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Youth Ministry plans for 2021-2022

For those who are in high school this year here are some thoughts on how we will proceed as a youth group and for those who are seeking sacraments.

To be very honest last year was very difficult to develop a youth ministry community. With the help of a terrific team we did gather all year on Wednesday nights by ZOOM. It was good to have the constant in our lives and as a team we looked forward to gathering. We worked harder than any other team has worked to build a safe community. We also knew the participants were not getting anything close to a typical youth ministry bonding experience.

Those who were seeking Baptism, First Communion or Confirmation attended the weekly youth group zoom meetings and in the spring we added Sunday's to our schedule to prepare specifically for the sacraments.

What we learned was that youth were reluctant to turn on their cameras or respond to discussion questions. Smaller breakout sessions worked the best where 5 or 6 could discuss a topic. By the time we would get the breakout groups on the same page the meeting was ending.

So, having learned what does not work I have been working on how to be successful in building a community where we can share our faith stories in a safe environment, how to grow in our faith, how to learn from each other and how to discern their individual call. If and when they are ready for a particular sacrament.

At this time I am looking at a program where we have a combination of a self-paced tool along with a chance to share with the group online. Registration forms will be available mid September along with detailed information on the program. Watch the bulletin for any updates.

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