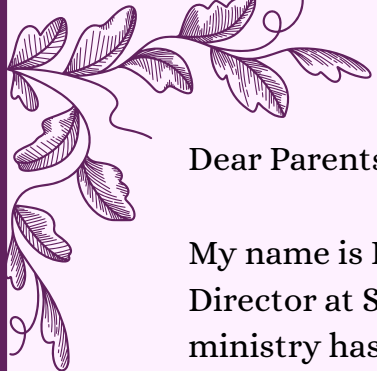




Dear Parents and Youth,

My name is Hannah Dickason, and I am grateful to serve as the new Youth Director at St. Mary's. Thanks to many years of dedicated leadership, our youth ministry has a **strong foundation** that has helped teens feel welcomed, engaged, and connected in their faith.

We have **exciting, wonderful news** to share with all of you!!! This year, we are shifting the program in a new direction from Lifeteen to focus more intentionally on **Scripture**, the **sacraments**, and **living lives of virtue**. The following are all the updates we will be implementing this year:

1. Youth will be encouraged to make *promises of virtue* as a way to grow closer to God.
2. Youth Nights are now open to **both** middle and high school students each week, with activities and small group discussions designed for every age level.
3. Once a month, our youth are invited to a special *Wednesday Night of Prayer*. As Catholics, it's important not only to learn about our faith and the sacraments, but also to experience them. These evenings will include guided **Adoration** and the opportunity for **Confession**.
4. To help our youth build friendships, encourage accountability, and grow in a healthy community, each participant will be paired with a *prayer partner*.
5. We will also be encouraging more **student leadership**, providing opportunities for youth to take an active role in planning and leading activities.

I am especially grateful for **Father Ghattas**, who has been working closely with me to strengthen and guide the youth program, ensuring that our teens have a meaningful and faith-filled experience. Regular meetings will begin on **September 14th**, and I look forward to a wonderful year together. Thank you for your prayers and support!

In Christ,
Hannah Dickason

"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire. Let the truth be your delight – proclaim it, but with a certain congeniality."

- St. Catherine of Siena

