

Director of Youth Faith Formation

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

A Ministry of the Jesuits

Decatur, GA

As a growing Jesuit parish in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, we are seeking a full-time Director of Youth Faith Formation who can bring vibrancy and creativity to our youth faith formation programs.

Job Type:

Full time

Job Description:

The Director of Youth Faith Formation is responsible for developing and sustaining a comprehensive youth ministry and faith formation program, rooted in the Ignatian and Jesuit tradition, for children from kindergarten through high school. They work with youth ministry staff and report to the Pastor.

Responsibilities:

Primary Youth (Grades PK-5) - SPARK

- Develops, oversees, and continually assesses success of the SPARK faith formation curriculum and program.
- Recruits and helps train quality catechists in cooperation with the Pastoral Associate for Adult Faith Formation.
- Works with the Pastoral Adult Associate for Faith Formation to provide opportunities for ongoing catechist formation and certification.
- Coordinates student registration, class lists, and communicates regularly with parents.
- Organizes First Reconciliation and First Communion in conjunction with St. Thomas More School.
- Coordinates annual Vacation Bible School each summer.

Middle School Youth (Grades 6-8) - IGNITE

- Continually develops and coordinates the IGNITE middle school faith formation program, including catechesis, service opportunities, and socials.
- Recruits volunteers, ensuring they are trained, screened, and cleared according to Archdiocesan guidelines.
- Coordinates yearly mission trip and/or summer camp experience.

High School Youth (Grades 9-12) - IGNITE

- Continually develops and coordinates the IGNITE high school faith formation program, including catechesis, service opportunities, and socials.

- Oversees youth ministry staff in developing an engaging Confirmation program, which includes a retreat.
- Coordinates an annual mission trip and/or summer camp.

All Age Levels

- Works with the Pastor and Pastoral Associate for Adult Faith Formation in assuring all youth formation programs are faithful to our parish mission and the Ignatian and Jesuit vision.
- Develops youth programming that helps children cultivate a friendship with Jesus.
- Collaborates with Pastoral Associate for Adult Faith Formation on parent formation opportunities.
- Manages the budgets assigned to the above faith formation programs, including necessary fundraising.

Other Responsibilities:

- Recruits volunteers, ensuring they are trained, screened, and cleared according to Archdiocesan guidelines.
- Works closely with the Pastoral Associate for Adult Faith Formation in developing a youth program that fits alongside the adult faith formation program.
- Oversees the Youth Minister's development of an RCIC program for children who are over the age of 7 and wish to be baptized or enter the church.
- Makes an annual retreat to ensure one's own spiritual development.
- Attends youth ministry and catechetical conferences for professional development.

Preferred Qualifications:

- A Master's Degree in Theology, Ministry, Pastoral Studies, or related.
- Experience working with youth of all ages in a parish or school setting.
- Well organized and efficient.
- Able to develop original curriculum or programming.
- Able to adapt pre-packaged programs to fit with the needs and desires of the parish community.
- Joyful and welcoming to people of all faith backgrounds.
- A knowledge of the Jesuits and Ignatian spirituality, or an eagerness to learn and let it inform your ministry.

Please send cover letter and resume to Andy Otto at aotto@stmga.org.

Parish Mission

As disciples of Jesus, we look for God present in all things, that we might love him and serve him in all things.

Ignatian prayer and spirituality, which is based on the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*, informs all that we do at St. Thomas More, especially our prayer and faith formation programs. Through

these, we discover God in all things, are drawn into personal relationship with Jesus, and are freed for active service of our neighbor. While we encourage all forms of prayer, we have a particular commitment to the teaching, promotion, and practice of Ignatian prayer.

Through our prayer and faith formation programs, we encourage each parishioner's growth in the knowledge and the love of God, regardless of one's age, level of formal education, or ability. Our first priority is to facilitate an encounter and relationship with Jesus that we live out both individually and as a parish community.

We offer prayer and faith formation programs that are suitable for persons of all ages, levels of formal education, and abilities, and that encourage constructive and respectful engagement with what may be unfamiliar and challenging. We give special attention to our children and teens, wherever they attend school. Nevertheless, our parish school is a major ministry of the parish through which we form our children to be "men and women for others."

Full mission statement can be found at <http://www.stmqaparish.org/about-stm/statement-of-parish-identity-and-mission/>