

## St. Matthew the Evangelist Faith Formation

### Minister Title: Teen Small Group Leader

**Objective:** Provide teens with meaningful adults who can get to know the teens and be positive role models for them. Like Jesus Christ on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24), we evangelize through building relationships and modeling our faith in our everyday lives.

**Description/Responsibilities:** You will follow the established guidelines for your Teen Small Group, including **attendance, discipline, and other issues** that may arise. You are responsible for the supervision of these teens. However, you are not expected to prepare curriculum - that is the role of the Faith Formation Staff and the resources they provide.

Your role as a Small Group Leader is to lead and facilitate discussion and activities that happen during the sessions. By participating in the activities and discussion, you model for the teens the value in learning more about God, our Catholic faith, and how to apply that learning in daily life.

Today's teens need to be connected to positive adult role models. They may have many "online friends", but few who will model what it means to be a Catholic Christian today. *Get to know your teens well* by talking with them before and after the faith formation events. Ask them about their interests, activities, and goals.

*Please familiarize yourself with the buildings in which you are serving.*

*Please report anything unusual, suspicious, or problematic to a Staff member. If you become aware of pastoral needs of the teens or their families, please also report these to a Staff member.*

All Small Group Leaders are expected to attend Mass regularly and support the teachings of the Catholic Church.

**Qualifications:** All St. Matthew the Evangelist parish ministers (volunteers) are expected to

- have an annual CORI (background check) on file
- complete the *Protecting God's Children* (Virtus) program
- abide by the 2021 Archdiocesan Code of Conduct (available at <https://billericacatholic.org/code/>)

**Time Commitment:** Attend all scheduled sessions teens are expected to attend, plus additional components of faith formation ministry as scheduled (such as speakers, prayer services, etc.). *Please make a point of arriving early, before each of the small groups begin, to welcome and greet your teens.* If you will be absent, please contact the Staff Member as well as your co-group leader (if you have one) at least 24 hours in advance.

Small Group leaders are encouraged to participate in other activities offered for teens (such as retreats, service activities, etc.).

All Teen Small Group Leaders will be expected to participate in scheduled meetings and/or trainings - the frequency and need for these are to be determined

**Supervision:** Small Group Leaders report directly to the Faith Formation Staff.

**Communication:** Primarily through e-mail, phone as needed

**A Teen Small Group Leader:**

- ✓ Witnesses to their faith in God to those they assist and serve
- ✓ Knows their teens well - names, personalities, and interests - and gains a sense of their moral and spiritual maturity
- ✓ Is aware of the varied and changing needs of adolescents, including their inconsistent communication, behavior, and maturity
- ✓ Challenges teens to take their faith seriously, to engage in the material, and to ask challenging questions
- ✓ Is involved in the activities alongside the teens, modeling good participation
- ✓ Helps the teens stay focused on the activity or discussion at hand, and minimizes disruptions
- ✓ Moves around the group as needed, making sure to help teens who need help, and be near teens who need a close adult presence
- ✓ Is observant, offers suggestions, and provides feedback about particular activities and the faith formation ministry in general, as asked for by the Faith Formation Staff