



**YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT,  
& CAMPUS MINISTRIES**  
DIOCESE OF DALLAS

**We have supported 13 parishes across the Diocese of Dallas offer small group ministry for their young adults. *Would you like to join?***

### **Why Small Groups?**

In the wake of the Covid pandemic, the Diocese of Dallas, along with many parishes, made the decision to forego in-person, large-group, gathered events for Summer and Fall 2020.

This had left many Young Adult Ministry Leaders asking how they can continue to support young adults in their communities who are accustomed to such events. As a part of its response to this question, the Office of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries (OYYACM) mobilized parishes to offer small group ministry for young adults. Come the end of Fall 2020, small groups continue to be fruitful and well attended, even while many parishes are opening their doors again.

Small groups are a timeless and effective Christian model of ministry that is particularly viable during the current climate when some people are comfortable with in person gatherings, but others prefer to meet online when possible.

### **Who from my parish would participate in these young adult small groups?**

Any individual over 18 years of age would be welcome to participate in small groups through your parish. We will encourage small groups to be formed by life-stages (single, married, married with kids) and the small group reflections will offer material specific to each demographic.

## Tell me more about the small group content.

The small group content will be authored by Joel Stepanek of Lifeteen. Joel creates curriculum for the nationally renowned Youth Ministry program and has spoken several times within the Diocese of Dallas.

The small group content will be:

**Relevant** → Directly addressing the needs made known by the advisory group

**Liturgically Inspired** → Drawing upon the liturgical calendar; highlighting liturgical seasons, feasts, and practices

**Scriptural** → Rooted in Biblical texts, communicating the basic tenets of faith and central Gospel message

## When would my parish hold these small groups?

The OYYACM has provided parishes with 2 seasons of small group content and is now committing to another 2 seasons, to be held over the Lent and Easter Seasons of 2021. Each small group gathering prepares for the coming Sunday's Gospel and is intended to meet for an hour and a half.

### Length of Season 3 Small Group Gatherings: 5 weeks

Week One: February 22- February 28

Week Two: March 1-March 7

Week Three: March 8-March 14

Week Four: March 15-March 21

Week Five: March 22- March 28

### Length of Season 4 Small Group Gatherings: 6 weeks

Week One: April 12-18

Week Two: April 19-25

Week Three: April 26-May 2

Week Four: May 3-May 9

Week Five: May 10- May 16

Week Six: May 17-May 23

## Where would my parish hold these small groups?

The decision of where to hold small groups lies with the Ministry Leader and pastor/leadership at the parish. The OYYACM strongly encourages each parish to give the utmost concern to the health and safety of its young adults during Covid, as well as to follow all legal parameters and diocesan recommendations available at the time. That being said, your parish may consider holding small groups on site at the parish, in parishioner homes, in a neutral and public location, or virtually.

## What is the timeline for this effort?

	Season Three	Season 3
<b>Last Day for Parishes to Opt into Small Groups</b>	January 8	February 23
<b>Registration Launches</b>	January 13	March 6
<b>Registration Closes</b>	February 10	March 31

## How will the OYYACM support my parish?

The OYYACM will support your parish by:

- Providing Small Group Coordinator, Facilitator, & Participant Guides in both English and Spanish
- Providing the small group content in both English and Spanish
- Providing Facilitator Trainings in both English and Spanish
- Promoting Parish Small Groups through Diocesan/ The 635 platforms
- Providing step-by-step guidance for launching your small groups via our website: <https://catholicdallas.org/yasmallgroupcoordinators/>
- Offering 1-on-1 consultation with your parish leadership to plan for implementing small groups, to answer any questions regarding best practices, and to set your parish up for success

## How do we commit?

- Meet with Parish Leadership: Small groups require the support of the pastor and parish leadership. While these small groups should NOT require any financial resources, their success will require publicity through parish platforms, an efficient way to register for the small groups online, and regular communication to participants. With leadership, consider what resources the parish has in regards to publicity and communication.
- Determine the point person or team for young adult small groups who would be responsible for coordinating the parish efforts.

## Contact the OYYACM to let them know you're in!

Further support for launching your small groups will come with your commitment. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to ask!

- Katie Erskine Aguilar: [kerskine@cathdal.org](mailto:kerskine@cathdal.org)
- Joshua Salinas: [jsalinas@cathdal.org](mailto:jsalinas@cathdal.org)

We are praying for you and your parishes' young adult communities!