



**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY
PARENT HANDBOOK**

2023-2024



Saint William
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Instagram: st.williamym

[https:// www.st-william.org/triumph-1](https://www.st-william.org/triumph-1)

Greetings Parents and Youth of Saint William Catholic Church!

Here at TRIUMPH, **OUR MISSION** is *to invite young people to personally encounter Jesus Christ, to form them to become His disciples, witnesses, and missionaries of the Gospel.* We seek to realize this mission through formation, small group discipleship, living a sacramental life of grace, Adoration, praise and worship, retreats, activities, and service projects, etc. In short, Triumph seeks to bring the love of Christ to the youth in our weekly ministry.

TRIUMPH supplements the spiritual formation that takes place fundamentally in your homes. We know that parents have the primary responsibility to educate their children in the faith as domestic Churches, but we want to help you in that important mission; to equip them with the joy, truth, beauty, and goodness of our Catholic Faith. As St. John Paul II said, "Life with Christ is an adventure," lets' get started...together.

Personally, it was in middle school that I had an encounter with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist; therefore, I am overjoyed to share this same love of Christ with your children. It is that same love of Jesus in the Eucharist that led me to respond to my religious vocation with the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Our Institute was founded by Mother Adela Galindo, in the Archdiocese of Miami, FL in 1990. The fundamental dimensions of our Marian Charism are Eucharistic, Marian, living in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the heart of the Church. The sisters are called to be the living image and presence of the Heart, Person and Mission of Our Lady, thus enfleshing the all-embracing Motherhood of Our Lady. I look forward to incorporating some of these dimensions into TRIUMPH.

It is truly a privilege to minister to your family and your youth. Please pray for your children, and for everyone in the program, so that the Holy Spirit may guide and lead our ministry. Finally, know that we have already started praying for your children, so that their hearts and minds are opened to receive all that the Lord has for them.

United in the love of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

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Theme: “My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the path to lead you to God.”

Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta were young shepherd children who were favored with seeing the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal in the year 1917. These children responded to all the petitions of Our Lady and were canonized as Saints of the Church on May 13, 2017, becoming the youngest non-martyred saints.

We have much to learn from both of them, Francisco was deeply moved by the sadness that Jesus and Mary had for sinners and he sought to console them by spending time with them in prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. St. Jacinta was determined to pray and offer for souls that were on their way to hell, she wanted to be the lid that would stop them from going to hell. We too can console like Francisco and offer like Jacinta.

Parents Role

No one is more important than parents in passing on to their children the priceless gift of faith. The parish family assists but cannot replace the vital role and example of the parents. Triumph is meant to supplement the formation that is already occurring at home. This includes family prayer, participation in Sunday Mass, intentional conversations about the faith and morality.

One-way Triumph is seeking to empower parents is through weekly text updates. Since we have your phone numbers when you registered your child, we have included you in a text messaging tool called Flocknote, in order for you to receive the latest news but also, to receive a text message that has a discussion question or two that relates to the topic presented that day at Triumph so that your family can engage in spiritual sharing. If you change your phone number or you are not getting the text alerts, please let us know us.

Saint William's has also purchased parish wide access to www.formed.org where families and youth can discover hundreds of Catholic video programs, movies, audios, and e-books. Use our **parish code d53bb for free access**. I strongly encourage you to journey with your spouse and family through numerous elements of Formed.

While the Church has been clear that parents are the Primary Catechists of their children, resources are not always present to empower and encourage parents in their primary role. Saint William Catholic Church has a Adult Faith Formation program that will lead you closer to Christ and empower you to share your relationship with others, including your children. Find out more about the courses and programs we offer for adult spiritual growth at: <https://st-william.org/spiritual-growth>.

RCIA Sacramental Preparation

Attendance must be over 80% to move on to the next year. Please do not miss more than 3 classes or the year will need to be repeated.

There will be supplemental classes on Wednesdays throughout the year to prepare for the sacraments.



Triumph Sunday Sample Schedule

The schedule below may change to meet the needs of the topic or the youth. Triumph will always begin at 3:00 p.m. and end by 4:30 p.m. on Sundays. To know the exact dates of when we meet, please see the calendar at: <https://www.st-william.org/triumph-1>

Please ensure your youth is in the Parish Evangelization Center at 3:00 p.m. We start promptly at 3:00 since we only have 90 minutes with the youth each week. Please arrive on time.

2:45 Youth begin arriving at the Parish Evangelization Center

This is a wonderful time for building fellowship and community.

3:00 Greeting and Opening Prayer, Icebreaker, Praise and Worship, or Engaging Activity

3:20 Introduction of the Topic & Dynamic Presentation

This may include a talk, video, skit, etc.

3:55 Small Group Time

Small Groups meet in the rooms of the Parish Evangelization Center (PEC).

4:30 Dismissal from Small Groups

Youth will ALWAYS be picked-up in front of the Parish Evangelization Center.

Youth are NOT allowed to leave by themselves, even to the Church.

Service Descriptions for Triumph Youth Ministry Core Team; Consider Joining us!

The Holy Spirit working through the volunteers is what makes Triumph a successful youth ministry.

Core Team: Do you love the Lord and love youth? If so, then Core Team may be a fit for you!

The Core Team makes Triumph Youth Ministry effective! They're part of a dynamic team that build relationships with the youth, model God's love, lead small group discussions, and journey with youth in their faith. Most of all, the Core Team are a living witness of Jesus Christ. Core Team commit to helping with Triumph each week.

Lead Team: Do you enjoy teaching the faith, sharing how God has worked in your life, leading others to Christ through relationship and discussion. If so, Lead Team is for you! They will have the opportunity to witness to the youth with their lives and the relationship that they will build with them in the context of Small Group and the weekly meetings. There are even opportunities to meet outside of Triumph for bonding activities

Stealth Team: Do you enjoy logistics and prefer to serve behind the scenes? If so, then the Lord may be calling you to Stealth Crew! The Stealth Team handles logistics so that Lead Team can focus on the relational ministry with the youth. Stealth Team will pass out name tags, log attendance, distribute Bibles and flyers, and meet other logistical needs. Stealth Team help with Triumph as their schedule permits.

Prayer Team: Do you often include praying for others in your prayer time? If so, then being a Triumph Prayer Warrior may be a perfect fit! Triumph Prayer Warriors vastly impact the conversion of heart and transformation that takes place within the youth and volunteers. Prayer Warriors commit to praying on a weekly basis for all involved in Triumph and receive updates about specific intentions for the youth ministry.

Dress Code & Code of Conduct

In efforts to create a Christ-Centered environment, dress and behavior must reflect the attitude of Christ. Parents will be notified if their youth is consistently violating the Code of Conduct.

Parents, please take the time to communicate this policy with your youth.

Dress Code

All those participating in Triumph Youth Ministry should come in attire that is appropriate for and respective of themselves, the program, and others. Regarding the dress code, everything we wear must reflect Christian modesty. No youth should wear clothing that contains a violent, offensive or anti-Christian message.

- For Girls: Short shorts, strapless shirts, low cut tops, skintight garments and shirts exposing midriff, stomach or underwear are not to be worn.
- For Boys: Saggy pants and short shorts are not to be worn.

Code of Conduct

- Respect is vital to creating an environment where one can grow in their faith. It is expected that the youth respect the adult volunteers and their peers during Triumph.
- Bullying and/or aggressive, threatening, or violent acts will not be tolerated.
- Drugs, alcohol, weapons or other illegal items will not be tolerated. If a youth is found possessing these items, the police will be called first and then the parent.
- Cell Phones and electronics are not to be seen or used during Triumph. Phones will be collected and returned at the end of Triumph.
- Leaving St. William campus will not be tolerated. Youth who sneak off campus or do not go to the proper location will have their parents called immediately.
- Physical affection: Youth who may have a significant other at Triumph should be sure their conduct reflects a focus on their primary relationship with Jesus during Triumph. Public displays of affection are not appropriate during Triumph.

Thank you, Parents and Youth of St. William

