



# ST. PETER CHANEL YOUTH MINISTRY



Strategic Plan

2023-2028

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**It is always Christ who sends. But whom does he send? You, young people, are the ones He looks upon with love. Christ, who says: 'Follow me,' wants you to live your lives with a sense of vocation. He wants your lives to have a precise meaning and dignity.**

**- St. John Paul the Great**

— ” —





# **People fully alive, rooted in Christ, reflecting His love and mercy.**

- St. Peter Chanel's parish vision

We believe God is asking us to build a foundation for young people to discover their faith, be inspired to live it joyfully, and be equipped to live as disciples to transform the world. Ultimately we're here to support the saints of today as they impact their community. By discerning a strategic plan, we help to ensure this vision becoming a reality for years to come.

## *How we got here*

What you'll find in the following pages is a summary of our five year plan. This is the journey we are embarking on over the next five years. Our team has taken the past school year to research some trends among Gen Z students, to listen to feedback from parents and volunteers in our community, and most of all to pray. As a result of this research and the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our prayer, we will intentionally focus on four pillars of youth ministry.

- Teen Discipleship
- Volunteer Formation (Core Members)
- Family Support
- Prayer



# *Four Pillars of Focus*

**Teen  
Discipleship**

**Volunteer  
Formation**

**Family Support**

**Prayer**

# Prayer

Nothing we do matters if we aren't open to the Holy Spirit moving in our ministry. By focusing on prayer as its own pillar we hope to multiply our ability to build up teens to be fully alive, rooted in Christ, reflecting His love and mercy.



## Year 1

- Include teens regularly in petitions Sunday Masses- whole community pray for YM

## Year 2

- 2-3 leaders to initiate and host prayer events
  - Communicate prayer requests about teens and events in real time
  - Create space for in person prayer gatherings

## Year 3-5

- Host training in intercessory prayer for community, especially teens
- Prayer team hosts Sunday night groups or create running schedule of prayer teams to be on-site praying while YM meets

# Family Support

We desire to foster deep conversations around faith in our families' homes. Additionally, we hope for families to build community at St. Peter Chanel and experience life events with others inside and outside of our doors. We want them to feel confident in asking for help, and to value their relationship with God above all other relationships in their lives.



## Year 1

- Encourage all SPC staff to help us connect parents and family members to existing opportunities at the parish
  - Small Groups, Alpha, Retreats, Bible Studies, etc.

## Year 2

- Build a leadership team to help grow into later goals

## Year 3

- Grow into small groups that meet at the same time as youth ministry or when their schedules allow

# Volunteer Formation

The ideal Core Member has a vibrant personal prayer life, a growing relationship with Christ, a strong sense of humility, a desire to understand and enter into teen culture, a strong backbone to discipline with love when necessary, and a commitment to share God's love with the students in our ministry and each other. We are striving to empower adults to meet such a high call.



## Year 1

- Current team begins recruiting other adults to mentor and accompany teens as small group leaders, content planners, and more
- Monthly gatherings for continual growth

## Year 2-4

- Equip Core Members to create nights for teens to gather and grow outside of Sundays; including planning, execution, and follow up

## Year 5

- Robust opportunities for teens and Core to develop gifts like intercessory prayer and healing
- Grow additional teams of support, ex. prayer, outreach,



# Teen Discipleship

By developing the ways we approach teen discipleship, we hope to allow our teens to be saints while they're here; pursuing a relationship with Christ fervently and joyfully.



## Year 1

- Teens inviting peers to participate in events
- Launch teen leadership team (Teen Missionaries)
- Encourage teen involvement in liturgical ministries
  - Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers

## Year 2

- Core Members mentoring teen leadership teams
- Selection process for a junior Missionary team
- Develop and mentor teens to grow in relationship with Christ and share that with their peers

## Year 3

- Teens organizing service events

## Year 5

- Teens equipped to pray for one another



**"I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God."**

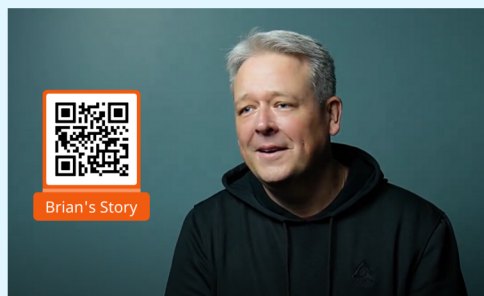
**- St. Dominic Savio**

**We're celebrating all that God has done in our ministry so far. What else have you seen Him do? Celebrate with us!**

**Sharing the wins:**

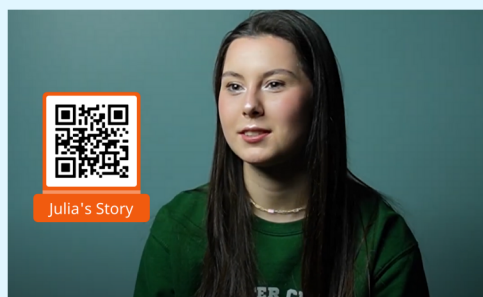
- Developing an annual Freshman Retreat for teens transitioning into high school
- Tripling our number of weekly committed adult volunteers
- Launching a Food Team who cook, serve, and clean up all Sunday Night Youth Group Meals, allowing our other volunteers to focus on the teens
- Growing participation in Sunday night Youth Group to the highest we have seen in many years
- Initiating monthly Nights of Worship for teens and their family to pray with Jesus in the Eucharist together
- Empowering Core Members to create and host summer events
- Launching Teen Missionaries, a new leadership initiative

**Don't just take our word for it, check out these stories from people impacted by our ministry.**



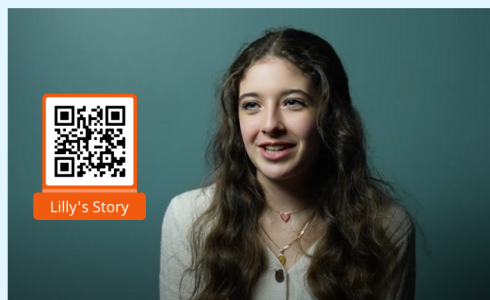
**"From (ages) 14-24 I didn't have God in my life on a day-to-day basis. For me it's important to be part of those formative years for our youth."**

**-Brian, Core Member Youth Ministry**



**"There is so much more that God has planned for me and I really want to explore that. This past year being with Youth Ministry has changed that."**

**-Julia, Teen in Youth Ministry**



**"There are going to be a lot of hard things that people throw at you in life but to have (an) understanding of yourself and God is a way to get through that."**

**-Lilly, Teen in Youth Ministry**

# BECOME A PART

Pray for us

Nothing we do can be successful without prayer. One way this happens is when adults commit to praying intentionally and specifically for the success and safety of a particular event.

Partic

We need volunteers of all backgrounds, ages, and experiences.  
See something that interests you?

## Teen Discipleship

- Core Members for HS and for MS
  - 18+; gender specific small group leaders
  - Sunday Nights ~5:45-8p + monthly Core Gatherings as available + opportunity to join for retreats and special events
- Volunteers in the following areas: Food, Media, Admin

## Volunteer Formation

- Volunteers to lead monthly Core Gatherings, assist in supporting and onboarding new Core Members, and serve as volunteer coordinators for special events like kickoffs



# OF OUR STORY

## Promote

Talk about us! Get teens in your life involved in what we offer, share these stories, pass this plan along to others. The more we can get the word out there, the more lives we can touch.

## Participate

ence levels to support all the dreams we hope to achieve.

Email us at [ym@stpeterchanel.org](mailto:ym@stpeterchanel.org)

### Family Support

- Adult volunteers to help host monthly events for parents and families of 6-12th grade students and brainstorm additional ways to support our families

### Prayer

- Adults to lead prayer teams in supporting YM events
  - Take charge of communication between staff and prayer team members, lead occasional in-person prayer services (rosaries, Holy Hours, etc.), and recruit more adults to join in praying for our ministry



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# Our Team



**Carlee Knuckles**

**High School Youth Ministry**

**[carlee@stpeterchanel.org](mailto:carlee@stpeterchanel.org)**

**770-722-2728 (YM cell)**

Growing up in central Arkansas fostered a love of lake days and mountains. Moving to Georgia after college has allowed me to keep both close. Since joining the team at St. Peter Chanel in January 2021, I've grown in joy and creativity as we celebrate high energy events and moments of deep prayer. Away from parish ministry, I try to hug plenty of dogs and enjoy lots of guacamole.



**Ozzy Baez**

**Middle School and Confirmation**

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**678-832-1240**

I am from Athens, GA, before coming to St. Peter Chanel I worked as a missionary serving catholic summer camps and retreats for middle and high school students. I also supported the male college summer staff as their Coordinator for a couple of summers. I love middle school students because there honesty and curiosity to learn! I'm excited to see what God does over the next several years! Go Dawgs!

**People fully alive, rooted in Christ,  
reflecting His love and mercy.**

Invite. Encounter. Equip. Send.



ST. PETER CHANEL