
WINTER 2018-19 ISSUE

UNITED CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRIES

REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY IN EVANSTON & SKOKIE SERVING 6TH-12TH GRADERS



"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." -Romans 12:4-5

United Catholic Youth Ministries
www.ucym.org

Office Locations:
806 Ridge Avenue
Evanston, IL 60202

1012 Lake Street
Evanston, IL 60201

Want to join the Youth Group at one of our parishes?

Contact us at office@ucym.org to schedule a time to meet with one of our Youth Leaders or a Peer Minister.



New Year, New Me, Right?

Dear Friends,

We begin our journey to the manger. This is a time of hope and renewal for us as we prepare for the Christ Child. Just as Christ comes again, so can we be born again in this time of the year when the calendar months come to an end and we enter a new year and make that famous reference to a "new me." Look back on the year and ask yourself, "Was I my best self?" That's all we can really hope to be, but I believe if we are always trying then we can always improve!

Let's look closer at our faith in the past year. Were you your best self in faith? Did you live your Catholic identity or was it just something you did when you stepped on the grounds of your parish? If so, look into the new year as a chance to answer this question... *What am I willing to do, in this new year, 2019, to improve my Catholic identity?* I can't answer that question for you, but here are some ideas: go to Mass regularly, attend Youth Group, go to confession when you have done wrong and reconcile, serve others in your works, do not engage in gossip, drama, or other negative situations that surround you.

It is very easy to go into the new year and be content with who we are because we got by without getting in trouble, failing in school, avoiding heartbreak, etc. My dear friends, life isn't about just getting by. Get that grade up from a B to an A, stop engaging in mischievous activities that you haven't been caught doing, and embrace the life God gave you! You are here for a reason. Right now, you might not know what that reason is, but if you take time for prayer, reflection, and service then you might discover your interest and call to use the gifts God gave you.

There are many answers and I hope you will make it part of your New Year's Resolution to live your Catholic identity.

Season's Blessings,

James Andrew Holzauer-Chuckas, ObSB, *Youth Director*

Social Media Accounts



Facebook: unitedcatholicym

Instagram: unitedcatholicym

Twitter: regionalym

Snapchat: nickchurchym



Visit our website! www.ucym.org



Kimberly Castro
Peer Minister
St. Nicholas Parish



David Giampietro
Peer Minister
St. Athanasius Parish

About Kimberly

My name is Kimberly Castro and I am 17 years old. I am a senior at Mather High School. I serve on the Youth Council and as a Peer Minister at St. Nicholas Parish. I am very involved in school programs, such as dance clubs and sports. I was also a manager for the boy's soccer team for two years. I try to keep myself in balance with things I do inside and outside of school. I keep up with all my responsibilities as a student and as a daughter. I do all the work that's supposed to be done as well as watch over my younger brother. I would say that I keep things very simple and try to make the most out of what I do in life.

About David

Hi, my name is David Giampietro. I am a Junior at Loyola Academy in Wilmette. I am a proud graduate of Saint Athanasius School. I row varsity crew and am part of the Arrupe Service Program at Loyola. I have received a black belt in karate and have worked as a youth karate instructor. I also work at Hewn Bakery in Evanston. I enjoy doing service work, like when I get to participate in the St. A's Soup Kitchen and hope to share some of that service spirit with other young people. In my leisure, I enjoy camping and reading. I am looking forward to serving as a Peer Minister at St. A's and taking a leadership role in my parish that I grew up in and can hopefully help do the same for others who are growing up in the parish.

St. Nicholas Parish Leader-in-Training Program

The Leader-in Training (L.I.T.) Program is the first year of the Youth Ministry leadership program for teens. Leaders-in-Training (L.I.T.s) are commissioned to spend a year in formation through service, prayer, community, catechesis, and worship. L.I.T.s are accompanied by an adult mentor who also commits to following them through their first year of formation.

2018-19 Leaders-in-Training



L.I.T.s pictured at their Commissioning Mass

(from left to right: Edgar Guijosa, Erandeni Navarrete, Jasmyne Montoya, Isabella De La Torre, Alize Ramirez, Pablo Sanchez, Jr., Harry Castro – Not Pictured: Rebeca Castro)

Mentors:

We welcome new and returning Youth Ministers as mentors of our L.I.T.s!

Andrea Martinez, Dave Holmes, Marina Porter, Sol Robledo, Miguel Ruiz,
Emily Saperstein, Michael Sneed

Events at St. Nicholas Parish



NEW HORIZONS

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Youth Night

Every Friday night from 5-8 PM
Youth & Young Adult Ministry Center

Youth Group

Every Sunday night from 5-7 PM
Youth & Young Adult Ministry Center

Interested in joining us? Contact us at youthministry@nickchurch.org

St. Nick's Annual Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, February 10th
10 AM to 3 PM in Oldershaw Hall

Come by for pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee, and Mexican food for brunch hours! Want to volunteer? Contact James at jholzauer-chuckas@nickchurch.org



Service Opportunities

Supply Drive for Well of Mercy: **ALL DECEMBER!**



The Well of Mercy

HOME. HEAL. THRIVE.

The Well of Mercy's mission to provide a secure home for single women in need. We encourage and develop programs of change and build paths towards successful and stable futures for women and their children.

We will be taking donations of formula, diapers (sizes 2 and 4 NEEDED), wipes, and other items for infants.



Teen Breakfast Club (High School Age)

11 AM to 12 PM

St. Mary Parish – Parish Center

Winter Quarter Dates: 12/9, 1/13, 2/10

Interested in joining us? Contact us at youthministry@stmaryevanston.org

Teen-Led Mass Schedule



- 1st Sunday: St. Athanasius Parish*
- 2nd Sunday: St. Mary Parish at 9:30 AM
- 3rd Sunday: St. Nicholas Parish at 11 AM**
- 4th Sunday: St. Joan of Arc Parish*

**Coming 2019 | ** Bilingual*



Youth Group at St. Joan of Arc Parish

Sunday nights from 7-8:30 PM

Interested in joining us? Contact us at youthministry@saintjoanofarc.net

St. Athanasius Parish Youth Ministry
youthministry@saintasparish.org

Youth Group
Saturday nights
6-7:30 PM



Valerie Romano
UCYM Board Member & Adult Leader
St. Athanasius Parish

Valerie has been a member of St. Athanasius Parish since moving to the Chicago area from New York City in August 2015. Growing up in North Carolina, her faith has always been an important pillar of her life, as taught by her parents who kept the whole family very involved in their local church.

Always having a fondness for children, Valerie has been teaching the Kindergarten class for St. A's Family Program as well as 4th and 5th grade religious ed classes at St. Norbert's Parish in Northbrook for the last 3.5 years.

Another passion of Valerie's is football; she has been coaching a youth flag football team in the area for the last 3 years (including back-to-back appearances in the championship game) so it's only fitting that she will now be the Youth Ministry liaison for St. A's Parish Council!



Daniela Menichella
UCYM Board Member & Adult Leader
St. Athanasius Parish

I was born in Milan, Italy and moved to the States to work in neuroscience in Boston where I met my husband.

We moved to Chicago, in Wilmette, in 2005 with our twin identical daughters now 17th, junior at New Trier high school and our son 14th, 8th at WJHS and preparing for Confirmation in the Family program at St. A's. My husband and I work at Northwestern University as Neurologist and neuroscientists.

I have looked for many years for a welcoming Parish where my family and I could continue to grow in faith. I was very lucky to meet Fr. Hernan and be part of St. A's community. I have served as an 8th Grade catechist in the last 5 years. I have in my heart the desire to work for a more active and vibrant program for teens and young adults and I am honored to be part of the Parish Pastoral Council at St. A's and of the UCYM Board to help to achieve these goals for our Church in Evanston.

World Youth Day Celebration/Winter Retreat



Two of our Youth Ministers from St. Nicholas Parish will be pilgrimaging to Panama with other young adults for World Youth Day! Let's walk in solidarity with them by celebrating with youth and young adults in Evanston & Skokie!

Day 1: Thursday, January 24th: 7-10 PM at St. Mary Parish

Televised arrival of the pope in Panama, welcome address, and prayer service

Day 2: Friday, January 25th: 7-10 PM at St. Nicholas Parish

Stations of the Cross, adoration, and night prayer

**Day 3: Saturday, January 26th: 1-9 PM
(start at St. Nicholas and end at St. Mary)**

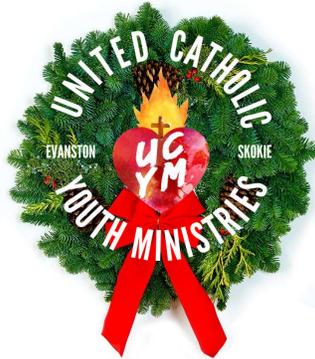
Walking pilgrimage, confession, Mass, adoration, dinner, and night prayer

Day 4: Sunday, January 27th: 9 AM to 12 PM at St. Athanasius Parish

Breakfast, televised closing ceremony from Panama

For registration and questions, contact us at WYD@ucym.org

Committed to Youth - UCYM Leadership



Youth Ministry needs strong leadership to keep it a vibrant part of parish life! Youth Ministry needs adult leaders as well as teens. United Catholic Youth Ministries has two leadership groups that help direct Youth Ministry in the parishes and in the grouping.

Leadership Board: The Leadership Board is made up of adult liaisons for Youth Ministry from each parish. The Board comes together to discuss and coordinate collaborative events, share collaborative ideas and resources, and evaluate the progress and effectiveness of Youth Ministry in each parish and in the grouping. Members of the Leadership Board are volunteer leaders from each of the participating parishes. The board meets four times a year.

Current Board Members:

St. Athanasius Parish: Daniela Menichella, Valerie Romano

St. Joan of Arc Parish: Jason McKean

St. Mary Parish: Karie Ferrell, Kristin Lion-Koenig

St. Nicholas Parish: Annie Guter, Ben Landau, Andrea Martinez

Youth Council: The Youth Council is made up of teen representatives from each parish that serve as Peer Ministers. The Youth Council collaborates with the Leadership Board and directly advises the Regional Director of Youth Ministry on all matters that pertain to Youth Ministry. The Youth Council meets six times a year.

Current Council Members:

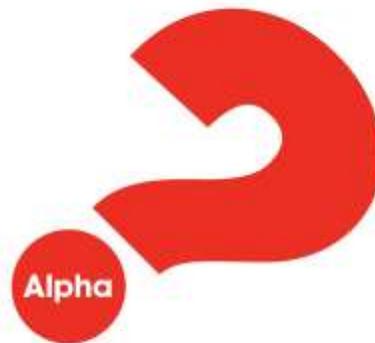
St. Athanasius Parish: David Giampietro, Madison McGuire,

St. Mary Parish: Kelly Martinez,

St. Nicholas Parish: Kimberly Castro, Jeffrey Garcia, Oliver Pacheco (APYC)

Events for Young Adult Ministry

Young Adult Alpha Gatherings



Every Wednesday from November 7th to January 30th (minus the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas) the Archdiocesan Young Adult Engagement Team is hosting Alpha from 6:30-8:30 PM. Alpha is a judgment-free place to come and get answers to the big questions of life: Is there more to life than my career? Does God exist? If so, how does He fit into my life? Why should I bother with Christianity?

This Alpha program is for all young adults who are searching, especially for those who may be skeptics or critics of Christianity. Each evening will include a free dinner, a video, and a small group discussion. No pressure, no commitment, no strings attached. Please come and bring your friends who are searching!

Address: 625 W. Adams St, Chicago, IL 60603

Questions? Contact us at youngadultministry@nickchurch.org

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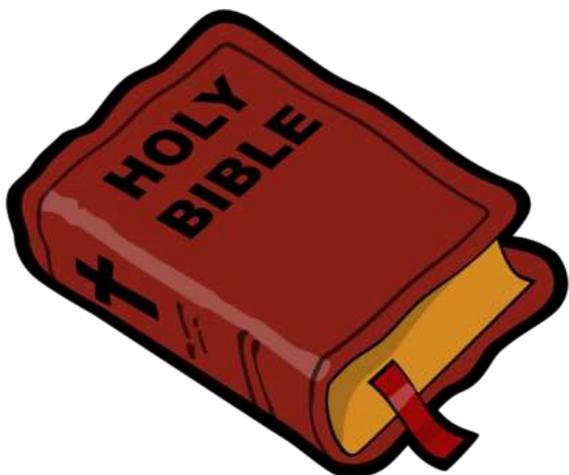
BelongChicago.org

Find a place where you belong,
make new friends, serve others,
learn about the faith, and connect with
the Catholic community of the Chicago area.



St. Nicholas Parish Young Adult Ministry

To be kept current on all things for young adults, email youngadultministry@nickchurch.org to receive periodic communications from the Young Adult Ministers at St. Nicholas Parish.



Monthly B.Y.O.B. Nights

St. Nicholas Parish: Rectory Dining Room

BYOB is what it stands for...BRING YOUR OWN BIBLE! We will take a look at scripture and reflect on its meaning in our life.

Winter Quarter Dates:
1/17

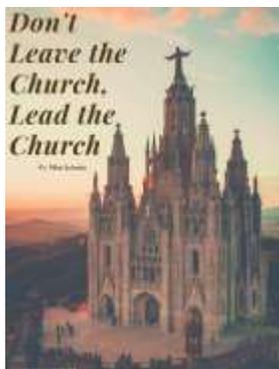
Questions? Contact Sam Carlson, Young Adult Minister at scarlson@nickchurch.org



Come, Pray for Victims and the Church

Are you looking for a way to respond to recent reports of the sexual abuse of children by clergy and the bishops' actions? Come and pray, on the third Monday of each month in the Church from 7:30-9:30 PM. Together we will remember and seek to follow the example of our patron, the holy bishop Nicholas, the protector of children and a model for bishops for 17 centuries.

Winter Quarter Dates: 12/17, 1/21, 2/18



Remember, WE are the Church! We are the body of Christ. Every last one of us.

"The ones who have a voice must speak for those who are voiceless." -Saint Oscar Romero

Directory

Office of United Catholic Youth Ministries

Locations:

St. Nicholas Parish - 806 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60202

St. Mary Parish - 1012 Lake Street, Evanston, IL 60201

E-mail: office@ucym.org

Main Office: 847.864.1185 x26 | Text us! 847.450.7950

Administration

Parish Pastors:

Fr. Hernan Cuevas, St. Athanasius Parish

Fr. Dan Costello, St. Joan of Arc Parish

Fr. Kevin McCray, St. Mary Parish

Fr. Joseph Tito, St. Nicholas Parish

James Andrew Holzhauser-Chuckas, ObSB

Regional Director of Youth Ministry

Spanish Outreach/Español

pastoraljuvenil@ucym.org

Peer Ministers – schedule a time to come meet with a parish Peer Minister! Our Peer Ministers are trained to be welcoming and pastoral teen leaders. If you are a teen who doesn't quite know how to get involved and wants to talk with a peer!

St. Athanasius Parish: David Giampietro- david@ucym.org

Madison McGuire – madison@ucym.org

St. Mary Parish: Kelly Martinez – kelly@ucym.org

St. Nicholas Parish: Kimberly Castro – kimberly@ucym.org

Jeffrey Garcia – jeffrey@ucym.org

Oliver Pacheco – oliver@ucym.org

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