



# Fall Catalog 2010

St. Michael's Youth United

## A Time for Change

The book of Ecclesiastes tell us that there is a time for all things in our lives. Certainly the fall season always brings it's own varieties: the beginning of a new school year, perhaps going away to college or beginning high school. New schedules impact the whole family! It is important to make decisions on how we spend our time, prioritizing our many activities, so that we can meet — and do well — the many responsibilities in our lives. After we make time for work and school and sports and music and driving lessons and homework and dinner and friends (WHEW!) there seems to be little time for God. Sometimes it's even hard to get to a one hour Mass! Does this sound familiar? Do you sometimes wish you had more time

with your family? Do you ever bump into someone at a game or a store and realize how long it's been since you sat and talked with a friend?

### Maybe it's time for a change.

Of course you have to work or go to school and do homework. There is still time for God, still time for prayer. Maybe you can go to one of the daily Masses. If not, read today's Scripture readings online and keep a journal. Commit to a family meal or evening prayer time. Go to a youth group meeting. Volunteer at church. Practicing your faith won't give you more time, but it will add peace and grace to your life!



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### Special Inserts:

- **Guys and Dolls Retreat**
- **Fright Fest at Six Flags**
- **Get A Life! Retreat**
- **Scavenger Hunt for Christ**
- **BLAST Fall Calendar**

## Youth Ministry is...

Most adults think of the youth group they were part of when they were kids. That could be great or really bad, depending on the experience! Teens think it's Bible study and a lot of prayer. However, the idea of "Youth Ministry" has been going through a remodel of sorts over the last twenty years. Fifteen years ago Pope John Paul II stated that the Church was called to become the "traveling companion of young people," much like Jesus with the teens on that road to Emmaus.

The teens of today are worldly beyond their years, stressed and over-scheduled, lonely despite the ability for instant contact via technology. Teens need, want and desire to be part of something bigger, something that has truth and substance, something that reaches out to them and gives them meaning, purpose and understanding. In short, they long for God.

Youth Ministry is a comprehensive variety of programming and events where teens can experience the rich love of Christ. It is a place where they feel valued for their gifts and connected to their community. It is where they are the Body of Christ.

# YOUTH UNITED

## SEPTEMBER

5-12-19-26 Sunday YU

7-14-21-28 Tuesday YU

- 5 Last YU in the Park!
- 7 Adoration, church: 7–8pm
- 11 Feed My Starving Children: 1–4pm
- 12 Teen Mass & iGuana BBQ
- 14 CORE meeting, 6-7pm, YUC

## OCTOBER

3-10-17-24-31 Sunday YU

5-12-19-26 Tuesday YU

- 2 St. Michael Service Day
- 5 Adoration, church: 7–8pm
- 9 Feed My Starving Children: 1–4pm
- 10 UNDY SUNDAY!
- 10 Teen Mass & iGuana BBQ
- 11 PADS
- 12 CORE meeting, 6-7pm, YUC
- 15-16 Guys & Dolls retreat
- 19 Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity
- 24 FRIGHT FEST at Six Flags  
[All day trip = NO YU!]

## NOVEMBER

7-14-21-28 Sunday YU

3-10-17-24 Tuesday YU

- 2 Adoration, church: 7–8pm
- 8 PADS
- 9 CORE meeting, 6-7pm, YUC
- 12-13 Get A Life! Retreat
- 14 Teen Mass & iGuana BBQ
- 20 Feed My Starving Children: 4–7pm
- 21 Scavenger Hunt for Christ  
[All day trip = NO YU!]
- 26 Snoopy Supper, 6pm, YUC

## Sunday Youth United

7:00–9:00 PM, Faith Center

These nights are planned by teens for their high school peers. An evening to have a little fun and relax with friends, they also plan some kind of activity or topic of discussion. We end our meetings with a variety of prayer styles. Our goal is to build community and enrich the faith of all who come.

Because our meetings are teen planned and led, all your ideas are welcome here!

## Tuesday Youth United

7:00–9:00 PM, Faith Center

A chance for small group conversation, this evening has a deeper faith focus. Our adult volunteers guide a discussion based on Scripture, but we also connect to everything from Church teachings to current events. If you want “more” come Tuesday.

## Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration is the first Tuesday of every month in the church. Come spend some time with Christ! Join Tuesday YU at 7:00pm in the church for the Holy Hour of Benediction.

## Movie Night!

Learn more about peace and social justice issues through a variety of films. Check the online YU calendar for dates, location and titles.

## Teen Mass & iGuana Café

The Teen Mass gives our teens the chance to be lay ministers of the Mass. We invite you to be part of our liturgical team!

If you “Guana” share fellowship with the teens & their families, join us afterwards for lunch downstairs in the parish center.

## Teen Choir

Tuesday 6:15-7:00PM

Do you like to sing? Meet our fabulous Music Director in the church to practice selections for the Teen Mass!

## Youth United for Life

This Pro-Life teen club meets once or twice a month to learn about a variety of Life issues. Local service trips and a fall retreat are planned.

## CORE Team

Do you like coming to Youth United? Do you have some ideas of what we could do or do better? Are you cheerful, enthusiastic, and dedicated? We are looking for teens and adults who would like to be part of our **Core Team**. This leadership group plans and leads most of our Sunday nights. We will be meeting in the YUC on the second Tuesday of every month, from 6–7pm. Four weeks of topics will be decided upon and teams will be formed. You will have to meet with your team again before you lead on any given Sunday.

# YOUTH UNITED

## Feed My Starving Children

This packing event is our way of feeding the hungry throughout the year, in connection with our ongoing Hunger Project. For the dates listed below we have reserved 12 spots: 2 adults and 10 teens. **You must reserve your spot in advance!**

**September 11**

1–5pm

**October 2**

1–5 pm

**November 20**

4–7 pm

## Feast of St. Michael Service Day Saturday October 2

The parish is planning a full day of service in honor of our patron, Saint Michael. A variety of opportunities are planned for everyone in our community. If you went to Catholic Heart or one of the Farms in West Virginia, this will be a great way to continue your mission work at home! We will be working with many agencies in the area, like the Peoples Resource Center, PADS, and Exodus World Relief. Youth United and BLAST will be helping the elderly through the Humanitarian Service Project or by visiting local assisted living centers, and we hope to continue this relationship throughout the year. **Please save this date!** Opportunities to sign up will be one weekend in September after all Masses.

## Undy Sunday is October 10th!

We have committed to Catholic Charities underwear drive! With the help of our parish family, we know we can truly serve the “bottom” line! Collection containers will be in the church, school and Faith Center throughout September and until October 10th. Please only donate **NEW ITEMS** in their original packaging. Thank you!

## PADS begins in October ...

The second Monday of the month we help PADS set up the beds for the homeless at Trinity Episcopal Church. An easy way to earn service hours! Meet at Trinity at 6:00pm. Set up usually takes about one hour. Call Tom Ruggaber for more information: 630-690-1058. Through April.

## Fright Fest at Six Flags

October 24th, 9AM–9PM

We take a bus to Six Flags Great America for the day. All participants must have a buddy, so bring a friend! 48 seats available. See the enclosed flyer for more information!

**COST = \$40** Registration deadline = **October 12**  
A late fee of \$10 will be added as of **October 13**

## Guys & Dolls Retreat

October 15-16

More than ever, modern culture is defining our moral values. Please come to this retreat to learn the value of purity and how it can positively impact your life. Participants will have a large group session on Friday night with Amplify Youth Development and then divide into gender specific groups for topics and discussion.

**COST = \$30** Registration deadline = **October 5**  
A late fee of \$10 will be added as of **October 6**

## Scavenger Hunt for Christ

November 21st, 9AM–9PM

If you are in town for the Thanksgiving holiday, join us on a digital scavenger hunt for Christ! This is a full day trip into Chicago and is a good mix of service and fun. **No YU that night!**

## Snoopy Supper

Join us on **Friday, November 26th** for fun, games and turkey chili! A time to reunite with all your college friends! **YUC at 6:00pm**

## Get A Life! Retreat

November 12-13

What is “human dignity”? How does knowing that change how you see your world? Learn the facts about a variety of “pro-life” issues, away from the political circus and with your “faith lenses” in focus. The goal isn’t to know all the answers but to learn how to ask the right questions. Develop your moral stance while you engage in a variety of activities. Sponsored by ‘Youth United for Life’!

**COST = \$30** Registration deadline = **November 2**  
A late fee of \$10 will be added as of **November 3**

## WANT TO KNOW MORE???

For questions concerning the  
**Middle School B.L.A.S.T.** contact

Mrs. Cathy Swanson  
630-462-5044  
cathy@stmichaelcommunity.org

For questions concerning  
**Youth United** or **Junction** contact

Leslie Stopka  
630-462-5047  
stmccyu@yahoo.com

### **Middle School B.L.A.S.T.**

A youth group designed specifically for grades 6, 7, and 8.

### **Youth United**

A variety of activities planned for high school teens, including weekly meetings, day trips, service and retreats.

### **Junction**

A new group is being formed for young adults ages 18-21. Primarily planned by the people in the group, Junction is a new home for "campus ministry" at St. Mike's!

Visit our parish website: [www.stmichaelcommunity.org](http://www.stmichaelcommunity.org)

Be a fan of "Saint Michael Youth United—Wheaton" on Facebook!

## Adult Help Necessary!

Dear Friend,

Mother Teresa said, "The best gift we can give to any child is to make that child feel WANTED, LOVED, and CARED FOR because that child is the greatest gift of God." Speaking for those of us who already spend our time with parish teens we can tell you it is the most necessary and rewarding experience you will ever have in your life. As parents, we can tell you that it is far easier to mentor someone else's child than to parent our own, and sometimes we rely on other adults in the program to minister to our own children's needs. It's how we are Christ for one another and we cannot do it without your help. Please consider gifting us with your time.

Thank you,

*Leslie and Cathy*

I am interested in helping with the following age group:

- Middle School BLAST
- Youth United
- The Junction

Specifically, I can be available for:

- Some of the weekly meetings
- Chaperoning / driving to events
- Providing hospitality for the iGuana BBQ
- Put me on your email list! I'm never sure what I can do but I like to be asked!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_