

PEER MINISTRY | 2017 - 2018

SAINT MARY OF THE ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH INFORMATION & APPLICATION PACKET

What is Peer Ministry?

Peer ministry is a parish leadership program that allows high school students the opportunity to use their gifts and talents to help their peers grow in faith. It is an opportunity to develop skills such as sharing your faith, leading discussions, and welcoming others.

Why should I get involved?

You should be a peer minister if you possess the passion and courage to persevere and grow in your relationship with God, serve others, witness your faith (share and spread the Good News), and build skills in leadership. It is a great way to invest yourself in your church community as well as develop long-lasting friendships with others. Through peer ministry, you will be able to build skills and resources that will be useful for the rest of your life. Involvement in peer ministry is great for college applications, employment applications, resumes, etc.

Who can be a peer minister?

Any high school teen who has received the sacrament of Confirmation.

What is expected of me?

Peer ministers should have a willingness to serve and care for others. They should have the ability to interact with peers, clergy, and adult leaders. Peer ministers should model Catholic values, especially by attending mass regularly (every Sunday), and they should have a desire to grow in the faith.

Those in peer ministry will be working with the 7th & 8th Grade students in the Religious Education Program (REP) at Saint Mary's on Tuesday evenings. Throughout the year, the 7th/8th Graders will meet in Diantha Hall. The peer ministers will lead games, activities, and co-lead small groups in addition to having the opportunity to give a main talk throughout the year as well.

Peer Ministry will meet on the following dates, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM:

September **5**, 12, 19 & 26

October 3, 10, 17 & 24

November 7, 14 & 28

December 5, 12 & 19

January 9, 16, 23 & 30

February 6, 13, 20 & 27

March 6, 13 & 20

April 3, 10 & 17

Peer Ministers do not have to be available on every date listed above. Each peer minister is typically scheduled for about seven Tuesdays each semester, based upon the availability of each person.

The dates listed in bold are when the Peer Ministers will meet with the Adult Core Team to plan out the upcoming sessions.

Please complete and return the attached application to Sue Matousek by August 19.

Questions? Contact Sue at smatous@stmota.org or 847-223-0010 ext 218.

{ PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE FOR YOUR RECORDS }

Applicant Information

Name: _____ Grade, Fall 2017: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

T-Shirt Size (circle one): S M L XL XXL

Parent Name: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Cell Phone: _____

What gifts do you feel you could bring to youth in the program? (ex: musical, organized, friendly)

List any other activities you are involved with this year: (church / home / community / school)

Please list and describe two of your strengths and two of your weaknesses.

Briefly describe your current relationship with God and your Catholic faith. Has a relationship with God made a difference in your life so far? If so, how?

Code of Behavior

As a Peer Minister, you are representing our parish throughout the school year and we expect you will represent us well. We expect that you will display mature and responsible behavior, which for many years has been the trademark of Catholic youth and adults of our diocese.

Expectations:

1. All participants are expected to demonstrate common courtesy and respect at all times. Inappropriate language/behavior will not be tolerated.
2. Dress should reflect the value of modesty. Writing on clothing should reflect Christian values.
3. The possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverage and/or possession/use of any illegal drug is not permitted.
4. Smoking is not permitted.
5. Weapons and/or drug paraphernalia are not allowed.
6. If under the age of 18, prescription drugs need to be given to an adult for storage and distribution.

I understand and agree to this Code of Behavior. I also understand and agree that at the time of an infraction requiring dismissal, I am responsible for my removal from the premises and any costs involved. If under the age of 18, I also understand and agree that my parents or guardian will be notified at the time of an infraction requiring my dismissal. My parents or guardian will be responsible for my removal from the premises and any costs involved.

Peer Minister Signature

Parental Consent

I give permission to my son/daughter (PRINT participant's name) _____ to participate in the Peer Ministry Program, sponsored by Saint Mary of the Annunciation Parish. I hereby release and indemnify the Archdiocese of Chicago, Saint Mary of the Annunciation Parish, its staff and volunteers; and the Catholic Bishop of Chicago, a Corporation Sole, from any and all liability arising from claims of any kind of nature whatsoever from my child's participation in the program. I understand that if my child violates any laws regarding possession of alcohol or drugs, or rule governing the events, I will be called and notified about the situation and/or arrangements will be made to send my child home. Lastly, I release the Archdiocese of Chicago and Saint Mary of the Annunciation Parish, its staff and volunteers, from any and all responsibility should my son/daughter experience some injury or accident while participating at these events.

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Photo Release

I understand, as a parent/legal guardian of the above named child, that I am giving Saint Mary of the Annunciation Parish permission to use a photograph of my child on the school and parish websites. Any image will be used for the sole purpose of visually enhancing the parish websites. The photos will also be used for the Saint Mary of the Annunciation Bulletin and on future Peer Ministry promotional materials.

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Signature of Parent/Guardian