

St Thomas More Leadership Council

The mission of the St Thomas More Leadership Council is to provide a supporting role in the High School Youth Ministry program by being role models and demonstrating how we live our faith as teens. We plan to grow in confidence, leadership, faith and our relationship with God as we serve the larger church community and build the foundation for a stronger, youth led faith group.

Goals of the Leadership Council:

1. To grow in leadership skills through participation in the activities of this team and be able to demonstrate these skills within the St Thomas More community.
2. To organize community service opportunities to encourage younger members to participate and to create projects that the Leadership Council can initiate, plan and participate in that are in the larger community
3. To foster a sense of community, though building relationships with God, among team members and with the younger teens of the HSYM.
4. To be spiritual and respectful role models for the younger teens by actively demonstrating our faith through activities, prayer, discussions and the way in which we live our lives through respect, tolerance, and ensuring that all voices deserve to be heard.
5. To encourage involvement in the church community and in the world as leaders to promote unity, peace, and love for others.
6. To build a strong foundation for a youth led faith group by members of the Leadership Council taking an active role in sessions and being enthusiastic supporters of the HSYM program and planning and recruiting teens within our faith community.
7. To develop fun fellowship activities that are well planned so that the faith group is an enjoyable experience for the leadership team and the younger teens that will foster friendships across all ages.
8. To continue to walk our faith journey as part of our personal growth as we develop in leadership, spirituality, relationship with others, and our understanding of what it means to be Catholic within our personal lives.

Activities of the Leadership Council:

1. **Lead:** Attend Leadership Council meetings, plan and organize activities, speak in public about HSYM and LT.
2. **Service:** Gift wrapping, Baking, yard work, Food pantry collection, Souper Bowl, Parents Night Out, cooking decorating for kids, trips to service in Boston, NY, Honduras
3. **Community:** Participate in HSYM events, meals, introduce self to younger members, meet with them, hang out with HYSM members, sit together at Mass
4. **Role Models:** Lead opening/closing prayers, talking about faith, giving faith statements, encouraging members to go to church with you, setting examples at school and in community.
5. **Church Community:** participate in church events, special Masses/talks, Holy Days, youth events outside of community, retreats.
6. **Youth Led:** Participating in Lifeteen/DTS by leading discussions, teaching, saying prayers, taking role in DTS, faith talk, organizing special liturgies, encouraging others to join or continue, helping plan the calendar of events, meeting with Fr Andy and parish council, speaking at Masses about HSYM events and projects.
7. **Fellowship:** Movie nights (HSM, Veggie tales, Lord rings marathons), Just Dance nights, Lock-in, coffee house, bowling, ski trip, trip to amusement park, sporting event, plays, NYC.
8. **Faith Journey:** attend Mass, pray, reflect, continue to participate in HSYM, DTS, practice faith, discussion, read the Bible, challenge yourself.