



THE VINE YOUTH MINISTRY
St. Norbert And Our Lady Of The Brook Parish
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Dear Parents:

My name is Maggie Keefe Bruce and I am The Vine Youth Ministry Coordinator. The Vine Youth Ministry is our new name as we are now St. Norbert And Our Lady Of The Brook Parish. Our Youth Ministry continues to be a vibrant and important program with opportunities for High School youth. Teens connect with the Church and feel a part of our Catholic Community through a variety of events blending faith formation, service, and recreation.

Teen Mass is a wonderful liturgy held on various Sunday nights of each month. Please encourage your teen to attend and to bring a friend. All high school teens are welcome to gather in the Church Basement in the Vineyard after all Teen Masses for pizza, refreshments, and visiting; and then "Compass" begins where teens can participate in activities and discussions which connect them to our Catholic faith. Our various retreats throughout the year are another important faith component of our Ministry. For our younger members, we have the Freshman and Sophomore Winter Lock-In in January; and for our Juniors and Seniors, we offer Kairos in November the weekend before Thanksgiving and a Junior and Senior Spring Lock-In in March.

We would love to see families attend the 5:30 outdoor Mass In The Meadow at Our Lady Of The Brook on August 25; and then everyone is invited to help with the festivities by setting up, greeting Parishioners, serving dinner, and cleaning up afterwards. Please encourage your teen to attend that special Mass as well as our Kick Off Dinner following the Teen Mass on September 8. Food, conversation, baggo, and open gym will be enjoyed by all! This is a great chance for us to celebrate this new year of Youth Ministry and Teen Mass. Our Christmas Party is a joyous celebration on December 15 following the Teen Mass.

Your high school teen has received a Grapevine flyer in the mail describing in detail what our Youth Ministry did this past summer and what is planned for this semester. The Youth Ministry events for the entire year are listed on TVYM calendar. Please review and discuss the Grapevine Calendar with your high schooler. Help your teen to choose a mixture of faith formation, service projects, and recreational events. We invite you and/or your teen to join "The Vine Youth Ministry" Facebook Group to stay informed about upcoming events and changes since things can and will be added throughout the year. The Church Bulletin and St. Norbert & Our Lady Of The Brook Parish website are also great ways to stay informed.

In closing, I pray that the teens enjoy the multitude of opportunities we offer them through our High School Youth Ministry. Jesus tells us that He is the vine and calls us to be the branches. We adults are the stem of the Vine, planning events, getting information out, and collecting permission slips. The high schoolers are the branches of the Vine, devoting their time and enthusiasm in a variety of ways. Last but not least, the fruit of the Vine is the positive affect the teens have on our Parish and our community, and the positive effect it has on them. Don't forget that the Vine is only as strong as its branches. May our branches flourish in The Vine Youth Ministry. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

God Bless,
Maggie Bruce, Youth Ministry Coordinator