

4/7/26

Thank you for registering for the *Marvelous Things* middle school youth rally. What a blessed opportunity we have to grow in relationship with and learn more about the Holy Spirit! As you prepare for the rally, please keep the following few things in mind.

You may arrive as early as 8:45 a.m. on Saturday morning to check your group in. Please keep in mind that we will not allow groups to check-in before 8:45 a.m., and we ask that only one adult from each parish check the entire group in. The area to check groups in will be located inside the PAC. Please have your payment and consent forms and EIM verification form complete and ready to turn in at the registration table when you arrive. This will help us ensure speedy check-in. *Programming will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.*

When you arrive at Saint John Vianney, please find parking spaces in the small lot near the Parish Activity Center (PAC) and the main lot near the church. To access the small lot, you will access the south driveway from Sunrise Road. This lot is just south of the church. To access the main lot, you will access the north driveway, just north of the church. See map on p. 4. Please also note that you will need to walk a distance from the main parking lot. If you need to park closer to the PAC for accessibility, you may pull close to the PAC and we will show you where to park. There will also be a good distance to walk between the PAC and the church. Please make sure your group wear comfortable shoes!!!

There is a chance of rain on Saturday. Please bring the appropriate attire and footwear needed for wet weather. Umbrellas, footwear, outerwear and clothing that you don't mind getting wet are strongly recommended.

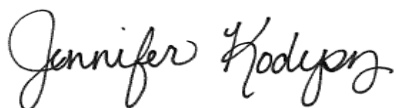
This year there will be a round of breakout sessions. There will be 3 different breakouts to choose from. Descriptions and locations are found on p.3 and will be accessible via a QR code during programming. Please make sure that your youth are sufficiently chaperoned during breakout sessions, free time, and other breaks throughout the day.

Your youth will have an opportunity to pray, worship, and encounter God in many ways at the rally. There will be time for icebreakers, discussion, and prayer in small groups. Please take advantage of this time with your youth. For many middle school youth, this will be the first experience of this type of event and processing it will be integral to their experience.

Lunchtime is also a great time to discuss how the day is going! Parishes who are bringing large groups may want to divide the group into smaller groups of 8-10 people to provide a comfortable group size for people to share. Group sharing questions are attached (see p.5), however, you are welcome to adapt them as needed!

The day will conclude at 5 p.m. All groups are invited to attend the 5:30 p.m. vigil Mass before heading home. Thank you for coming, and I look forward to sharing the day with you witnessing God's grace!

Have a blessed day,



Associate Director | Office of Youth and Campus Ministry  
Diocese of Austin



MARVELOUS  
Things



## Middle School Rally 2026: “Marvelous Things”

April 11, 2026

- 8:45 a.m. Registration / Check-in Opens (PAC)
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome and opening prayer
- 9:40 a.m. High-Energy Praise and Worship
- 10:05 a.m. Session #1 : Bennett Diano
- 10:45 a.m. Breakout workshops begin (PAC, Vianney Center, Francis 1)
- 11:30 a.m. Workshops end / group sharing on parish grounds around PAC
- 12:05 p.m. Lunch prayer and announcements
- 1:10 p.m. Praise and worship (PAC)
- 1:30 p.m. Session #2: Sr. Clara Maria Malay, SCTJ
- 2:15 p.m. Break (travel to the church)
- 2:30 p.m. Exposition/ adoration begins (church)
- 3:15 p.m. Break (travel back to PAC)
- 3:30 p.m. Session #3: Milan Champ
- 4:05 p.m. Group sharing on parish grounds around PAC
- 4:25 p.m. Church groups meet back in the PAC
- 4:40 p.m. Closing Prayer: Chaplet of Divine Mercy (PAC)
- 4:50 p.m. Closing announcements
- 5:00: p.m. Dismiss
- 5:30 p.m. Optional Saint John Vianney Mass (church)



# Middle School Rally Workshops 2026



## “The Holy Spirit: Your Ultimate Ride or Die”

Milan Chaump

Location: Vianney Center

**Workshop Description:** Discover how the Holy Spirit is always with you, guiding, strengthening, and giving you real life from the inside out. Learn how to stay connected to Him and live boldly as who God created you to be.



**Bio:** Milan is an Austin native who has been serving in youth ministry for 12 years. She graduated Franciscan University in 2017 with degrees in Theology and Catechetics. After serving as a missionary in Pittsburgh, PA for three years, she moved back to Texas. Milan is currently the youth ministry coordinator at St. Anthony Marie de Claret where she serves the best teens ever! Milan loves cats, especially her 20lb cat Crunchy. She is always down for an art project and any adventure but recognizes that our best and greatest adventure is our relationship with Christ and our mission to build the Kingdom of Heaven on earth!

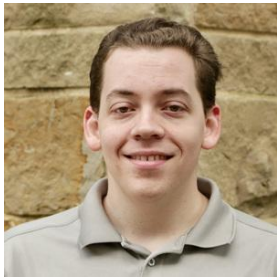
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## “Happy, Healthy, and Holy Friendships”

Bennet Diano

Location: PAC

**Workshop Description:** What does real friendship actually look like? Want to explore what it means to have friendships that are happy, healthy, and holy? Through Scripture, discussion, and real-life examples, this workshop will help you discover how to build friendships that are fun, strong, and rooted in faith.



**Bio:** Bennett Diano is a disciple of Jesus, a husband, a father of four, and the youth minister of St. Luke Parish in Temple. He is a proud graduate of the Theology of the Body Institute and from the University of Alabama.

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## “You Brought Fruit to a Youth Rally?”

Logan Mayes

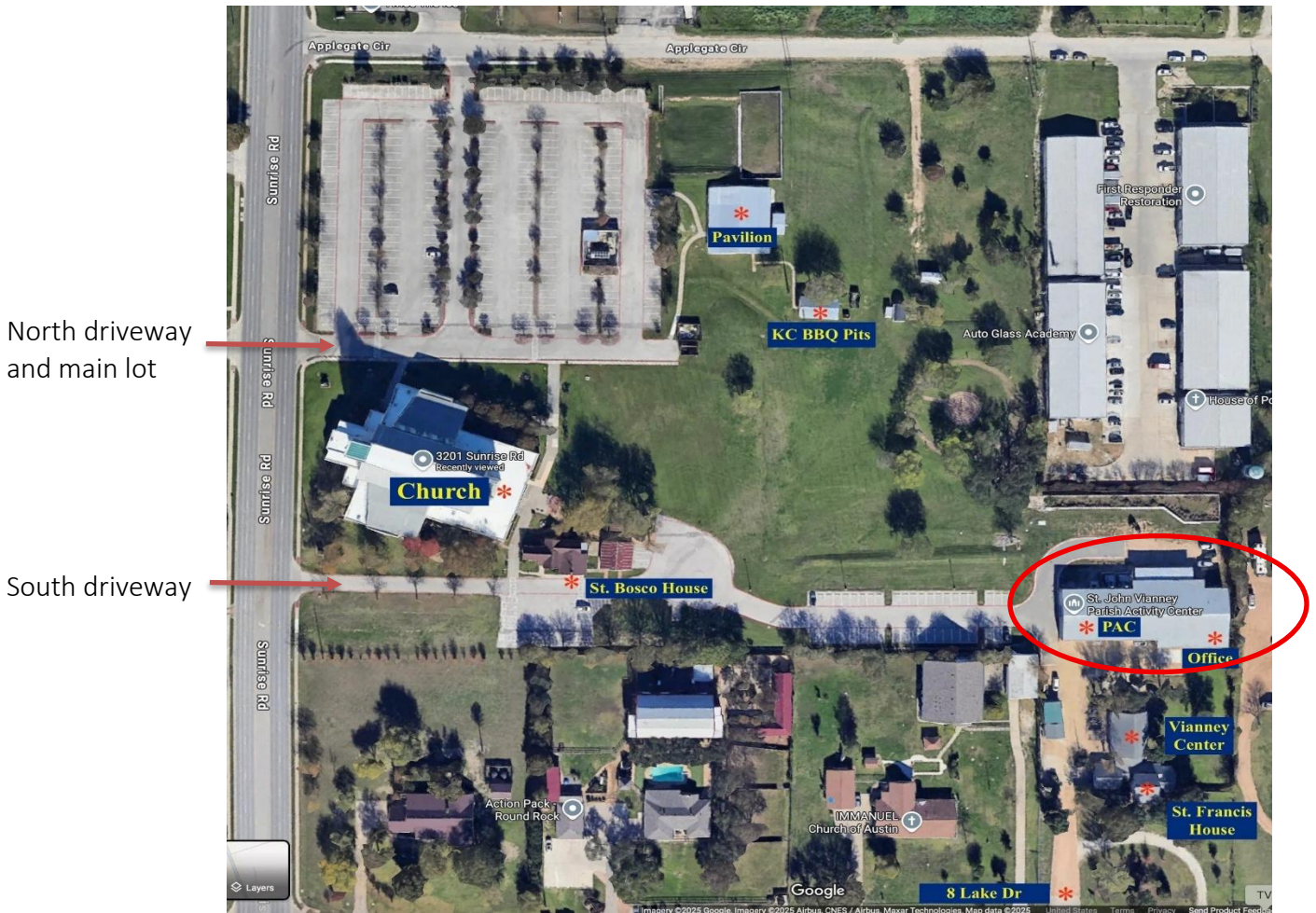
Location: Church

**Workshop Description:** The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Join us for a workshop where we will discern the fruits of the Holy Spirit and how they can make your life that much better!



**Bio:** Logan Mayes is the Life Teen and Confirmation Coordinator at St. Thomas More. He is married to an awesomely wonderful wife Sadie and just celebrated 15 years of marriage. When not working in youth ministry you can find Logan traveling the world with Sadie, avidly supporting the Aggies, and enjoying time with his pup Basil.

# Saint John Vianney Campus Map



Parish Address: 3201 Sunrise Road., Round Rock, 78665 ([directions linked here](#))

PAC: Where your group will check-in and we will have our large group gathered sessions

Church, PAC, Vianney Center: Where we will have our breakout sessions

Church: Where we will have a prayer service in the afternoon

## GROUP SHARING QUESTIONS

You will have two opportunities throughout the day to process what the youth are experiencing at the rally. Please use this time however you feel is best for your group!

The questions below are intended to help guide your conversation. Please modify as needed.

### MORNING

1. What is something that stood out to you this morning during Bennet's talk?
2. When have you needed help or guidance in your life, how do you think the Holy Spirit could help you in moments like that?
3. What are some ways you can notice the Holy Spirit working in your life or in the world, even if you can't physically see Him? If you have a hard time noticing the Holy Spirit at work in your life, you are encouraged to ask Him to show himself to you.
4. Share something interesting with the group that you learned in your workshop.
5. Do you have any questions about anything that you have heard or experienced so far today?

### AFTERNOON

1. What was your experience of adoration like? Have you ever been to adoration before?
2. What are some areas of your heart that you can invite the power of the Holy Spirit to come and reign there?
3. Which gift of the Holy Spirit do you need most right now, and where in your life would it actually help? (Gifts of the Holy Spirit - wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, piety, fortitude, and fear of the Lord)
4. Pick one fruit of the Holy Spirit you want to grow in, what's one small way you could start to grow in that fruit this week? (Fruits of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, modesty, chastity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control)
5. What is one thing about today that you can share with your family when you get home?



## LUNCH AND FREE TIME CONVERSATION STARTER SUGGESTIONS

This list of questions is to get to know your youth. You don't have to use them all, they are just "ice breakers" to get the conversations started! Some youth are more reserved and won't freely speak up. These silly, safe questions will allow even the most shy youth to participate without fear of judgment. Feel free to use variations of the ones provided or use your own. The idea is simply to bring unity to your group by having fun with them. **The only rule is, everyone must get a turn! Give everyone a chance to speak, and if they need a minute to come up with an answer, come back to them at the end of the round.**

If you had to eat one thing, at least once a day, for the rest of your life, what would it be? (why?)

What is your favorite holiday? Would you still enjoy it if you had to celebrate it every single day for one full year?

If you had to live in one season for the rest of your life— with every other element of your life staying the same (still having to go to school for 9 months, still having to do chores, etc..)- what would it be? Why did you choose that season?

What movie (cartoon or realistic) would you want to come to life? What character would you play?

If you could be anyone (alive or passed on) for a day, who would you be?

If you could change your name to anything, what would it be? (Is there a reason?)

If you were shipped off to a space station (in SPACE), what are (3) personal items you would take with you (all your life NEEDS are taken care of for you...water, food, air, etc)?

If you could interview anyone in the world (alive), who would it be? (why?)

If you had to wear one outfit for the rest of your life, what would you wear? (why?)

If you had to have an actor play you in a movie, who would it be? What kind of movie would it be?

If you could have any superpower, what would it be? What would you use it for? why?

If you could travel anywhere in the world (for free), where would you go? (why?)

## LUNCH AND FREE TIME GAME SUGGESTIONS

Having fun with your youth is one of the best ways to get to know them and bond with your group! The idea is simply to bring unity to your group by having fun with them. The fruits of these games will continue to show themselves after you leave today! The only rule is everyone must play!

### The Animal Name Game

Still don't know everyone's name??? Stand in a circle (make sure you are all standing for this!). Everyone must come up with an animal that starts with the first letter of their first name. When introducing themselves, say 1. your REAL first name, 2. your animal, and mimic the 3. sound AND 4. movement your animal makes, "in the wild." (Example: My name is John, the Jellyfish... and I would make some sound and silly movement to go along with it.)

The key to this game is for their movements to be big and their noises LOUD. If you can't hear them— make them repeat it LOUDER! Now, the kicker...as the next person introduces himself, he must do all of the above, and then repeat all of it for the person(s) before him. For example: I'm Luke, the lion (do the movement & sound), that is John the Jellyfish, then repeating my sound and movement) and so on, until he has introduced all the others that came before him in the game.

The last person in the circle should be able to repeat everyone's name, animal, sound & movement by now!

### "Never Have I Ever"

Form a circle and spread out. Ask one volunteer to go to the center of the circle to share something common that they have never done. They should begin with "Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and never have I ever..." and then complete the sentence with a statement of something "common" that they have truthfully never done before. For example: Hi, my name is John and never have I ever eaten sushi (been skiing, horseback riding, been in band, been on the football team...).

The idea is for everyone who *HAS* done this "common thing" that was just stated, to now run to the opposite side of the circle to a different spot.

Two rules to be mentioned here: 1. If the people in the circle *HAVE* truthfully done the "common thing" then they *MUST* move spots. To stand still indicates that you too have never "eaten sushi." 2. everyone *MUST* run directly opposite of them, across the circle— you may not choose a spot on your left or right, if you do and get caught, you can be sent into the middle as the "it!"

The fun in this game is that sometimes the person may get stuck in the middle for several rounds if they are not fast enough to steal someone's spot! If the "it" in the middle cannot seem to get out, pull them out after the third round of running around and ask for a new volunteer. Otherwise, the new "it" in the middle is the person who did NOT find a spot while running to a new spot. This game is a great way to get to know names AND silly factoids about each other... and burn a few calories too!

### "The Tomato Game"

Form a circle. One volunteers to be "it" in the middle. This person will be rapidly asked questions from everyone in the group, in a random style, of random topics (just help regulate that not everyone shouts at once— 1 at a time!). The "it" may *ONLY* answer "TOMATO" to every question— no more, no less, no matter the question!

If the "it" laughs, smiles, smirks or says anything else but "TOMATO" they are "out" (which means they join into the circle and a new "it" is to volunteer.)

The objective is to see who can stay in the circle the longest (be sure to place a time limit of no more than 2-3 minutes of one person in the middle, so many get a turn to play.) No question is too silly— but do warn them to keep them appropriate 😊. This game is great for a lot of laughs, and some may even turn the color of a "tomato" in the process!