

## Journey to Adulthood

The Journey to Adulthood (J2A) is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th to 12th grades. It uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore its core principles:

- Manhood and womanhood are free gifts from God.
- Adulthood must be earned.

*The two segments of the program we will be using this fall will be:*

**Rite-13**: These years (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade) focus on celebrating the individuality of each young person and his or her creative potential. The Rite-13 liturgy (A celebration of Manhood and Womanhood) is the community expression of this belief and will be celebrated on a Sunday in January at a 10:00am worship service.

Time: Sunday mornings during Christian Formation from 9:00am -9:45am  
Other social activities as they are planned.

**J2A**: This portion of the program (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade) engages youth with the skills and critical thinking involved in adulthood. This year there will be a lock-in for all J2A members, Nightwatch in NYC, and a shorter urban mission trip. This group will then plan and embark on a pilgrimage together at the end of two years.

Time: Sunday mornings during Christian Formation from 9:00am - 9:45am  
Two Sunday evenings a month, 6:00pm - 8:30pm

There is a third component that we will be looking forward to using in a few years once the Rite-13 and J2A groups are up and running called:

**YAC** (Young Adults in Church) This is a mentor-based program helping older teens to discern and carry out a ministry within their church or in the larger community. Vocation and development of a personal credo are also emphasized.

## Confirmation

Our clergy feel that one of the goals of our youth programming here at St. John's is for them to really get to know our young people! This can only happen with regular attendance and participation in youth activities. Our confirmation program this year will consist of regular attendance at the J2A classes on Sunday morning and every other Sunday evening.

Once a month the Sunday evening program will consist of a worship service that the youth will plan themselves. It will be a Eucharist with all kinds of variations in prayer, worship style and music. They will sign up to be on worship teams to plan the services. The parish will be invited to attend these alternative worship services at 7:00pm.

The alternate Sunday evening program each month will feature perhaps a movie pulled from the J2A curriculum, seasonal fun activities that the youth at St. John's have always enjoyed, service opportunities and other activities yet to be determined!

Finally, there will be a retreat in the spring (dates still to be decided) for the confirmands to prepare them for the sacrament of Confirmation, which will be held in the springtime.