

HOLY REDEEMER

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Small Group Field Guide



To our small group members and hosts,

Connecting with others of our church family is a significant way for us to be connected to each other and form community. Small groups are a great way to live out the New Evangelization initiative of inviting and accompanying others on the faith journey. Being a disciple is a lifelong journey and forming close connections with our brothers and sisters in Christ helps us to always be taking that next step on our own unique discipleship path.

Our small groups challenge each other to love each other by encouraging each other through prayer, shared life experiences, and commitment to Jesus. In our hectic and busy lives, small groups provide connection and renewal as we all “keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2).

We have several programs (i.e. Alpha, Welcome (CRHP), Men’s and Women’s Retreats, RCIA) that model the small group atmosphere well and we would like to encourage them to continue meeting as a small group and would like to provide guidance and support to do so.

We, the Holy Redeemer Small Group Team, are eager to share with you the vision of Holy Redeemer Small Groups in this Field Guide. Thank you for your support of small groups at Holy Redeemer and continued efforts to provide a small group home for all of us on the faith journey.

May God breathe life and love on our small group gatherings!

Raffy Urgino

Emily Arthur

Molly Muxlow

Getting Started...

There are a couple roles that people will fill for each small group. There will be a Host and a Co-host for each small group.

The Host and Co-host are encouraged to keep an eye out for someone who proves to have potential as a host along the way, keeping in mind it would be a nurturing individual who is good at drawing out conversation and is growing in his or her own faith.

A Host may want to find a coordinator for various aspects of the group such as sending out meeting time reminders or announcements or coordinating social events.

For Holy Redeemer's small group launch, we would like the Host and Co-host to determine a day, time, and frequency in which they can meet. The Host and Co-host should also have a plan as to what the spiritual content is for the group.

As a Host, Co-host, or Host-in-training, Holy Redeemer will provide you support and encouragement through regular small group leadership .

Host	
Co-Host	
Host-in-training	
Meeting Day	
Meeting Time	
Group Members	
Coordinator	

Holy Redeemer's Mission

Serve God. Love People. Make Disciples.

Serve God

Here, we are committed to making Sunday Matter in your everyday life. Sunday matters, because you matter. You were created for more than this world could ever offer. We work very hard to make Mass, Jesus, and your Faith come alive. In our weekend messages, you will be given inspiration, encouragement, and the grace you need to live out this awesome faith in your home, community, and workplace.

Love People

Here, Christ is truly moving in our lives, and we want you to know that you are not alone in your faith journey. We want to join you, right where you are at. Whatever burdens you bear, whatever is going on in your life; you really are welcome here.

Make Disciples

We intentionally seek to become who God created us to be, a people committed to the mission of Christ. We challenge each other to live a life uncommon, to become his disciples.

We all have our unique and meaningful place in the Body of Christ and here at Holy Redeemer. You belong; you are welcome, just as you are.

Next Steps

The heart of our church is to become growing disciples, who are giving the whole of our lives to God, not merely checking off boxes of going through the motions. So we are always challenging and encouraging the members of our church to take the next step that is the next step for them.

Serve – We have been given unique gifts and talents by God. Using our gifts to serve in the church creates an inspiring movement of beauty, life, and renewal as we witness how God equips His people for the many and assorted needs of the church.

Tithe – We seek to honor God in all areas of life, and this includes our finances. As stewards, not owners, of the resources God has given us, we are called to sacrificial giving, which means percentage, progressive giving to the local church and the poor.

Engage – We believe faith grows in a circle. In small groups, we grow in fellowship and relationship with one another, God, and in ways we cannot grow on our own. Small groups are where our big church gets small.

Practice – We know God wants us to live lives of integrity and virtue that stem from our personal relationship with Christ. We strive to practice daily prayer, Scripture reading, and full participation in the Sacraments to receive grace for our faith growth.

Share- We want others to experience the life-changing message of the Gospel. Our strategy is to “invest and invite”. That simply means we invest in the relationships we have with people in our loves and when the time comes, invite them to church with us.

Small Groups

Vision

Generations upon generations will come to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ

Mission

Creating small group environments where disciples can grow

Strategy

1. Feeder programs – Alpha, Welcome (CRHP), Men’s and Women’s Retreats, RCIA
2. Leadership Development
3. Resources
4. Encouragement
5. Events
6. Identify groups with “open-chair mentality”

“Yes, I have many human faults and failures... But God bends down and uses us, you and me, to be his love and his compassion in the world; he bears our sins, our troubles and our faults. He depends on us to love the world and to show how much he loves it. If we are too concerned with ourselves, we will have no time left for others.”

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Leadership Development

Lead as you Follow!

Christ is the true leader of each small group. He is the one around whom our circles are gathered. As we follow Christ and grow in our relationship with Him, as spiritual leaders we will lead others into encounters with God. Small groups are one of the means we use to help each other draw closer into a personal relationship with Christ, learning to rely upon Him, turn to Him and opening our hearts to Him in each moment of our daily lives. As we grow in discipleship, we change and our lives bear witness to that change.

Leadership Matters!

As we lead others, we will be helping them find their purpose and identity in Christ. We serve as role models for our group members and call others to transformation and into leadership. Leaders change the atmosphere and cast vision and that encourages the group to go deeper in discipleship and to move outward in service. Small group leadership is a ministry, approached with a servant's heart. Becoming an effective leader is a journey—one that constantly challenges us to grow and evolve.

Three ways Successful Leaders Grow

1. Partnership – no leader will ever lead alone
 - a. Ministry Team – Raffy Urgino and Emily Arthur
 - b. Co-host
 - c. Leadership Gathering
2. Encouragement and Information
 - a. Holy Redeemer Library
<http://www.holyredeemerburton.org/adult-formation>
 - b. Events where leaders gather to learn and grow together
3. Growth and Development
 - a. Five L's of Leadership
 - i. Listen, Learn, Love, Lead, Laugh

Roles

The Small Group Host

- Models the habits of a healthy small group
- Actively participates at Holy Redeemer
- Navigates the group meetings
- Monitors and promotes group health
- Participates in small group leadership development events and encourages co-host, coordinators, and members to do the same
- Shares leadership responsibilities

Co-Host

- Models what the Host does and assists in leading

Members

- Show up consistently, continue to grow in faith, and look to take their next STEP.

Coordinators

- Coordinate group activities: timer, social, snacks, missions, etc

Hosts: Getting Started

Before each group meeting:

- Pray
- Preview materials and the discussion questions
- Leader or Co-leader communicates to confirm location and attendance

During each group meeting:

- Fellowship for approximately 10-15 minutes
- Open in prayer
- Introduce and study the material
- Lead a discussion referring to weekly questions as a guide – questions are guidelines only
- Announcements and upcoming events
- Close in prayer

First Meeting

- Pray before group arrives
- Have materials ready: Bible, DVD, questions, etc
- Pray as a group
- Have everyone introduce themselves – be creative
- Ask someone to collect everyone's contact information including birthdays
- Discuss a plan for upcoming meetings
- Distribute small group covenant and discuss
- Use the remaining time for DVD series and discussion questions
- Pray with group to conclude the meeting – be sure to add any intentions and prayers needed.

Members: You matter!

Discover your purpose:

- Attendance – Sometimes you need the group and other times the group needs you. In order to feel the difference, showing up is all you need to do. Transform your life and just show up!
- Bring your Bible and a Journal – Small group is where the rubber hits the road. It's all about application of the Word of God. So bring you Bible and take notes so you remember what inspired and motivated you!
- Committed growing disciple with a purpose and a plan – Living in the truth in Jesus Christ, the whole of God's truth has been made manifest. "Full of grace and truth," he came as the "light of the world", he is the Truth. "Whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness." The disciple of Jesus continues in his word so as to know "the truth [that] will make you free and that sanctifies. To follow Jesus is to live in "the Spirit of Truth", whom the Father sends in his name and who leads "into all the truth". To his disciples Jesus teaches the unconditional love of truth: "Let what you say be simply 'Yes or No'". CCC 2466

Three Healthy Small Group Habits:

1. Prayer

- Pray together weekly
- Pray for your members
- Pray for each other

2. Authenticity

- Be honest
- Be non-judgmental
- Be willing to examine your relationship with God
- Be humble

3. Commitment

- Support the vision and mission of Holy Redeemer
- Attend meetings regularly
- Share life's joys and challenges through our faith
- Conduct meetings with respect of our Catholic tradition while remaining open and welcoming to those of all faiths
- Accept the ongoing challenge to "invest and invite"
- Encourage each other to grow in our faith

This field guide was adapted from Nativity's Field Guide 2018 available to us through the Rebuilt Parish Association.

Small Group Member Covenant

As a member of a Holy Redeemer Small Group, it is important that we have a few guidelines to assist us in growing in our faith and keeping us on a good path.

Group Guidelines:

1. Our group will meet on this day _____ from _____ to _____.
2. Group members will make every effort to attend group meetings.
3. If unable to attend a meeting, it is expected that you will email all the members of the group.
4. All of the members will strive to be on time and stay until the group ends in prayer.
5. All information shared in the group is confidential.
6. Respect others and be authentic.
7. Members will pray with and for one another.

Holy Redeemer Small Group Member

Date

Small Group Host Covenant

Holy Redeemer Small Group Hosts are committed to creating environments where disciples can grow more disciples. Leadership of a Holy Redeemer small group is viewed as an important ministry promoting discipleship and growing faith.

Small group hosts and co-hosts agree to the following minimum standards that are intended to foster growing disciples in hosts, co-hosts, coordinators, small group members, and the entire Holy Redeemer Faith Community:

- Support a host-in-training
- Pray regularly for the members
- Communicates weekly with the groups
- Identify and develop a co-host and coordinators
- Invest and invite others into a small group when the time is right
- Commit to and create a growing vision for your small group
- Update small group contact information with Molly Muxlow (mollymuxlow@gmail.com) on at least a quarterly basis

Holy Redeemer Small Group Host

Date

Getting Started Plan:

Meeting Date and Time:

Frequency:

Location:

First meeting:

Spiritual Content: