

PEER MINISTRY | 2018 - 2019

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, sophomore or older, who has received the sacrament of Confirmation.

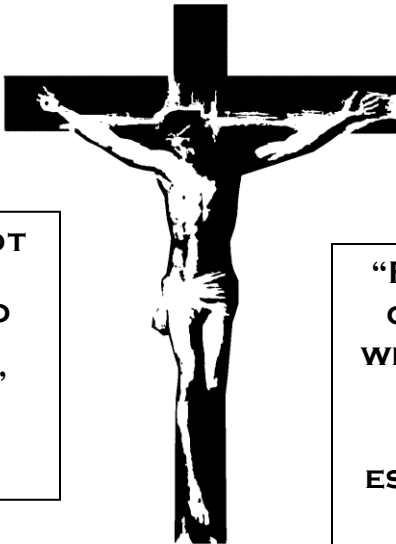
What is expected of me?

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 their faith.

If you will be turning 18 years old before the school year is over you will need to attend a VIRTUS, protecting God's children class. You will also need to fill out some paperwork. (Code of Conduct, CANTS, etc.) All of this will be discussed at our first peer ministry meeting.

**"A SAINT IS A SINNER WHO
KEEPS TRYING."**

~ST. JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA



**"TEACH BY WORKS MORE THAN
BY WORDS."**

~ST. THERESA OF AVILA

**"DO NOT BE AFRAID. DO NOT
BE SATISFIED WITH
MEDIOCRITY. PUT OUT INTO
THE DEEP AND LET DOWN
YOUR NETS FOR A CATCH."**

~POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

**"FAITH MUST BECOME A FLAME
OF LOVE WITHIN US. A FLAME
WHICH BURNS IN OUR LIVES AND
IS PROPAGATED TO OUR
NEIGHBORS. THIS IS THE
ESSENCE OF EVANGELIZATION."**

~POPE BENEDICT XVI

**"FIND NEW WAYS TO SPREAD
THE WORD OF GOD TO EVERY
CORNER OF THE WORLD"**

~POPE FRANCIS

What will I be doing?

Those in peer ministry will be working in the following areas throughout the next year:

Religious Education Program (REP) with the 7th & 8th Grade students at Saint Mary's on Tuesday evenings 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.

REP Semester Planning Meetings:

Tuesday, September 4th @5:30pm | Tuesday, January 8th @5:30pm
(Meeting Rooms in Main Church)

REP Schedule: We will meet from 5:15 – 7:45 PM

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| September 11, 18, & 25 | January 15, 22 & 29 |
| October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 | February 5, 12, 19 & 26 |
| November 6, 13 & 27 | March 5, 12 & 19 |
| December 4, 11 & 18 | April 2, 9 & 16 |

*You are not required to attend every session. As long as there is at least **one** peer minister per small group, you can miss.*

Summer Religious Education Program (REP) with the 7th & 8th Grade students at Saint Mary's. Each peer minister will be required to help 1-2 days during the 2 week span of REP next July.

Confirmation Retreat- Peer Ministers should be available to help with the Confirmation retreat on Saturday, February 23rd from 12:30-6pm. Here peer ministers will give talks, lead games, and co-lead small groups.

CHWC Summer Mission Trip (if applicable)- Peer Ministers will be leading small groups on next summer's mission trip. There will be a meeting for these small group leaders before we depart to discuss expectations and ways to engage others in your group.

Youth Ministry Support- Peer Ministers, if willing, will have the opportunity to help the Youth Minister plan and execute youth nights, events, and mission trip planning. This will not be mandatory, but will allow Peer Ministers to broaden their scope of leadership in the parish.

**Please complete and return the attached application to Grant Bright by August 19.
Questions? Contact Grant at gbright@stmota.org or 847-223-0010 ext 230.**

{ PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE FOR YOUR RECORDS }

Applicant Information

Name: _____ Grade, Fall 2018: _____

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