

August 19, 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new year of youth ministry! I’m looking forward to connecting with all of you this year. We have a lot of wonderful things planned (including a new service night!) and it’s going to be an exciting year.

Blaze is going to be a series of exciting events and learning opportunities. Blaze is split into two age groups – Spark, which is for grades 6-8, and Ignite, which is for grades 9-12. Each group will meet approximately once per month, and some months will be both groups together (like our Kickoff event and our Gratitude event in November). Even when both groups are together, I’ll split them out into appropriate age-level groups for discussion or other activities.

Our Kickoff event on September 25 from 4pm-7pm is going to be a fantastic day of prayer, flag football, friendship, and dinner! It’s sure to be a fun day for everyone grades 6-8. Other highlights of the year include a service project on November 13, where we’ll be taking over the kitchen in the parish hall and baking cookies for St. Pat’s Hunger Center, and our annual Souper Bowl of Caring and Shopping Wars event in February! Also in the works is a special Holiday Service Project on December 21 and a Lenten Mission geared specifically for teens on March 5.

Please read the following information and use the forms at the back of the packet to register for Blaze. dates already planned are just the groundwork – look out for even more events and programming to pop up during the year! I have some exciting programming in the works that isn’t ready to be announced yet, so follow us on Instagram @sja\_ym for the latest updates! Please note that I am requiring RSVP by the Wednesday prior to each event. You’ll get an email and a text reminder (should you choose to opt-in) to submit your RSVP. This is an important policy change – if I receive fewer than 5 RSVPs, the event will be cancelled. This policy is in place because I cannot appropriately plan an event when I do not have an expectation for the number of people coming particularly in instances when food will be provided – I cannot order for 20 and have 3 people attend.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss anything about youth ministry, please don’t hesitate to contact me! I’ll also be setting up some open office hours periodically throughout the year, so I hope you’ll stop by!

In Faith,

Allie Gall

agall@stjoanofarc.org

440.247.7183 x 128

**Blaze Youth Ministry – Information and Policies**

**Mission Statement**

Rooted in the principles of Ignatian Spirituality, Blaze will be a vibrant community of 6-12 graders seeking to live their lives for the Greater Glory of God (Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam, or AMDG). Blaze will inspire students to find God in every aspect of their lives through small group discussion, community service, and joyful large group events. Students in Blaze are encouraged to think critically, to examine their faith, and to go forth and set the world on fire.

**Philosophy**

Blaze is based in the main principles of Ignatian Spirituality and Jesuit teachings. First and foremost, all meetings, events, etc. will be done in the spirit of AMDG, or for the Greater Glory of God – that is, everything done in the name of Blaze will be done to praise and glorify God. Blaze is also founded on the principle that God can be found in every thing, event, and aspect of our lives; therefore, the students of Blaze will learn how to find God in their everyday lives. Blaze will also never forget that according to Ignatian principles, spirituality is not just prayer, Sacraments, and serious contemplation – spirituality also encompasses joy, friendship, and laughter. In addition, one of the biggest tenants of Ignatian principles is “Men and women for others,” which is both a statement of the importance of service for others as well as the concept of Cura Personalis, which is the idea that the person in front of you is the most important person in the world in that moment – that every person is important and must be cared for fully in body, mind, and soul, and that every person must be respected as a Child of God. Therefore, Blaze will be heavily involved in community service and relationship building within our Greater Cleveland community. St. Ignatius of Loyola also signed his letters with a Latin phrase that roughly translates to “Go forth and set the world on fire,” which is an encouragement to his followers to evangelize, to share the Good News, and to share God’s love with each and every person they encounter. Students of Blaze will be encouraged to also do this – to radically change the world through sharing God’s love in their actions and encounters with others.

The teaching philosophy behind Blaze is one of student-led discussion, critical thinking, asking questions, and relationship-forward community service. Blaze will include both large-group events that include service projects and community building, and small groups that encourage learning, asking the big questions of our faith, and examining our faith – what we believe, why we believe it, and what our beliefs call us to do as Catholics and responsible citizens. Students in small groups will be encouraged to ask questions and think critically in order to explore and deepen their faith.

**Structure**

Blaze will be divided into two divisions – Spark, for grades 6-8, and Ignite, for grades 9-12. Each division will also have a leadership team of their senior members – 8th graders for Spark, and 10th grade and above for Ignite. The leadership teams will assist in planning topics and events as well as act as student leaders at large group events.

Blaze, which is the combination of both the Spark and Ignite divisions, will meet 2-4 times per year for things like a yearly kickoff prayer service and party and large service events, such as Souper Bowl of Caring.

**Rules**

1. No cell phones during meetings or events
2. Parents must volunteer once per semester
3. Leadership team must attend meetings
4. Behavior issues will be dealt with in the following manner:
	1. First Offence – Given a warning, asked to stay after on cleanup duty
	2. Second Offence – Pulled aside, talked to about behavior, asking them to change the behavior, warned that parents will be called if behavior doesn’t change.
	3. Third Offence – Asked to sit out of the rest of the event, parents called and behavior discussed. If behavior gets to this point in more than one event, a discussion will be had with the family if Blaze is a good fit for the student.
5. Absolutely no bullying, racism, anti-Semitism, hate speech, anti-LGBTQ speech, etc. will be tolerated. Any behavior to the contrary of this rule will be an immediate Third Offence.

**Spark (Grades 6-8) Calendar 2021-22**

This is our base calendar for the year. Events are subject to change. Keep an eye out for additional events and service opportunities as well! All events require an RSVP to Allie no later than the Wednesday before.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Time** | **Location** | **Event** |
| September 25 | 4pm-7pm | Parish Hall/Outside | Kickoff the Year! All are welcome for a short prayer service, flag football, and pizza and ice cream! |
| October 30 | 7pm – 8:30pm | Parish Hall | Topic TBA |
| November 13 | 6:30pm-8:30pm | Parish Hall | Service Project: Baking Cookies for St. Pat’s Hunger Center |
| December 4 | 6pm-8:30pm | Parish Hall | Christmas Event! Movie Night, pizza, prayer, and discussion |
| December 21 | Time TBA | TBA | Christmas Service Project |
| January 22 | 7pm-8:30pm | Parish Hall | Forming opinions, making choices, decision-making skills |
| February 11 & 12 | Weekend Masses | Church | Souper Bowl of Caring Collection – Service opportunity! Collect money after masses for Chagrin Falls Park |
| February 20 | Time TBA | Walmart | Shopping Wars – Service Opportunity! purchase food and home supplies for the pantry at Chagrin Falls Park |
| March 5 | Time TBA | Parish Hall/TBA | Lenten Event and Service Project |
| April 16 | 7pm-8:30pm | Parish Hall | Topic TBA |
| May 21 | 7pm-8:30pm | Parish Hall | Topic TBA |
| June 11 | 11am-3pm | Church, Parish Hall, Outside | Field Day! Join us for Mass, lunch, and field day to close out a successful year! |

**Ignite (Grades 9-12) Calendar 2021-22**

This is our base calendar for the year. Events are subject to change. Keep an eye out for additional events and service opportunities as well! All events require an RSVP to Allie no later than the Wednesday before.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Time** | **Location** | **Event** |
| September 25 | 4pm-7pm | Parish Hall/Outside | Kickoff the Year! All are welcome for a short prayer service, flag football, and pizza and ice cream! |
| October 16 | 7pm – 8:30pm | Parish Hall | Topic TBA |
| November 13 | 6:30pm-8:30pm | Parish Hall | Service Project: Baking Cookies for St. Pat’s Hunger Center |
| December 4 | 6pm-8:30pm | Parish Hall/TBA | Christmas Event! Movie Night, pizza, prayer, and discussion |
| December 21 | Time TBA | TBA | Christmas Service Project |
| January 8 | 7pm-8:30pm | Parish Hall | Ethics, morals, and decision-making |
| February 11& 12 | Weekend Masses | Church | Souper Bowl of Caring Collection – Service Opportunity! Collect money after masses for Chagrin Falls Park |
| February 20 | Time TBA | Walmart | Shopping Wars – Service Opportunity! purchase food and home supplies for the pantry at Chagrin Falls Park |
| March 5 | Time TBA | Parish Hall/TBA | Lenten Event and Service Project |
| April 2 | 7pm-8:30pm | Parish Hall | Topic TBA |
| May 7 | 7pm-8:30pm | Parish Hall | Topic TBA |
| June 11 | 11am-3pm | Church, Parish Hall, Outside | Field Day! Join us for Mass, lunch, and field day to close out a successful year! |

**Blaze Youth Ministry Registration Form**

Extra registration forms and waivers are available on the Youth Ministry webpage or Allie’s office. In the case of more than one child, additional information can go on a separate form or on the back of this form. Return to Allie Gall 496 E Washington St. Chagrin Falls 44022 or agall@stjoanofarc.org.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Phone Number (only if 13 OR OLDER): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

OPT-IN to Text Reminders: Y N

Student Email (only if 13 OR OLDER): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

OPT-IN to Email Newsletter: Y N

Home Address (Street/City/Zip): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian #1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian #1 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

OPT-IN to Text Reminders: Y N

Parent/Guardian #1 Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

OPT-IN to Email Newsletters: Y N

Parent/Guardian #2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian #2 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

OPT-IN to Text Reminders: Y N

Parent/Guardian #2 Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

OPT-IN to Email Newsletters: Y N

**St. Joan of Arc Youth Ministry Waiver 2021-22**

**Parental Consent Form**

I/we the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of , a minor, do hereby grant permission for my/our child to participate in St. Joan of Arc Church & Youth Ministry sponsored events co-sponsored events, special events, service projects and socials, located on or off of St. Joan of Arc Church grounds. I/we the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) understand that specific event permission forms may be required at a later date in addition to this form.

I/we agree by my/our mutual signature(s) to release, absolve, indemnify and hold harmless St. Joan of Arc Church & St. Joan of Arc Youth Ministry, the Youth & Young Adult Ministry and CYO Office, Catholic Charities and its affiliates, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, and any and all Catholic Churches or Parishes and any and all staff, supervisors, volunteers, organizers or sponsors thereof, and from any and all liability for injury, medical fees, hospital bills, or doctor bills of aforesaid child. I/we waive all claims of any kind against any or all of the organizations or persons hereinabove enumerated, including any and all claims against person or persons transporting aforesaid child to or from any activities hereinabove named.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

**Video/Photo Release**

I/we hereby give my/our consent to St. Joan of Arc Church & Youth Ministry to videotape/ photograph

 and without limitation, to use such pictures, film, and or stories in connection with any of the work of St. Joan of Arc Church & Youth Ministry, including social media and I do hereby release St. Joan of Arc Church & St. Joan of Arc Youth Ministry from any and all claims whatsoever which may arise in said regard.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

*\*\*It is not necessary for you to sign this video/photo release in order for your child to attend the program. However, it would be to our convenience and assist us in promoting St. Joan of Arc Church & St. Joan of Arc Youth Ministry programs if you would sign it.*

**Authorization and Release for Emergency Medical Treatment**

I/we the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of do hereby give my consent for any official adult representative (volunteer or staff) of St. Joan of Arc Church & St. Joan of Arc Youth Ministry, in the event that all reasonable attempts to contact me at the below numbers have been unsuccessful, to seek medical attention and treatment as deemed necessary.

This authorization does not cover major surgery unless the medical opinion of two licensed physicians or dentists concurs in the necessity for such surgery and is obtained before surgery is performed.

Any and all information concerning the above named child’s history including allergies, medication and physical impairments, has been reported in the medical section below. In the event of an emergency, I authorize an adult representative (volunteer or staff) of St. Joan of Arc Church & Youth Ministry to share the completed registration information packet with persons related to the treatment of my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

**Parent/Guardian Contact Information (in the event of an Emergency)**

Parent/Guardian Name (s):

Address/City/State/Zip:

Please list all phone numbers in case of an emergency

Home: Mom cell: Dad cell:

**Child’s Medical Information**

Physician’s name:

Health insurance carrier:

Name of policyholder:

Member number: Group number:

Child’s birthdate:

Please list any important medical information such as allergies, asthma, special needs, and any medication your child may be taking that a physician or dentist should be alerted:

**Parent/Guardian Consent Form: Virtual Meetings**

BLAZE Youth Ministry virtual meetings/events

Description of Parish program or activity:

Name of Parent(s)/ Legal Guardian(s):

Name of minor child:

I give permission for my child to participate in parish sponsored virtual catechesis sessions in connection with the program or activity listed above using audio and/or video conferencing services such as Zoom and Google Classroom/Google Meet. I understand and agree that any such session may be recorded by the Parish in the Parish’s sole discretion (“Recordings”), and that the Recordings will be viewed by individuals who missed or were unable to attend the session and that the Parish cannot control who may view the Recordings along with the individuals who missed or who were unable to attend the session. I further understand and agree that the Recordings may, in the Parish’s sole discretion, be shared with Parish staff, used for future catechesis or educational purposes, or shared in connection with an investigation of any alleged misconduct. I agree that the Recordings will be made without further notice and without compensation, and I agree that the Recordings shall constitute the sole property of the Parish.

*I agree to supervise my child’s participation in any virtual or online catechesis sessions. I further agree to ensure that my minor child’s use of any software or other online platforms complies with the terms and conditions of such software and/or platforms.*

**By signing below, I acknowledge that I am the parent or legal guardian of the above named minor child, that I have authority to sign this agreement on my minor child’s behalf, and I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions stated above.**

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

*I/we the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) fully understand that if I/we have any questions about St. Joan of Arc Youth Ministry events I/we may contact Allie Gall, the Coordinator of Youth Ministry, at 440-247-4316 (office) or 440-666-1474 (cell), or for non-emergency information/questions at agall@stjoanofarc.org.*
Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date