

Youth & Family Religious Formation Plan for 9th – 12th Grades, 2024-2025



Alyssa Salazar, Director of Youth & Family Religious Formation

Fatima's Young Shepherds (9th -12th grade)

What does “Fatima’s Young Shepherds” do?

The “Fatima’s Young Shepherds” will provide religious formation programs, resources, events, and activities that are designed to engage the youth in our parish and school community in grades 9th – 12th.

2024-2025 Religious Formation Program:

YDisciple

YDisciple helps parishes empower volunteers and parents by training them to launch small groups and engage teens. YDisciple couples video resources with extensive training and support for leaders. YDisciple includes the highest caliber videos for young people but also leader guides to help adults facilitate meaningful discussion, participant guides to help teens grasp key concepts, and parent resources to encourage parents to stay engaged.

Why small groups? In a small group a teen can feel known, loved, and cared for. *Teens need to belong in order to believe.* A level of confidentiality can be achieved which gives teens the freedom to open up about their struggles and doubts. In a small group, there is the greater chance to catch things teens don’t understand and discuss. In addition, the small group allows the leader to know their disciples well and thus be able to customize the topics of discussion that best reach those teens.

Some of the video series for teens include: *Lectio Divina* Meditations with Sacred Art, Seeking the Moral Life, Living the Sacramental Life, Experiencing God in Daily Prayer, Never Alone Life with the Holy Spirit, Living Sainthood Today, Discover Your Vocation, Living a Chaste Life, and more!

Young Shepherds Gatherings:

Youth are invited to come to weekly gatherings, on Sunday’s from 6pm – 7:30pm, (**BRING A FRIEND!**) giving the youth, their friends, and their families the opportunity to go to the 5pm Mass together.

Young Shepherds Gatherings Overview:

6:00-6:10pm – Sign in/ Social/Snacks

6:10- 6:15pm – Introduce topic of the night.

6:15-6:30pm – Break into small groups for intros, check ins, activities.

6:30-6:45pm – Watch video 1

6:45-7:00pm – Break into small groups for discussion.

7:00-7:15 – Watch video 2 (Or enter into an extended prayer time/group activity)

7:15-7:25pm – Break into small groups for discussion and closing prayer.

7:25-7:30pm - Sign out and goodbyes until next weekend!

Registration:

- \$20 per child for the entire school year.
- Fees will help to cover the cost of purchasing the program and support all youth activities.

Calendar of Events: *Subject to change and update as needed.

2024 Spring

Sunday, April 14 - **Family Event** 11am Spring Fatima Family Mass

Sunday, April 14 - **Family Event** FFAA Annual Spring Picnic, the Parish Family Fundraiser

2024 Summer

Fridays – **Family Event** Movie Nights (Dates TBA)

2024 Fall Semester

Sunday, August 4th – **Family Event** Booksac Blessing 11am Mass / Registration Kick-Off

*August/September - Trying to bring in a guest speaker for families/youth before our programs begin!

Sunday August 11th – Core Team specific leader training TBA

Sunday August 18th – Core Team specific leader training TBA

Sunday August 25th - Core Team specific leader training TBA

Sunday September 8th– Core Team specific leader training TBA

Sunday, September 15th – PARENT Meeting/VIRTUS TRAINING for Children

1. Sunday, September 22nd - Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
2. Sunday, September 29th – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
3. Sunday, October 6th – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm

4. Sunday, October 13th – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
5. Sunday, October 20th – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
6. Sunday, October 27th – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
7. Sunday, November 3rd – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
8. Sunday, November 10th – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
9. Sunday, November 17th – Meeting 6pm – 7:30pm

Sunday, November 24th – **Family Event** Christ the King Procession and Picnic

10. Sunday, December 1st – LAST Meeting 6pm – 7:30pm

Saturday, December 7th set up – Sunday, December 8th – **Family Event** Christmas Craft Fair

2025 Spring Semester

Sunday, January 5th - Registration for NEW participants

Sunday, January 12th– Registration for NEW participants

1. Sunday, January 19th - FIRST Meeting, 6pm –7:30pm
2. Sunday, January 26th – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
3. Sunday, February 2nd – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
4. Sunday, February 9th – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
5. Sunday, February 16th - Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm

Mardi Gras Break!

6. Sunday, February 23rd – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
7. Sunday, March 2nd - Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
8. Sunday, March 9th – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
9. Sunday, March 16th – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
10. Sunday, March 23rd – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
11. Sunday, March 30th - Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
12. Sunday, April 6th - Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm

Easter Break!

13. Sunday, April 13th - Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm

14. Sunday, April 20th – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
15. Sunday, April 27th – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
16. Sunday, May 4th – Meeting, 6pm – 7:30pm
17. Sunday, May 11th – LAST Meeting, 6pm-7:30pm

Sunday, May 18th – **Family Event** Priest blessing of children, families, and volunteers at 11am Mass and reception to follow.

Summer 2025

Fridays – **Family Event** Movie Nights (Dates TBA)

June/July - Catholic Youth Summer Camp (Dates TBA)

Your Participation is the Key to Our Success!

Adult volunteers are required for the implementation and success of our youth programs. Please email the Director of Youth & Family Religious Formation, Alyssa Salazar, to sign up **TODAY** to be part of the Core Team for Fatima's Young Shepherds: youth-family@fatimalafayette.org

What is a Core Team Member?

Very simply, a Core Team Member's "job" is to share Jesus Christ with youth. You don't have to be an expert on Scripture, and you don't need to have a theology degree. Your responsibility is to love the youth and show them that they are loved by God.

Basic Core Team Member Requirements:

A Core Team Member is an adult (18 years of age and over) who is committed to helping implement the Fatima's Youth Religious Formation Programs by serving as a leader through the giving of their time and talents for *one whole school year* for consistency. Of course, if you were not a member of the parish when we started you can join later in the year if you can commit. A Core Team Member **MUST** be Safe Environment trained, always follow diocesan rules for Safe Environment, and be up to date on Virtus training.

The following are qualities of a great Core Team Member:

- A love for Christ and youth.
- A desire to minister to youth.
- A heart that longs to accompany youth on their faith journey.
- A willingness to serve as a Christian role model.
- A weekly commitment to Fatima's Sunday liturgy.

Fatima's Young Shepherds Core Team Positions for the 2024-2025 School Year:

Welcoming Leader (2-3 adults) – Welcoming Leader will welcome youth at each meeting as they come through the doors and sign them in by distributing name tags. The Welcoming Leader will also collect name tags and sign out children at the end of the meeting.

Emcee Leader (2 men and 2 women) - As an Emcee Leader, you will rotate with the other Emcee Leaders to be the one who opens and closes meetings with prayer, reading reflections, playing videos, asking large group discussion questions, transitioning youth and small group leaders in and out of small groups, and keeping track of time for small group leaders. You will be sent the session details in advance so you can successfully lead the youth through the night's activities.

Snack Leader (2 - 4 adults) - Will oversee contacting and reminding volunteers who signed up to bring snacks. You will be provided with the contact list and calendar so that you know who signed up for what dates to provide snacks. You will provide volunteers with important details such as what time snacks should be dropped off and the quantity needed. Snack Leaders will also set up, distribute, and clean up snack areas before and after each meeting.

Girls Small Group Leader (6 – 12 women) - Each small group of youth will have two adult leaders that will facilitate the small group discussions. Don't worry! All small group discussion questions will be provided. *Small Group Leaders must attend the mandatory small group leader training session!* At this training session you will be equipped with tools needed to be a GREAT small group leader.

Boys Small Group Leader (6 – 12 men) - Each small group of youth will have two adult leaders that will facilitate small group discussions. Don't worry! All small group discussion questions will be provided. *Small Group Leaders must attend the mandatory small group leader training session!* At this training session you will be equipped with tools needed to be a GREAT small group leader.

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