July 2018

Dear St. Joan of Arc parishioners,

Greetings to each of you and your families! My name is Jason McKean, and as you may have read in Fr. Dan's bulletin message a few weeks ago, I am serving as SJA's new youth minister. In that role, I hope to help the teens of our parish (7th-12th grade) build their own community here – fun; engaging; marked by great friends, service, and leadership; and infused with the Good News we all share in! Part of my role will also be to help our teens, should they wish, find a place in our cluster of parishes as well once our community is off and running: SJA participates in the United Catholic Youth Ministry program in our cluster, so there are many niches to grow into once we get rolling here at SJA.

A little about me: my family (Teri, my awesome partner, and equally super kids (who are 16, 12, 5, and 2) and I have been at SJA for about a year, and we've been in Skokie-Evanston since 2015. I work in the Dean of Students Office at Northwestern; before that I ran college residence hall communities, and started my career as a middle school teacher. Over time, I've advised, salvaged, or created about 12 student groups, so I'm excited to be with teens here to add a faith direction to the leaders our youth are becoming.

As always when starting a new thing, there are lots of needs – first and foremost being teens (parents, this is where you can give the bulletin to your teen and low-key excitedly point this out to them). I'll be at the back of church after Mass the next two weekends of July 28-29 and August 4-5, so teens, look for me! I've got some ideas for things to do: ice cream and game nights, trips, teen Masses, service experiences, mentor time – but surely you all will have better stuff! If you miss me, we can always connect via email: jsnmck77@gmail.com. I have Snapchat and Instagram too, but my daughters say "Dad, no…" – so it's just email or face-to-face for now. Look forward to meeting you!

Jason McKean