

# Overview of High School Ministry & Confirmation 2017-18



## About Jacob Perry

*I wasn't always Catholic. There was a time in my life when I wanted nothing to do with religion. But during my junior year of high school I had this realization that something was missing from my life. I felt empty and alone even though I had lots of friends and great grades. Something inside me told me there had to be more to life. So I started searching for answers... And I found them at Holy Rosary in Antioch.*

*I found a LifeTeen group of other high schoolers who were actually into their faith. It was kind of weird, but I realized that they had something that I wanted: joy! And peace! So I started going to mass every week and to LifeTeen right after and it truly changed my life. My friends saw the change in me. I'm happier, kinder, and living with purpose. One of the best parts is that those teens from youth group are still my closest friends to this day.*

*My goal is to develop a ministry where teens will encounter God in a way that will transform and inspire them and a community that will build them up and keep them heaven bound. I want them to find a family that will last a lifetime.*

## High School Programs

High School Confirmation normally meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays.

High School Ministry (youth group) normally meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

### High School Ministry (aka Youth Group)

- ❖ Meets after the 5:00pm Teen Mass at 6:15pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.
- ❖ We want our High School Ministry (HSM) at St. Bonaventure to be a place where teens want to come and hang out with each other and grow in their faith. It will feel more like a club than a class.
- ❖ HSM is no longer required for Confirmation students. They were formerly required to attend once a month; now they are only required to come check it out twice during the year to see if it's for them. If they like it, they should keep coming!
- ❖ HSM is not just for Confirmation students. It is open to Confirmed teens, friends, and anyone who wants to have fun and learn about our Faith.

### High School Confirmation

- ❖ Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month.
- ❖ Confirmation at St. Bonaventure is a 2 year program.
- ❖ **This year we split Year 1 and Year 2 Confirmation. They no longer meet at the same time:**
  - **Year 1 Confirmation teens meet at 3:00pm and get picked up after the Teen Mass, usually 6:05pm.**
  - **Year 2 Confirmation teens meet for the 5:00pm Teen Mass and get picked up at 8:00pm.**
  - **Sunday Mass is always required for Confirmation.**
  - The reason for this change is simple: we believe that someone just beginning Confirmation has very different needs from someone who has been in the program for a year. This year we are tailoring the program to the specific needs of year 1 / year 2 teens in hopes that they will get more out of the program.

St. Bonaventure Catholic Community

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## CONFIRMATION ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ Referring to the Calendar, teens must attend:
- ❖ All Confirmation Days (**bold, black text**)
  - *Teens are permitted up to 3 absences, including sickness/vacations.*
  - *More than 3 absences will require summer makeup sessions.*
- ❖ All Required Events (**bold, blue text**)
- ❖ At least 2 HS Ministry Nights (**green text**)
- ❖ At least 1 Optional event (**light blue text**)

## CONFIRMATION YEAR 1 & YEAR 2 OPTIONAL EVENTS

- ❖ Walk for Life: San Francisco
  - Teens are invited to stand up for the rights of the unborn in the annual Walk for Life.
  - Date: Sat, Jan 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Location/Cost TBD.
- ❖ Good Friday Cross Walk
  - Teens are invited to walk in Jesus' footsteps, carrying a cross up the hills of Clayton.  
Date: Fri, Mar 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Location: Clayton Community Park
  - Cost: n/a
- ❖ XLT Praise and Worship Night
  - Teens are invited to a night of worship, adoration and personal testimonies.
  - Date: Sun, Apr 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Location: St. Bonaventure Church
  - Cost: n/a

## CONFIRMATION YEAR 1 & YEAR 2 REQUIRED EVENT

- ❖ Talks Save Lives: A Workshop on Preventing Teen Suicide
  - Everyone knows someone who is struggling with depression. This relevant workshop will shed light on this important topic. Parents are welcome to join.
  - Date: October 22<sup>nd</sup> after mass.
  - Location: *Will be structured like a HS Ministry night, beginning with dinner in the Hall with the talk to follow in the Church.*
  - Cost: n/a
  - **Required for all Confirmation teens and open to parents who would like to join.**

## CONFIRMATION YEAR 1 REQUIRED EVENT

- ❖ Attend Confirmation sessions and participate with an open mind.
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> Year Lock-In
  - Planned and Run by Jr. Core, this all-night retreat is tons of fun with plenty of adult supervision.
  - Date: Nov 18-19 (Sat-Sun)
  - Location: St. Bonaventure Church
  - Theme: Slaying Giants
  - Cost: \$40 + snack to share
  - **Required for Year 1 Confirmandi**

## CONFIRMATION YEAR 2 REQUIRED EVENTS

- ❖ Attend Confirmation sessions and participate with an open mind.
- ❖ Attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Retreat
  - This is consistently every teen's favorite part of the program.
  - Date: Feb 23-25 (Fri-Sun)
  - Location: Alliance Redwoods Conference Grounds, Occidental, CA
  - Theme: Heart of God
  - Cost \$180
  - **Required for Year 2 Confirmation teens.**
- ❖ Attend the Teen + Sponsor Day of Reflection
  - This is a day for teens and their sponsors to talk about the significance of Confirmation.
  - Date: Mar 11 (Sun) 11am-2pm
  - Location: Will include the 11am mass at St. Bonaventure, and continue in the Hall.
  - Cost: *n/a*
  - **Required for Year 2 Confirmation teens and their sponsor(s).**

## OTHER YEAR 2 CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ Select a Confirmation Sponsor/Padrino
  - Please see attached form for guidelines
- ❖ Choose a Saint Name to take at Confirmation
  - Please see attached form for guidelines
- ❖ Complete a Service Project
  - Please see attached form for guidelines
- ❖ Assist at the 5:00pm Teen Mass
  - Please see attached form for guidelines

## Parent Involvement in High School Ministry & Confirmation

### Sign up to bring dinner once a year

- ❖ Please help us feed our teens! Good meals save souls.
- ❖ We will send out a Signup Genius to the email you provided.
- ❖ **Everyone is expected to help.**

### Be on time for drop off and pick up

- ❖ We love spending time with your teens, but it is hard on everyone when their ride is 20-30 minutes late. We would like to go home to our families and eat dinner, so please pick up your teens right when the session is over (see schedule above)

### Come with your teens to the 5pm Teen Mass.

- ❖ Our goal is to make life-long disciples of Jesus Christ. That realistically can't be achieved if the teens are not going to Church on Sunday.
- ❖ Teens learn best from the examples set by their parents. You have more influence than I or any of our core team. Use that power for good!
- ❖ Our teens invest so heavily in what will get them *into* college (like sports, clubs etc) that they sometimes neglect what will get them *through* college (Jesus and their faith). A firm foundation in Christ will carry them farther in life than any scholarship. Make Sunday mass your priority and watch how His grace and peace empower all of your other efforts throughout the week.