

Meet the Youth Minister Gina Updike

Hi Families of Nativity School and Parish!

My name is Gina Updike, and I am the director of youth ministry at Nativity Parish. I'm from NH, went to school at Franciscan University, got married and moved to Buffalo in 2020. My husband (Cameron) and I have two little ones (Sofia & Cole) who you've probably seen (or heard!) at Mass & around campus. And this fall marks the start of my 4th year with Nativity Youth!

Our Youth Program is separate from Faith Formation and is completely optional. It's for any kids who want to do more, learn more, and spend more time together outside of class. Our middle school program (Grades 5-9) meets every Wednesday from 3-5 pm, where we cycle through social days (like a Fall Party, Thanksgiving Feast, etc) and lesson days. Meanwhile, high schoolers meet the first and third Saturdays of the month. The first Saturday is Mass, dinner, and Glorify & the third Saturday is a social, also open to middle schoolers! These are our most popular events and include things like Movie Nights, Christmas Party, Tournaments, Ice Skating, and more!

So, what do teens get by joining?

They'll not only get to know our Faith better, play games, and try new things; But, perhaps most importantly, they'll meet and make friends with other great kids who are there for the same reasons. Most of our teens say their favorite part of Youth Group is making new friends and experiencing new things. There is absolutely zero commitment, we're just happy to provide a fun, safe, and faith-filled environment for any kid to take advantage of whenever they want.

Think about giving us a try! Our first event this fall is a carnival theme kick-off and open to families (9/16 4:30 pm). If you'd like more info, reach out anytime.



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Next time you see me, please feel free to say hi! Go Bills!