



**FOR:** ALL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TEENS, GRADES 9<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup>

**WHEN:** WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 7:00-8:30PM SEPTEMBER THROUGH APRIL

**WHERE:** IN THE HOMES OF YOUR "GODPARENTS"—A CATHOLIC MARRIED COUPLE FROM ST. BONAVENTURE, ST. ISIDORE, OR ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH WHO ARE FAITH-FILLED, FRIENDLY, AND FUN!

**WHO:** YOU AND OTHER TEENS IN YOUR GRADE LEVEL—  
FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, OR SENIORS

## WHAT IS THE GODTEEN PROGRAM?

The GodTeen Program (formerly known as Godparents) consists of small peer groups of teens meeting in the homes of their "Godparents" to talk about faith, how it applies to their daily lives, and support for living their faith. The atmosphere is one of openness, honesty, trust, and support. The program began at St. Bonaventure in 1995 and now has 32 Godparent couples and over 230 students from all three high schools!

Our evenings include icebreakers, prayer, lessons, activities designed to springboard into discussions of current topics and issues, Scripture, Christian music, and applying our Catholic faith perspectives to the issues we discuss. The final 30 minutes is social time reserved for great food, socializing, games, and fun!

The *GodTeen Program* is for *all high school teens in the Columbus area regardless of whether you attend a Catholic or public high school*. It is *not a religion class*. You will have the opportunity to make new friends, take a peaceful pause in the midst of your hectic schedules, and experience creative ways of looking at and talking about your faith. GodTeen groups form a special bond and become like a second family. It's one of the most beneficial things you can participate in during your high school years!

**REGISTRATION IS ATTACHED. PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2023  
SO WE KNOW HOW MANY COUPLES WE NEED TO RECRUIT AND TRAIN!**



Christmas Party



Icebreakers



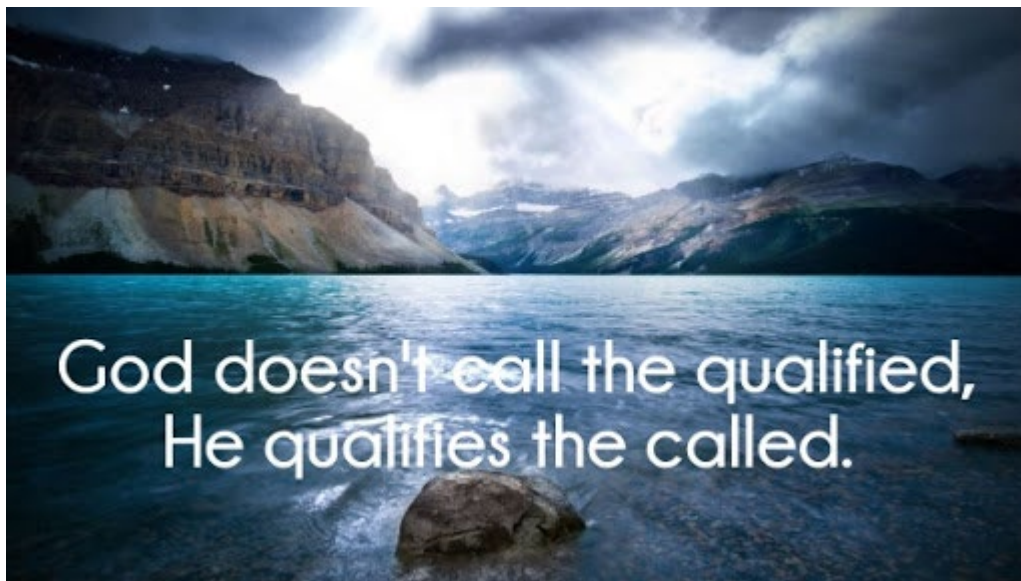
Halloween Fun

## Calling all Parents!!!

The only way this program continues is if we have faith-filled adults willing to give their time to our GodTeens. Here are ways you can serve our Church & Teens:

- 1) GodTeen Couple: Catholic married couple willing to open their hearts and home to freshmen Godteen groups. (Need 6-12)
- 2) GodTeen Helper: Adult or Parent willing to assist the Godteen Couples on Wednesday evenings. (Need 6)
- 3) GodTeen Parent Volunteer: Parents who sign-up when needed for the Large “Youth Nights” that are once a quarter throughout the GodTeen year.

Note: All volunteers must be Safe-Environment trained.



Please prayerfully discern if you are being called to get involved with the GodTeen Program. Let us know if you have any questions.

Contact Sarah for more information.

[columbuscym@gmail.com](mailto:columbuscym@gmail.com)



## Freshman Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level 2023-2024 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Teen Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$55.00 GodTeen Program Fee - Checks should be made payable to:  
CCYM (Columbus Catholic Youth Ministry) and need to be attached.

Please return this form to: CCYM, 1869 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Columbus, NE by July 1, 2023.

**There will be a \$5 late fee for any forms received after August 1, 2023.**

\*\*You will be notified via email the date of the GodTeen Kick-off night – this night is where your teen will meet their GodTeen couple.

## WHAT IS THE GODTEEN PROGRAM?

**Icebreakers** – They help us to get acquainted, feel more comfortable, begin to reveal safe things about ourselves, build trust within the group, and have some relaxed fun.

**Lighting the candle** – “God’s Time” – Lighting the candle ritualizes the beginning of a sacred environment, and it burns throughout the evening to remind us that God is present in our entire session.

**Activities** – They are very effective ways to step into topics and experience the feelings and beliefs that we have. Reflection and discussion after activities help us understand our own beliefs and feelings as well as to hear and try to understand other’s beliefs and feelings.

**Discussion** – We learn to articulate our beliefs and feelings and to respectfully listen to others. We challenge and affirm one another – respecting the differences.

**Journaling** – Quiet time with background music is suggested during journal time. Teens are given a notebook and asked to respect one another’s privacy. The teens have an opportunity to write about their activities, challenges, goals, or to process what they felt during the topic of the evening. Godparents write a short response to the teen before the next gathering.

**Social Time** – It’s a time to visit, play games, listen to music, relax, and enjoy great snacks!

Sarah Doerneman  
Youth Ministry Coordinator  
[columbuscym@gmail.com](mailto:columbuscym@gmail.com)

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## GodTeen Code of Conduct

The GodTeen Program is a program to help teens grow in their faith, being guided by community volunteers (GodTeen couples) who welcome teens into their homes & families each week for the entire four years of the teen's high school career. While in the GodTeen couple's home, there are certain guidelines/expectations that must be followed in order to provide an environment where each teen can share, learn and grow. Certain expectations are as follows:

1. Being respectful to the GodTeen couple (and their children).
2. Being respectful to the teens in their GodTeen group within and outside of their session.
3. Being respectful of the home and neighborhood in which their GodTeen couple lives.

If said guidelines cannot be upheld by the teen while participating GodTeens, it is grounds for the teen to be dismissed from the program.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to uphold the guidelines of the GodTeen program. I understand that if I do not comply with the above expectations, then I will be dismissed from the GodTeen program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Teen Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature)

Please write a short paragraph (about 3-5 sentences) why YOU (the teen) would like to participate in the GodTeen Program. This can include things you've heard about the program, reasons you think it would be beneficial, or what you hope to get out of GodTeens.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Parental/Guardian Consent Form and Liability Waiver

I, \_\_\_\_\_, grant permission for \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Parent or Guardian Name) (Participant Name)

to participate in the GodTeen Program during the 2023-2024 school year. As parent and/or legal guardian, I remain legally responsible for any personal actions taken by the above named minor (participant).

I agree on behalf of myself, my child named herein, or our heirs, successors, and assigns, to hold harmless and defend the GodTeen couple, St. Bonaventure, St. Isidore, St. Anthony, and the Archdiocese of Omaha, chaperones, or representatives associated with the program, arising from or in connection with my child attending the sessions or events or in connection with any liability, claims, property loss/damage, illness or injury or cost of medical treatment in connection therewith, and I agree to compensate the parish, it's officers, directors and agents, and the Archdiocese of Omaha, chaperons, or representative associated with the program for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses arising in connection therewith.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number for emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_