

What Is PYM?

PYM stands for “Parish Youth Ministry”



PYM is a committee of the Diocese of Virginia that is made up of 25-30 high school students from around the diocese. They plan and leads retreat weekends for middle and high school youth from any Episcopal Church in the diocese that are held at Shrine Mont. They also organize one-day events called “Youth Day of Service.” Members of the PYM committee, known as PYMers, also serve at the Diocesan Annual Council meeting as pages and volunteer assistants.



Retreat Weekends

All PYM retreat weekends are held at Shrine Mont. The program begins with a whole group gathering on Friday evening. Each retreat has a spiritual theme that is integrated into activities throughout the weekend. Youth are assigned to a small group that meets throughout the weekend and travels together to different activity stations. They will enjoy singing “camp” type songs, playing games, doing projects, and exploring Shrine Mont.

It’s a great chance for the youth from one parish to connect with something bigger than just their own youth group. And if nothing else, it’s a lot of fun. On Saturday evening there’s always a fun evening program like a Carnival or a Dance. We share Holy Eucharist on Sunday morning before we head home.



Senior High Weekend (9-12)
6th & 7th Grade Weekend
8th Grade Weekend

Nov. 3 - 5, 2017
April 20 - 22, 2018
May 18 - 20, 2018

How Many People Go to PYM?

Generally about 200 youth from across the diocese. The 8th grade weekend is intended to be more intimate with about 100 participants attending.

Where will we Stay and Eat?

Youth stay with a roommate in the Shrine Mont hotel or in cottages next to the hotel. We eat in the Shrine Mont Hotel dining hall, gather in the Ballroom for large group activities, and hold all of our other programming in or around other parts of the hotel.

Do Parents Go?

Youth typically come to PYM with their church youth group, chaperoned by their adult youth group leaders and/or youth director. PYM events are not like camp, where the youth get dropped off and then picked back up at the end. Youth must be accompanied by an adult for the weekend.