

# **Pax Christi Youth Ministry**

## **Proof 2018-2019**

### **Parent Orientation - Important Proof Information**

*"When you have received him, stir up your heart to do him homage; speak to him about your spiritual life, gazing upon him in your soul where he is present for your happiness; welcome him as warmly as possible, and behave outwardly in such a way that your actions may give proof to all of his presence."*

*-Saint Francis de Sales*

#### **What is Proof?**

Proof is the name of Pax Christi's formalized faith formation program for middle school and high school students. When we (students and caring adults) gather together we are proof that: Christ is alive and active; he is inviting us to seek him everyday; and he is encouraging us to live as his disciples beyond the walls of the church. Proof is hosted in the Youth Center (and Activity Center) on Wednesdays during the school year from 6:30-8:00 pm.

While Proof is formal catechesis, it is far from sitting in classrooms with a text book. Pax Christi Youth Ministry Staff and Volunteer Catechists do their best to provide an environment that is hands on, active, and dynamic. Large group games, small group projects, dynamic presentations, video, music, different prayer experiences, etc... are commonplace on any given Proof night. A typical night follows the format below:

#### **Typical Agenda:**

- 6:30 Welcome & Introduction to the Night (all together in one large group)
- 6:40 Prayer
- 6:45 Grade Specific Large Group Catechesis w/Small Group Breakout Discussions
  - Edge (6th-8th Grades)
  - Summit: (9th-12th Grade)
- 7:50 Prayer (in small or large groups)
- 8:00 Open Rock (free time in the Youth Center)

#### **Wednesday Evening Mass:**

Pax Christi is excited to be able to celebrate Mass each Wednesday evening starting at 5:30. Since it is a normal daily Mass it is expected to last about 30 minutes. Feel free to take advantage of this opportunity as a family! There will probably even be time to squeeze in dinner in between Mass and Proof start time!

#### **Family Meals:**

A couple years ago Pax Christi decided that offering a meal for families before Faith Formation on Wednesday nights would be a great addition and take one thing off of our busy families plate. On many Wednesdays this year a free meal will be offered from 5:30-6:45 in the Dining Hall (free-will offering will be accepted). Any Wednesday that Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is in session there will be a meal. You will find the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd schedule listed on our parish calendar at [www.paxchristichurch.org](http://www.paxchristichurch.org). If you and your family are ever interested in helping to prepare a meal we are definitely in need of assistance, contact Jessica Scully at [jessica.scully@paxchristichurch.org](mailto:jessica.scully@paxchristichurch.org).

#### **Open Rock (Free-time in the Youth Center):**

Before and after Proof from 6:00-6:30 and then from 8:00-8:30 we open up the Youth Center to all our middle-high school students for free-time. Students are welcome to participate. Just note the Youth Center doors won't be unlocked until 6:00 pm and we will ask everybody to leave at 8:30 pm. If you would like to assist in supervising Open Rock please let Zach know.

#### **Rock Cafe:**

After Proof, during Open Rock, we will often have our Rock Cafe open. Students can buy smoothies, other drinks, and snacks. Students who bring friends will receive free smoothies/drinks/snacks for themselves and their friend(s) on that particular night. All items are between \$.25 and \$2.00. We will also be offering a new Snack Card this year which will allow students to get a drink and a snack all year without having to bring money each week. More information will be sent home in the beginning of October.

**Recap Emails:**

Each week you will receive a brief recap email that will detail what your students learned about at Proof. In those emails I hope to provide you with tools that will assist you in continuing the discussion/putting into practice what was learned beyond Wednesday night. If, for some reason, you don't get one, feel free to send me a reminder... I might need it.

**Attendance:**

We hope students attend Proof every week. We know families are busy and students often have lots of homework, but we also know that a central message of the Gospel goes something like this:

*"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."*

-Matthew 11:28-30

Proof is all about that message, and will hopefully be time well spent in the middle of the week.

**Special Events:**

Since we take a holistic approach to faith formation throughout the year we will host "special events." These events are optional and we will inform you of them as they approach. Typical events might include:

- Bowling at Bowlocity register at [paxchristichurch.org/eventsandactivities](http://paxchristichurch.org/eventsandactivities)
- Service Night
- Special Guest Speakers/Pastoral Topic Nights

Some of these special events will require students to turn in a permission form and an activity fee not to exceed \$25/event. More information will be given as the events approach.

**Life Teen:**

Our curriculum is published, in large part, by Life Teen. We subscribe annually and have access to all the stuff they have ever published and it is right there online for us and for you. Feel free to take a look around the site at [www.catholicyouthministry.com](http://www.catholicyouthministry.com), click on the yellow "Login" button toward the upper right hand corner of the webpage, enter username: paxchristi55901 and password: paxchristichurch and you will gain access to all the resources. Please don't share this with others as we are only able to give access to our own parishioners/participants.

**Parent Life (New Resource for You!):**

Life Teen offers a great new resource for you as parents/guardians called Parent Life, a website with blogs, resources, etc... to help you, your spouse, your entire family to grow as disciples. Since we subscribe as a parish to Life Teen you are able to get full access to Parent Life for free. Navigate to [www.ltparentlife.com](http://www.ltparentlife.com) and sign up for an account using parish code: paxchristi55901

**Final notes:**

Parents are always welcome to come and join us at Proof in large and/or small groups, in fact we encourage it. Here are a few nights (below) that we would love to have you come and be with us:

- October 17, 6:00-8:00 pm Bowling
- December 19, 6:30-8:00 pm Advent Reflection (evening of prayer)
- January 9, 6:30-8:00 pm Issue Night in January
- April 24 6:30-8:00 pm Closing Bonfire

We encourage all parents/guardians to get involved in some kind of faith formation of their own. Pax Christi offers a variety of opportunities throughout the year. From time to time we will send you any pertinent information.

We also encourage you to get to know your child(ren)'s catechists/leaders. Take some time to introduce yourselves within the first few weeks. They would love to meet you in person, as would I.

**Zach Rawson - Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, [zach.rawson@paxchristichurch.org](mailto:zach.rawson@paxchristichurch.org), 507-218-3131**