



# Chaos

*Pax Christi Youth Ministry*  
*Middle School Service Week July 24-28*  
*Information Guide & Registration*



# About Middle School Service Week

## What is Middle School Service Week?

The Middle School Service Week is a week of service for middle school students (students who will be in grades 6-8 in the 2018-2019 school year) who are hungry to impact their world. While being rooted in the themes of Catholic Social Teaching, students will participate in Mass, reflect on the theme, and engage in activities. Then they will take it to the streets, serving the people of Rochester as a concrete way of showing God's love. The goal is to give students an opportunity to draw closer to Jesus Christ while developing a heart to serve those around them.

## About the Theme

God has a history of making order out of chaos. In the beginning, He formed all of creation out of a dark void. In the Psalms, He makes wars cease, and there is stillness and peace in Him. In the Gospels, Jesus calmed the wild seas when the disciples were caught and afraid for their lives in a storm. Jesus' very mission on this earth was to bring the order of redemption out of the chaos of the fall. Jesus also took breaks from chaos. "Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up and slipped out to a solitary place to pray." After a day of preaching to the crowds, Jesus tells His disciples to go ahead of Him and goes up a mountain by Himself to pray. Jesus "frequently withdrew to the wilderness to pray." A retreat is a break from the norm, an act of withdrawing. This retreat leads teens out of chaos and distractions of daily life and into a relationship with God who can transform their chaos into something beautiful.

## Types of Service

- Serve through painting, cleaning, yard work or other simple work projects at local parishioners' homes
- Partner with local organizations to meet ongoing needs in the community
- Landscaping and other projects at the Youth Center
- Trip to Feed My Starving Children in Eagan at the end of the week on Friday
- Some other surprises throughout the week



## *Schedule (tentative & subject to change)*

### **Monday-Thursday July 23-26**

8:00 am	Middle School Students Arrive
9:00 am	Daily Mass in the Church
9:45 am	Opening Activity
10:00 am	Keynote Talk and Directions for the Day
10:30 am	Depart for Service Sites
11:00 am	Serve at Site
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Serve at Site
3:00 pm	Return to Youth Center (Free Time)
3:30 pm	Prayer
4:00 pm	Pick-up Time

### **Friday July 27**

8:00 am	Middle School Students Arrive
9:15 am	Depart for Feed My Starving Children
9:30 am	Feed My Starving Children Service Project
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Depart for Youth Center
2:00 pm	Small Groups
3:00 pm	Closing Prayer Service
3:30 pm	*Closing Prayer Service
4:00 pm	Middle School Service Week Ends

### **Adult and High School Leaders' Schedule**

We ask that adults and high school leaders arrive at 7:30 am and stay until 4:30 pm each day (otherwise your schedule is the same as above).

### **\*Closing Prayer Service**

Families and Friends are all invited to the Closing Prayer Service to be held in the Youth Center at 3:00 pm on Friday.



# Things to Know Before MSSW

Whether you have been to a Middle School Service Week before or not here are some good things for you to know before you get to the Youth Center on Monday morning.

## Things to Bring with You Everyday:

- A Bag Lunch\* (coolers and/or refrigerators will be available)
- Sunscreen
- Close-toe Shoes
- Water Bottle
- Work Gloves
- Shirts with Sleeves (no tank tops please)
- Clothes you don't mind getting dirty
- Hat and Sunglasses

\*Lunch will be provided on Friday

## Things not to Bring:

- Cell Phone, iPod, Video Games
- Anything of value you might not want to lose

## We Need Adult and High School Help

Middle School Service Week cannot happen without adult and high school help. There are various ways you can volunteer including:

Role	Who	Time Commitment
Small Group Leader	Adults/High School Students	All Day (preferably all week)
Driver	Adults, 21+	1-2 Hours/Day
Games Leader	Adults/High School Students	1-2 Hours/Day
Photographer	Adult	1-4 Hours/Day
Home Team	Adults/High School Students	2-4 Hours/Day

Contact Zach for more information.

Sign-up using the adult leader commitment form found at the bottom of the Adult Liability Waiver and when registering online.



## Cost

We charge \$65/Student for the Middle School Service Week. The Registration fee helps offset the following expenses:

- T-shirt
- Bus Trip to Feed My Starving Children
- Snacks
- Middle School Service Week Materials
- A Donation to Feed My Starving Children

High School Students are asked to pay \$15 to cover the cost of their T-shirt.

**We want to make sure all our students have the opportunity to participate in the trips we offer. Financial assistance is available for students in need. Please contact Youth Ministry Staff with any requests.**

## Middle School Service Week Foundation

Our dream is grow and develop the Middle School Service Week. In order to accomplish those goals we are currently looking for benefactors who are interested in underwriting the costs of the week.

An annual budget of \$6,000 would allow us to continue offering the Middle School Service Week and would allow for the growth and development of it for years to come.

If you are interested or know of somebody who might be interested in supporting this valuable ministry please contact Zach Rawson for more information at [zach.rawson@paxchristichurch.org](mailto:zach.rawson@paxchristichurch.org). All donations are tax deductible.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## How do you set the cost of the trip?

\$ 12.00 (T-shirt)	
+ \$ 13.00 (Bus Trip and Donation to Feed My Starving Children)	
+ \$ 5.00 (Snacks)	
+ \$ 35.00 (Middle School Service Week Materials)	
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\$ 65.00 Total	

## What are the age requirements?

Middle School Service Week is for students going into grades 6-8 in the 2018-2019 school year. Adult volunteers must be 21+ to drive. High School volunteers need to be going into 9th grade in the 2018-2019 school year.

## What is the adult leader/student ratio?

One adult leader for every 5-6 students.

## How do we get to service sites?

Volunteer adult drivers are needed to transport students to service sites within the city Monday-Thursday. On Friday we will take a bus to and from Feed My Starving Children.

## What types of projects will we engage in?

- Painting, cleaning, yard work or other simple work projects at local parishioners' homes
- Partner with local organizations to meet ongoing needs in the community
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## Will we celebrate Mass daily?

Yes, with the possible exceptions of Wednesday & Friday (depending on our priests' schedule).



# Catholic Identity

*"The future is in your hearts and in your hands. God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with Him in the building of the civilization of love."*

*-Pope Saint John Paul II*

## **Prayer:**

Through prayer we bring our hearts closer to Jesus, become receptive to the Father's will, and open ourselves up to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit . There will be lots of activity throughout the week. We will make sure that participants have time for personal and communal reflection and prayer.

## **Devotion to the Holy Spirit:**

This year students will learn specifically about the power of the Holy Spirit and will reflect on his creative power.

## **Mass:**

We will celebrate daily Mass with the rest of the Pax Christi parish community.

## **Community:**

This journey will expose our group to many new people. Participants are encouraged to come with an open mind to create new friendships and grow together in Christ. Most importantly we hope our group will end the middle school service week with a stronger knowledge of their faith and a desire to continue serving our community throughout the year.

## **Service:**

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40. As Catholics we are called to serve! Service is not always in the form of cleaning, painting and rebuilding; it is also in the form of listening to those in need, loving the unloved, and sharing the faith!





## Next Steps

### **Ask Questions**

Do you have questions about the trip? Talk to your youth minister and/or adult leaders.

### **Register and Turn in Your Registration Fee**

Go to the link below and follow the directions to register. Once you register you can submit your registration fee.

### **Prepare Yourself**

Continue to pray every day. Go to Mass as often as you can. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Open yourself to the various ways God is working in your life. Get involved in other youth ministry activities.

### **Invite a Friend**

Put the Gospel into action. Tell a friend about the Middle School Service Week and encourage him or her to sign up with you.

### **Serve Others Right Now!**

Begin serving others here in Rochester. Check out: Dorothy Day House; Ronald McDonald House; Gift of Life Transplant House; Community Clothes Line; Catholic Charities; United Way; Boys and Girls Club; Channel 1; Community Food Response; Assisi Heights; Madonna Towers; Family Promise; Faith Formation here at Pax Christi; St. James Coffee; etc...

## How to Register

Registration is 100% online this year. Follow the link below. You will be guided through the registration process. Contact Youth Ministry Staff if you have any questions. Be sure to read through this Information Guide, you'll find answers to many of your questions. Included in this Information Guide are forms you will be asked for after you register online.

**[www.paxchristchurch.org/mssw](http://www.paxchristchurch.org/mssw)**