**St. Anne Catholic Youth Ministry (CYM) Conduct Code**

The vision of the St. Anne Catholic Youth Ministry is to mentor and equip our teens to develop a faith that exists outside of the church building. We want them to have a walk with Jesus Christ that is dynamic, lived out, and shared beyond our church walls. As with any group, there are certain rules and expectations provided which are there to help make the group stronger. As a youth group, we want to set a positive example for others of what it means to be a member of the body of Christ, so we must also hold ourselves to certain expectations. Here are just some of the standards that we will strive to live up to as members of St. Anne Catholic Youth Ministry.

Luke 9:23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

The teens of the St. Anne Catholic Youth Ministry seek to ​SERVE​:

● S​ubmit to God (James 4:7-8)

● E​xamine Your Heart (James 1:19-21)

● R​each Out to Others (Matthew 25:31-40)

● V​alue Others Above Yourself (Romans 12:10)

● E​xemplify Christ (1 John 2:3-6)

Therefore, we act in accordance with our faith and our vision.

**Catholic Youth Ministry Code of Conduct Guidelines:**

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. John 13:34-35

● Show respect for everyone you come in contact with, by your actions and your words. This means that making fun of others and cutting each other down is not acceptable. You build each other up and treat people as you would want to be treated.

● Respect your brothers and sisters in Christ. An example would be, do not talk while someone else is talking.

● Respect the facilities. Do not damage or destroy church property and always clean up after yourself.

● Keep a positive attitude.

● Remember that you are an ambassador for Christ and this church, and your actions and words can provide a good or bad example.

**Youth Group Rules:**

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” Romans 12:1

***General:***

● No obscene language

● No drug, alcohol, or tobacco use.

● No weapons at any functions.

● Public display of affection with your significant other while at church functions is inappropriate. This distracts from our purpose. ● Red and Blue make purple. Don’t make purple! Public displays of affection (hugging, kissing, sitting on laps or riding piggy back, etc.) Again, this distracts from our purpose.

● Be only where you are suppose to be. Remain with the group unless special permission is granted.

● An individual male and female are never to be alone together. There should always be a minimum of three persons in any co-ed group.

● For the safety and well being of all, every meeting and event has physical boundaries. Stay within those boundaries.

● During study time, you must remain seated to avoid disrupting the group (with the exception of emergencies). Please use restroom prior to small group studies and worship services.

● No cell phone use in mass, small groups, large groups, other functions or services, etc., unless otherwise instructed. Turn all phones and electronic devices off and place on table unless otherwise instructed.

● If you are leaving an event early, expect that we will need to clear this with a parent first (if you are driving yourself or riding with someone else).

***CYM Trips:*** All of the General rules and expectation, plus:

● Couples will adopt the “friends rule” for the duration of the trip. At all of our church functions, we want the focus to be on Christ and not each other, so if you are in a relationship, we will encourage you to “just be friends” on our church trips. We encourage you to develop friendships with others in our group and not be focused only on the person you are dating.

● No sharing blankets or sleeping on one another in vehicles (unless you are siblings).

● Again, never be alone with a person of the opposite sex. Whether it is on a trip or here at church, always take another (third) person with you and stay with the whole group as much as possible.

● Clean up after yourself:

○ In vehicles - Throw trash away at various stops and do not throw on floor.

○ At host homes - make beds, do not leave clothes lying around, do not ask for or take food or items that are not provided for you. Do not go “snooping” around.

○ At other churches/venues/hotels or retreat centers - leave things better than they were before you came.

***Consequences of Inappropriate Behavior for All Church Activities:***

Conduct. We gather together once a week (or more, in some cases) for a period of fellowship, worship, and learning. We cannot allow disruptive behavior to detract from our time together and our focus on Christ. Such behavior at church or on trips will not be tolerated either. Disruptive and unsafe behavior includes any violation of the CYM Rules as well as specific rules imposed for trips, activities or events. The final authority determining of disruptive and unsafe behavior will be the CYM Coordinator.

1. Student will receive a verbal warning from the adult mentor, volunteer, or designated chaperone.

2. If disruptive behavior persists the parents of the student will be contacted and further action will be determined.

Dress Guidelines. It is our intention to be holy and pleasing to God in all aspects of our ministry, including what we wear. We understand there can be varying views of appropriateness. Therefore, we have adopted these guidelines of modesty to protect the hearts of all youth. The following will not be permitted:

● Bare midriffs, spaghetti straps, sheer, lacy or see through clothing,etc. Tank tops must cover bra straps and the arm holes must not drape open.

● No cleavage (front or back)

● No visible undergarments.

● Dresses, skirts, shorts, skorts may not be any shorter than the wearer’s fingertips with the arms and hand fully extended. If a garment has a slit, the top of the slit must be lower than the wearer’s fingertips.

● Legging/joggers/bike shorts are permitted ONLY with shorts worn on top.

● No clothing with offensive or obscene pictures and/or words.

● Swimwear

○ Girls - One piece bathing suits or dark colored t-shirt over two piece. (SWO also requires shorts)

○ Guys - No Speedos and t-shirts must also be worn at all times.

Should you dress in an inappropriate manner, you will be asked to change or your parents will be called to bring you different clothing or take you home.

Mass or Adoration.

● Phones must be turned off during Mass or Adoration, unless otherwise instructed.

● Take your restroom break BEFORE we attend mass or Adoration.

Forms. We must have the following youth forms current and on file with the Youth Ministries Office.

● Youth Registration Form

● Current and up-to-date Medical History and Release Form

● Permission Slip for current year

● Acknowledgement and Receipt of Guidelines and General Conduct Code.

**St. Anne Catholic Youth Ministries Acknowledgement and Receipt of Guidelines and General Conduct Code**

**(Return only this page and keep the Conduct Code for future Reference)**

As a youth in the St. Anne Catholic Youth Ministry, I have prayerfully read and understand the Guidelines, Rules, and General Conduct Code and choose to adhere to it at all St. Anne Catholic Youth Ministry functions.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As a ​parent​ of a student in the Richmond Hill St. Anne Catholic Youth Ministries, I have prayerfully read and understand the Guidelines and Conduct Code and will support these while my son or daughter participates in the St. Anne Catholic Youth Ministry.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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