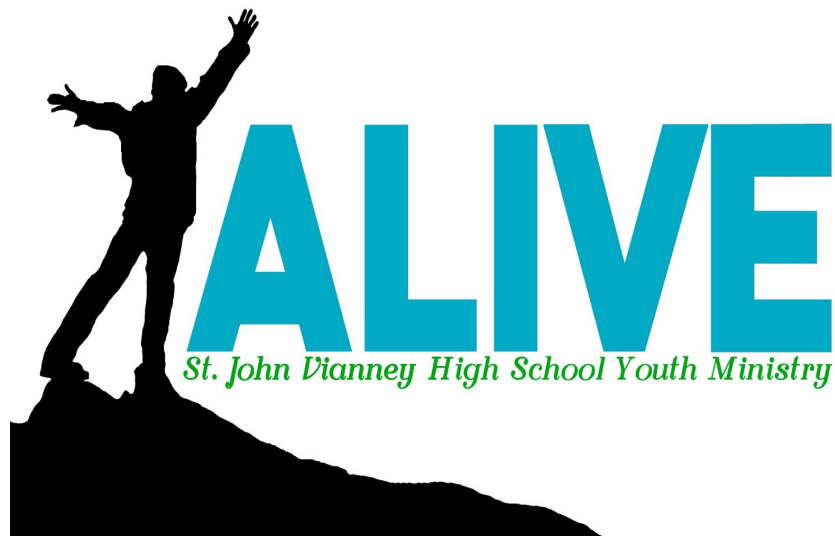


St. John Vianney Youth Ministry Parent Handbook

IGNITE
ST. JOHN VIANNEY MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY



youth@sjvroundrock.org

<http://www.sjvroundrock.org/middle-school-youth-ministry>

<http://www.sjvroundrock.org/high-school-youth-ministry>

St. John Vianney Youth Ministry Mission Statement

St. John Vianney Youth Ministry strives to lead all youth within the parish to Christ through fellowship, interactive catechesis, an intentional focus on the Sacraments, and leadership development. St. John Vianney Youth Ministry through the Ignite and Alive programs seeks provide young people with authentic encounters with Jesus Christ and give them the skills and tools needed to develop a lifelong relationship with Christ and the Catholic Church. As a whole, St. John Vianney Youth Ministry revolves around the goal of creating intentional disciples.

Parents' Role

Ignite and Alive is meant to be supplemental to the faith formation that is taking place in the home. Parents are the primary educators of faith as the family is the domestic church. Parents are called to witness to the faith in direct and indirect ways. Children will learn from their parents indirectly when faith is made a priority in the home and their family interactions reflect virtue and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Parents should also be a witness in more direct ways. This includes: family prayer time, participation in Sunday Mass, giving of time, talent and treasure, and intentional conversations about the Catholic faith. In order to assist parents in acting as the primary catechists of their family, St. John Vianney Youth Ministry will be providing resources in 2 ways.

1. Remind text messages - For those who sign up, at the end of each Ignite and Alive, you will receive a text message that has a discussion question that relates to the topic presented that night. This will allow you and your child to process the faith topic together on the drive home or whenever they arrive home after Ignite/Alive. Additional reminders will also be sent out via Remind. Text @e3ccb to 81010 to sign up for the Ignite messages. Text @alive20 to 81010 to sign up for the Alive messages.
2. Weekly Emails – Each week, you will receive an email with a more in-depth look at what was discussed at Ignite/Alive. This will include more discussion questions and additional resources about the topic. Parents are encouraged to use these materials especially if their child missed Ignite/Alive that week. Moreover, the information provided in the emails will assist parents in continuing the conversation about the topic throughout the week.

Ignite/Alive Name

In years past, the youth, parents, and Core Team members have referred to the youth ministry programs as simply “RE” which stands for Religious Education. While St. John Vianney Youth Ministry is religious education, Ignite and Alive are not classroom settings. Instead, the youth ministry programs are filled with socials, prayer experiences, small group discussions, fun activities, and more – not simply sitting at a desk with a book. In order to foster group unity and separate the middle school and high school programs from the elementary catechesis, the names “Ignite” and “Alive” were chosen for the middle school and high school programs respectively. Please utilize these names instead of “RE”.

Registration

It is important for all youth to register for Ignite/Alive. This includes those who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The registration forms give us important information on your teen and also helps cover some of the costs of our growing programs. If your child(ren) are not registered, please visit <http://www.sjvroundrock.org/middle-school-youth-ministry> or <http://www.sjvroundrock.org/high-school-youth-ministry> for the necessary forms.

Communication & Social Media

The best way to get in contact with the youth ministry office is through email. Email youth@sjvroundrock.org if you have any questions or concerns. Information about upcoming events and opportunities will be sent through email and Remind texts. St. John Vianney Youth Ministry utilizes Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to advertise and post pictures from Ignite and Alive events. The St. John Vianney Youth Ministry Facebook group is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/570218623008838/> or simply search SJV Youth Ministry. The Instagram handle is sjvyouthministry. Follow us on Twitter using @_SJVyouth. The Instagram and Twitter pages will be largely intended for Alive teens, not Ignite youth. Parents are advised to monitor their children's social media usage.

Curriculum

Ignite and Alive will both be implementing the curriculums provided by LifeTeen – EDGE Support for middle school and Life Support for high school. These curriculums do an excellent job of making the catechetical material fun, engaging, based on the Catechism and Scripture, and centered on the Sacraments. For more information about LifeTeen, please visit <http://lifeteen.com/>.

Confirmation Preparation

In order to begin preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, teens must meet the requirements put forth by the Bishop and the Diocese of Austin. All the information regarding Confirmation is in a separate handbook located at <http://www.sjvroundrock.org/high-school-confirmation-1>.

Service Saturdays

All Ignite & Alive teens are invited to join us for Service Saturdays! We will be serving with organizations such as the Round Rock Area Serving Center, the Court nursing home, Community First! Village and more. This is a fantastic way for Confirmation candidates to receive their required service hours. Please note the specific times for each Service Saturday as they may vary. EIM certified adults are also needed to chaperone and help with transportation. The service sites can only accept a certain number of volunteers at a time so reserve your spot today on the SJV website. More information about each Service Saturday will be emailed out prior to the event. If you have any questions, please email Robin Dudasko at youth@sjvroundrock.org.

Attendance:

- Children are expected to sign in and/or pick up their nametag each week so that we can keep track of who is attending. Ignite does not have a rigorous attendance policy. Alive, however, does due to Confirmation requirements.
- If your child wishes to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, attendance at Alive is crucial. According to Diocesan Policy, to be eligible for Confirmation Preparation, students must be in 10th to 12th Grade and have regularly attended formal faith formation 2 years prior to receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. For example: If a student would like to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in their 10th grade year, they must have an 80% or better attendance at Alive (or Catholic schooling) their 9th and 10th grade year. Students who fall below the 80% attendance point will not be able to count that year toward the Diocese required 2 year prerequisite for Confirmation preparation and would thus not be eligible for Confirmation.
- Each Alive night counts as an attendance point. Students must have **18** attendance points to be eligible for Confirmation. There will be some opportunities offered throughout the year where additional attendance points can be earned such as Service Saturdays, DCYC, etc. Service Saturdays count for 2 points. DCYC counts for 4 points. Additional special events and extra opportunities will be advertised via email, Remind texts, and social media outlets.
- When a teen is to be absent, the youth office does not need to be contacted. If you would like an update on your student's participation level, their nametags will have their attendance point total that represents where they are currently in their accumulation of attendance points.

Dress Code & Code of Conduct

Dress Code

- No youth should be wearing clothing that contains a violent, offensive or anti-Christian message.
- For Girls: short shorts, strapless shirts, low cut tops, skin-tight garments and shirts exposing midriff or underwear are not to be worn.
- For Boys: saggy pants and short shorts are not to be worn.

Code of Conduct

- Bullying and/or aggressive, threatening or violent acts will not be tolerated.
- Drugs, alcohol, weapons or other illegal items will not be tolerated. If a teen is found possessing these items, the police will be called first and then the parent.
- Cell Phones are not to be seen or used during Ignite or Alive unless otherwise stated for an activity or game. If a teen will not release their cell phone after violation of the cell phone rule, a parent will be notified and they will be sent home.
- Respect is vital to creating an environment where one can grow in their faith. It is expected that teens respect the adult volunteers and their peers. This means no talking during a presentation, participating when asked, and just exhibiting general kindness towards others.
- Physical affection: Teens who may have a significant other at Ignite/Alive should be sure their conduct reflects a focus on their primary relationship with Jesus. Public displays of affection are not appropriate during Ignite/Alive.
- Parents will be notified if their teen is consistently violating the Code of Conduct.

Volunteer Descriptions for St. John Vianney Youth Ministry

Parents are encouraged to discern how they can apply their gifts to the youth ministry programs. If you are interested in one of the following positions (or have another idea) that interests you, please email youth@sjvroundrock.org.

- Core Team Member for Ignite or Alive
 - Weekly Commitment.
 - Must be EIM Certified.
 - Be part of a team that will prepare and lead Ignite/Alive nights through games, activities, prayer experiences and engaging presentations.
 - Lead Small Groups in lessons and discussion of the material and form intentional relationships with teens.
 - Be a strong Catholic role model by making the youth a priority in your prayer time, supporting them, and being consistently present to them at Ignite/Alive.
- Confirmation Catechist
 - Must be EIM Certified
 - Be part of a team that will prepare and lead the candidates in their journey to the Sacrament of Confirmation through Super Sundays and the Confirmation Retreat that will consist of games, activities, prayer experiences, and engaging presentations.
 - Lead Small Groups in lessons and discussion of the material and form intentional relationships with teens.
 - Be a strong Catholic role model by making the youth a priority in your prayer time, supporting them, and being consistently present to them.