



2018-2019
WELCOME MASS, PICNIC & MEETING

We would like to invite all new and veteran Peer Ministers to join us on Tuesday, September 11th for a special welcome Mass, picnic & meeting. We will meet in Church for Mass at 5:45pm.

At the meeting, we will welcome the incoming peer ministers and provide information to help them understand what it means to be a Peer Minister. We'll answer any questions they might have, so that they will be comfortable in their new role.

As a group, we will plan for upcoming service projects and discuss the retreats and how they will be handled this year. We will also talk about teaching opportunities for this year. Those interested in teaching should plan on staying for a short time after the general meeting.

It is important that **everyone** plan to attend this organizational meeting to help us kick off the 2018-2019 year! (ALL JUNIORS AND SENIORS WHO HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED ARE WELCOME!)

RSVP by September 4th to me at 203-453-3496 x209

Additionally, attached please find the permission slip for the Peer Ministry Retreat. The retreat will be held on Friday, September 28th through Sunday, September 30th at Trinita. A bus will leave the St. George parking lot on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. and will return Sunday afternoon around 1:00 p.m. Students should bring sleeping bags (or sheets) and towels. Pillows and blankets will be provided. Please note that some snacks will be provided upon arrival at Trinita, but students are welcome to bring their own as well. Remember, students should eat dinner before they leave home, or are welcome to bring a bag dinner to eat on the bus.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL
AT THE MASS AND MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 11TH!!

Claire



St. George's peer ministry program is *for* the **teens**, *run* by the **teens**. It is a community where the teenagers feel safe to explore and develop their faith, while growing together with other teens. It was started in 1993, where eventually so many teenagers wanted to be active in the church that a program came together and has evolved into what it is now. Our success is attributed to the Holy Spirit, for through prayer and the Eucharist peer ministry has come to be.

Opportunities:

There are ongoing opportunities for the teens to participate in. The teens are represented on the Parish Council; they act as Lectors in the Parish and participate as altar servers. The teens can volunteer to run classes, organize retreats, put together service projects or start something new. People draw closer to Christ in their own way, and at St. George there are opportunities to do this in many different ways. The teens not only learn together but they can have fun together. Trips to Six Flags amusement park, ski trips and other fun activities are always offered to bring the teens closer together.

Consistency:

St. George strives for consistency in all the different outreaches and ministries that we provide. By having shared faith experiences the teens are able to relate to one another in a specific way. An older teen can talk to a freshman and have the same memories from a retreat, and in this find a connection. Examples of this would be our confirmation retreat center at Trinita, Sean Forrest's 9th grade retreat and our annual trip to Steubenville East in Attleboro, Massachusetts. The teens are brought together by common experiences with their faith. One of the aspects that make our program so successful is that the teens that go off to college remain active participants in the program.

Empowerment:

Because the peer ministry program is run by the teens, it is constantly empowering others teens to get involved. Teenagers are entering the program *wanting* to participate. It is teaching them leadership skills and overall ownership of their faith. **It is when you are teaching that you learn**, and teenagers here are living out their faith together and coming full circle into the Truths and doctrine of the Church. The teens are witnesses to each other and "modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers. If he listens to teachers, it is because he is a witness." (Pope Paul VI. E.N. 41)

Service:

St. George's community is a family. It is a comfortable environment where the teens are able to share in their experiences together. Through this, many service projects have been born. There have been mission trips, for example Haiti and Appalachia, holiday meals at Columbus house, AIDS interfaith, rosary bead making and anything that interests someone to become involved in. The peer ministry program is always open to the teens wants. The teens are also visible volunteering and sponsoring at the younger children's events such as first Reconciliation and Christmas pageants, where seeds are planted in the hearts and minds of the youngest members of the parish. We start small; ministering to the to the teens themselves in the program, then to the Parish as a whole, then into the town, then beyond the town into other areas of the state such as New haven, then out into the world such as Haiti.

"Here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

-Pres. Kennedy's Inaugural Address

ST. GEORGE PEER MINISTER RETREAT

MEDICAL/PERMISSION FORM

My son/daughter, _____ has permission to attend the
Peer Minister Retreat weekend from Friday, September 28, 2018 through
Sunday, September 30, 2018.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

I hereby certify that Claire Nicholls or Ryan Nicholls is authorized to order
emergency medical care for my son/daughter, _____
during the time of the retreat, if necessary when the parent/guardian cannot
be reached.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

MEDICAL HISTORY

Allergies: _____

Medication being taken (prescription and non-prescription) _____

Any Medical Condition we should be aware of: _____

Physician: _____ Phone _____

Date of last tetanus shot: _____

Emergency Contacts _____
(NAME) (PHONE)

(NAME) (PHONE)