4. Smoking or playing with lighters or matches is not permitted.
5. Foul and obscene language is not permitted. This also refers to any music that you play.
6. Littering, both on and off church property, is not permitted.
7. Remember the Golden Rule. Treat others the way you would like to be treated. This not only refers to your peers, but also to the chaperones. Please know that without the care of the chaperones, we would not have a successful youth group.
8. And finally, if you are in love or fall in love, please conduct yourself in a manner that is appropriate for the situation. (Holding hands is okay; making out is unacceptable! Stay vertical!!)
9. Continued or flagrant non-compliance with these Rules and Regulations will result in you being sent home, or, in extreme situations, barred from further Holy Redeemer Youth Group activities.

Please understand that creating these rules is not for the purpose of holding you back. We want to know that each person who participates in Holy Redeemer Youth Group is safe in spirit, mind, and body. Please try to remember that we are here as Catholic Christians and that every person we meet is a fellow child of God.

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Teen's Signature

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Parent' Signature

\*A signed copy of this form, a copy of your Insurance Card, and a completed General Information Form is all that is required to join the Holy Redeemer Youth Group!

## GENERAL INFORMATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCY, I give permission for my child, \_\_\_\_\_ to be evaluated, diagnosed, treated, and/or medicated in accordance with standard medical practice by licensed medical personnel. I understand that all reasonable precautions will be made to ensure the safety of all Holy Redeemer Youth Group members. I relieve Holy Redeemer Parish and the Archdiocese of Washington of all responsibility and consequences that may arise as a result of injuries or illnesses.

PARENT: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

My child is allergic to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

My child takes to following medication(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In the event that appropriate symptoms should occur, my child may be administered the following over-the-counter-medications following the package directions:

(PLEASE INITIAL)

\_\_\_\_\_ Tylenol    \_\_\_\_\_ Advil    \_\_\_\_\_ Benadryl    \_\_\_\_\_ Pepto-Bismal    \_\_\_\_\_ Midol

My child has the following medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF LAST TETANUS BOOSTER: \_\_\_\_\_

PHYSICIAN: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL\***

**\*FOR OFFICE USE ONLY\***

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU!**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Home Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Cell Phone

TEEN'S E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS OF: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAY: \_\_\_\_\_ FAVORITE FOOD: \_\_\_\_\_

SIBLINGS: \_\_\_\_\_

BEST FRIENDS: \_\_\_\_\_

PETS: \_\_\_\_\_

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FAVORITE MUSIC: \_\_\_\_\_

FAVORITE SCHOOL SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

TALENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE I HOPE TO ATTEND: \_\_\_\_\_

DREAM JOB: \_\_\_\_\_ DREAM CAR: \_\_\_\_\_

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON I ADMIRE THE MOST: \_\_\_\_\_

I AM HERE BECAUSE I WANT TO BE (circle one): YES NO