



NCYC 2025
November 20-22
Indianapolis, Indiana

Packing List

<https://oec.dor.org/youth-ministry/ncyc/2025portal/>

- ▶ Diocesan shirt (WORN THURSDAY)
- ▶ Parish shirt(s) (if applicable)
- ▶ Trading items (if applicable)
- ▶ Comfortable walking shoes (no flip flops or heels)
- ▶ Warm/Rain outerwear to meet the weather needs (check forecast)
- ▶ Diocesan winter hat
- ▶ Approved clear bag for daily gear at the conference
- ▶ Sweatshirt
- ▶ Comfortable travel clothing for the bus (NO PAJAMAS on the bus)
- ▶ Nightwear for the hotel
- ▶ Casual clothing for conference days

We ask that if your son or daughter takes daily medicine, that it is listed on the health form and is taken under the supervision of his or her group leader. Any prescribed medication should be in its original prescription bottle.

Packing List

<https://oec.dor.org/youth-ministry/ncyc/2025portal/>

- ▶ Toiletries
- ▶ Water bottle
- ▶ Small bible or journal
- ▶ Money for lunches/dinners (as applicable to parish) and souvenirs
- ▶ Bus snacks (Please avoid peanut snacks)
- ▶ Cell phone
- ▶ Small travel pillow or blanket for the bus
- ▶ **VALUABLES SHOULD BE LEFT AT HOME**

Pilgrims should also avoid bringing gaming systems for their hotel room, laptops, tablets, and other entertainment devices. In addition to these items being valuable, they can distract pilgrims for immersing themselves in the NCYC experience.

Departure: Wednesday
November 19

Bus 1- *Gina Capellazzi*
(Captain)

-Depart: 3:00pm- St.
Marianne Cope- Guardian
Angels Church (Henrietta)

Bus 2- *Sean Esposito* (Captain)

-Depart: 3:00pm- St.
Marianne Cope- Guardian
Angels Church (Henrietta)

Bus 3- *Corey Ginett* (Captain)

-Depart: 3:30pm- Our Lady
of Peace- St. Stephen
Church (Geneva)



We have used Anderson bus company for many years now with excellent results! Buses are equipped with bathrooms, comfortable seating, ample storage and outlets for charging. It is important to arrive 30 minutes prior to departure to allow time for buses to be loaded and keep your group on schedule! We have a parish group leader on each bus that serves as a bus captain. The bus captains keep in communication with the diocesan staff and serve as a liaison with the bus drivers. Pilgrims should dress comfortably but please no pajamas. A small travel pillow and light blanket are allowed but we do not have room for large items as our buses are quite full. Stops are at the discretion of the driver, so do not plan on food stops. A to-go dinner and snacks are welcome. We just ask that snacks be nut-free to respect our pilgrims who have allergies. It is appropriate to set aside some money to add to the tip envelope for the driver as it passed.



1:00-2:00 A.M.
ARRIVAL
Thursday,
November 20

Members of the diocesan team will be there to greet pilgrims, with room keys in hand, and get them to their rooms swiftly and safely so that they can get right to sleep. Young people are typically quite sleepy at this time, so if you are awaiting a text and don't receive one upon their arrival, it may be due to some sleep brain fog. It is suggested that you track your son or daughter's location so you know when they arrive and can avoid worrying that you didn't receive a text. Groups may want to establish a parent group text, where a group leader can notify all parents at once.

Hampton Inn Indianapolis Downtown



Our HOME BASE

If a young person needs something in their hotel room (extra pillow, blanket, towel, etc.), they should tell a chaperone. Chaperones should be the only individuals contacting hotel staff. The only people that should be in each hotel room should be the people assigned to that room. There are not to be any co-ed gatherings in hotel rooms. This includes a brother and sister who may be visiting one another. This ensures the code of conduct is being followed. A nightly curfew will be established and at that time, all individuals are to be in their assigned rooms. Our diocesan team will walk the halls of the hotel until a reasonable hour, to ensure safety, proper hotel etiquette with noise, etc., and be present to handle any issues that arise. We work closely with hotel security to oversee the safety of all our participants and members of our team take shifts at the hotel entrances to make sure our delegation is safe and where they are expected to be.

Pilgrims should know the name, location, and telephone number of the hotel. Room doors should be locked at all time and only opened when leaving the room or people known to pilgrims are at the door. Pilgrims should review emergency evacuation procedures for the hotel (usually posted on the back of the door).

As a sign of Christian charity and of our gratitude, we ask that our group tip the hotel

housekeeping staff. As a guide, the tip should be \$2.00 per person per day.

Breakfast included



THURSDAY ~ FRIDAY ~ SATURDAY

- Eggs
- Bacon/breakfast sausage
- Hot biscuits with gravy
- Waffles
- Bagels/pastries/croissants/muffins
- Fruit
- Yogurt
- Cereals
- Coffee, tea, juice, and milk

If your son or daughter has any dietary needs that will not be met by this daily breakfast, please consult with us on how we can make sure they get the nutrition they require. Please note that coffee is served as part of the buffet and intended for adults. It is important to talk with your teen about caffeine intake and the long days they will be experiencing. Loading their systems with caffeine and then crashing in the afternoon will make it very difficult to sustain the energy required for the pace of the conference!



The conference venues are all within a short walk of our hotel. Participants will be accompanied by adult volunteers whenever leaving the hotel. Because we are in a downtown setting, you may want to converse with your child about what they might experience regarding city life if they are not familiar with that environment. We advise students to avoid interaction with individuals who might try to engage with them on the streets, to be mindful of their surroundings, and to adhere to sidewalks, traffic lights, and crosswalk usage. A great benefit of our proximity to the conference venues will be the ease at which we can travel to and from the events each day, saving ourselves a lot of travel time that would extend our days if we stayed outside the city. Being so close, it might be tempting for youth to head back to the hotel to grab a forgotten sweatshirt, use the bathroom or take a nap. This is not allowed under any circumstances without the accompaniment of an adult and approval by our Diocesan team and will result in a call home or more extensive consequences.



Indiana Convention Center & St. John the Evangelist Church

The Indiana Convention Center is where pilgrims will spend most of their time during NCYC! This is where the breakout sessions take place. It is also the home of the Interactive Exhibit Hall. The breakout sessions will take place in various spaces within the convention center. The interactive exhibit hall will be in halls C-E. A prayer chapel is open for several hours each day in room 133. Reconciliation is available for several hours on Friday and Saturday. Daily Mass will be offered several times each day at St. John the Evangelist. There are also quiet spaces where a young person who is over-stimulated by crowds or noise can spend some time resting.



Lucas Oil Stadium

Lucas Oil Stadium is the home of the general keynote sessions on Thursday evening, Friday, and Saturday. It is also where the closing Mass will be on Saturday evening. The staff of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), the organizers of NCYC, work with local authorities to ensure the well-being of all those at NCYC. Our groups will be very safe as they navigate between these conference venues. Again, because we will be in a major city, our groups should be aware that they may encounter people who are homeless or who are suffering in other ways.

THURSDAY November 20, 2025

6:00 A.M. - Noon

- ❑ Breakfast: 6:00-9:30 AM
- ❑ Meet & Greet with Diocesan Staff/Snack Bag Packing
- ❑ Registration Open
- ❑ Leave Hotel
- ❑ Circle Centre Mall
- ❑ Mall scavenger hunt available for groups.

Noon - 10:00 P.M.

- ❑ Daily Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church: 12:10 PM
- ❑ Interactive Exhibit Hall Open: 2:00 PM
- ❑ Eucharistic Procession: 4:00 PM
- ❑ Parish Dinners
- ❑ Opening NCYC Session: 7:00 PM

10:00 - 11:00 P.M.

- ❑ Return to Hotel
- ❑ Prayer & Share
- ❑ Chaperone Meeting, as needed
- ❑ Curfew: 11:00 PM

Busy Day! WE ASK THAT PILGRIMS WEAR THEIR DIOCESAN T-SHIRT on Thursday as our group identifying gear. They can wear any comfortable clothes they would like to the conference. Pilgrims should wear appropriate outerwear for the weather and shoes for walking. NO FLIP FLOPS OR HEELS and SOCKS are recommended in case there are long security lines in chilly temperatures!

As you can see, our delegation will kick off our time together by attending daily Mass at St. John the Evangelist which is in walking distance of our hotel. The diocesan team will be in regular communication with CHAPERONES/GROUP LEADERS. We encourage parents to be in regular communication with them as well. This can be such a gift as sometimes young people will contact parents about an illness or other situation but will not share it with chaperones/group leaders.


When we reach curfew, please know that members of the diocesan team will be walking the hotel floors where our rooms are to ensure pilgrims are in their rooms and quiet.

Friday November 21, 2025

- ▶ Breakfast- 6:00-8:30 A.M.
- ▶ NCYC Conference- 8:00 A.M. -10:00 P.M.
- ▶ Digital Encounter with Pope Leo
- ▶ Interactive Exhibit Hall
- ▶ General Keynote Sessions
- ▶ Breakout Sessions (Tracks for young people & adults)
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Parish Prayer and Share
- ▶ Trading
- ▶ Parish Lunch & Dinner
- ▶ Adoration, Daily Mass, & Reconciliation
- ▶ Evening Prayer at Hotel
- ▶ Curfew- 11:00 P.M.



Friday will be a very full day for our youth and chaperones. This is why sleep and good nutrition as well as HYDRATION will be essential during the Conference.



Join the NCYC Encounter with Pope Leo XIV from home!

- ▶ Friday, November 21, 2025, at 10:15 am ET | 7:15 am PT
- ▶ A comprehensive digital experience of this NCYC session is available to all!
- ▶ A great way to accompany your child on this NCYC journey.
- ▶ Learn more at <https://ncyc.us/>

On this day, for the first time ever, a pope will engage directly with young people at NCYC—and for Pope Leo XIV, this will be his first-ever digital dialogue with young people in the United States. Pope Leo XIV will participate in a 45-minute real-time dialogue with our young people.

You can be part of this dialogue from home. Registration is free and open to everyone. Those that register to be apart of this dialogue from home will also be entered to win passes to 2026 NCYC, a limited-edition NCYC hat like Pope Leo's, and more!



On Friday, pilgrims will experience several other large sessions in the stadium with approximately 15,000 people. These sessions will include a variety of prayer experiences, sacred music, and inspiring witnesses of faith by national Catholic speakers. The large session in the evening will allow pilgrims to experience the presence of Jesus through Eucharist adoration and the sacrament of confession (if so moved). It is pretty powerful! Pilgrims will also attend smaller breakout sessions that will allow them to interact with others and that will address topics such as discipleship, social justice, being faithful when friends are not, being a leader in the church, and many more. Encourage your child to make the most of these sessions. Lastly, pilgrims will have time to explore the interactive exhibit hall. There, they will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of service projects, interact with ministries/religious communities from across the country, and take part in some engaging activities.



Saturday November 18, 2025

- ▶ Breakfast: 6:00-8:30 AM
- ▶ Room Check-out & Bus Loading: 8:00 A.M.
- ▶ General Keynote Session
- ▶ Breakout Sessions (Tracks for young people & adults)
- ▶ Interactive Exhibit Hall
- ▶ Reconciliation
- ▶ Parish Lunch & Dinner
- ▶ Parish Prayer and Share
- ▶ Closing Mass: 8:00 PM (Don't forget about the collection!)
- ▶ Buses depart for Rochester immediately following Mass!!!

Help your child to do the “repacking” by creating a checklist that they can bring to pack up for home!

Sunday November 23, 2025

▶ Buses return to original pick-up locations at approximately 9:00 a.m. Exact pick-up times will be communicated to families.



Returning to New York

▶ When your child comes home from NCYC, the experience will be fresh — so fresh it may be hard to put into words. Consider these or similar questions to get the discussion going.

- ▶ What was one thing you heard that you do NOT want to forget?
- ▶ Who was the best presenter you saw? What did (s)he say that stood out to you?
- ▶ When did you feel closest to God while at NCYC?
- ▶ What was the hardest part about going to NCYC? What challenged you?
- ▶ How would you describe being with so many other teens who share your beliefs, values and faith?

Help your child take what they learned from NCYC and put it into action!

Keys to Youth NOT Having Family Called & NCYC Experience Ending

- ▶ Stay out of the hotel rooms of fellow pilgrims of the opposite gender (this includes a brother and sister in separate rooms visiting one another)!
- ▶ Follow the CODE OF CONDUCT from NFCYM including:
 - ▶ No use of alcohol, drugs or vape/cigarette products
 - ▶ No possession of weapons
- ▶ Always behave in a respectful manner toward all participants; no violence and no inappropriate contact is allowed (refer to the code of conduct).

Keys to Youth NOT to Having Family Called & NCYC Experience Ending

- ▶ Stay in hotel room after curfew and be respectful of roommates and other hotel guests by being quiet.
- ▶ Return to hotel with parish group only after the last conference session of the day.
- ▶ Refrain from ordering pay per view and room service in hotel.
- ▶ Refrain from using city rental scooters.
- ▶ Being respectful and following policies on bus!

NCYC Behavior Guidelines

- ▶ Refrain from stopping, standing, or sitting in walkways or at the top or bottom of escalators.
- ▶ Do not make jokes or threats about weapons, bombs, or other dangerous acts.
- ▶ Stay in your room if exhibiting symptoms of illness.
- ▶ Avoid saving seats for late-arriving group members.
- ▶ Make sure chairs are not used to store bags, coats, or other personal items.

NCYC Behavior Guidelines

- ▶ Stay out of blocked-off seating sections.
- ▶ Refrain from standing on seats or sitting on the shoulders of another participant.
- ▶ Do not crowd surf, create a mosh pit, or "human chain," or other similar behavior.
- ▶ Stay off a stage, including its staircase or ramp, unless a production crew member invites individual to do so.
- ▶ Refrain from throwing liquids or objects, including but not limited to clothespins, frisbees, beach balls, or balloons.
- ▶ Avoid using vuvuzelas, air horns, and laser pointers. Security may confiscate these prohibited items.

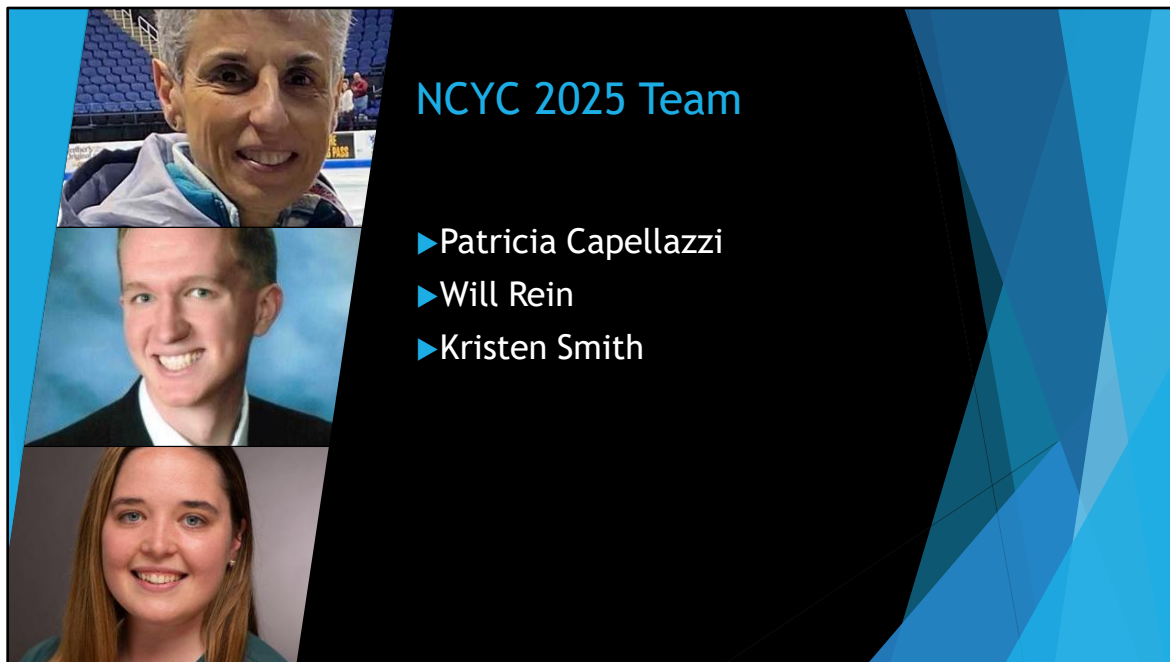
NCYC Behavior Guidelines

- ▶ Wear credentials at all times while in the facilities.
- ▶ Follow the instructions of local police, security staff, and volunteers.
- ▶ Carry photographic identification—driver's license, passport, or school identification.
- ▶ Make a mental note of in-house phones, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, and exit locations.
- ▶ Know group leader/chaperone's name and how to contact them in an emergency.
- ▶ Keep group informed of whereabouts, especially group leader.
- ▶ Always travel with a buddy
- ▶ Report safety concerns and anyone without proper credentials or behaving strangely to staff or security personnel.

A full list of these guidelines can be found on the NCYC 2025 portal. Please review them with your child.



There have been several references to the diocesan team that will be present in Indianapolis for NCYC 2025. I wanted to briefly share who makes up that team. The team consists of the three members of the Diocesan Office of Evangelization & Catechesis: Leslie Barkin (Director of the office), myself, and Don Smith (Coordinator of Sacramental Catechesis). The three of us have been to several conferences.

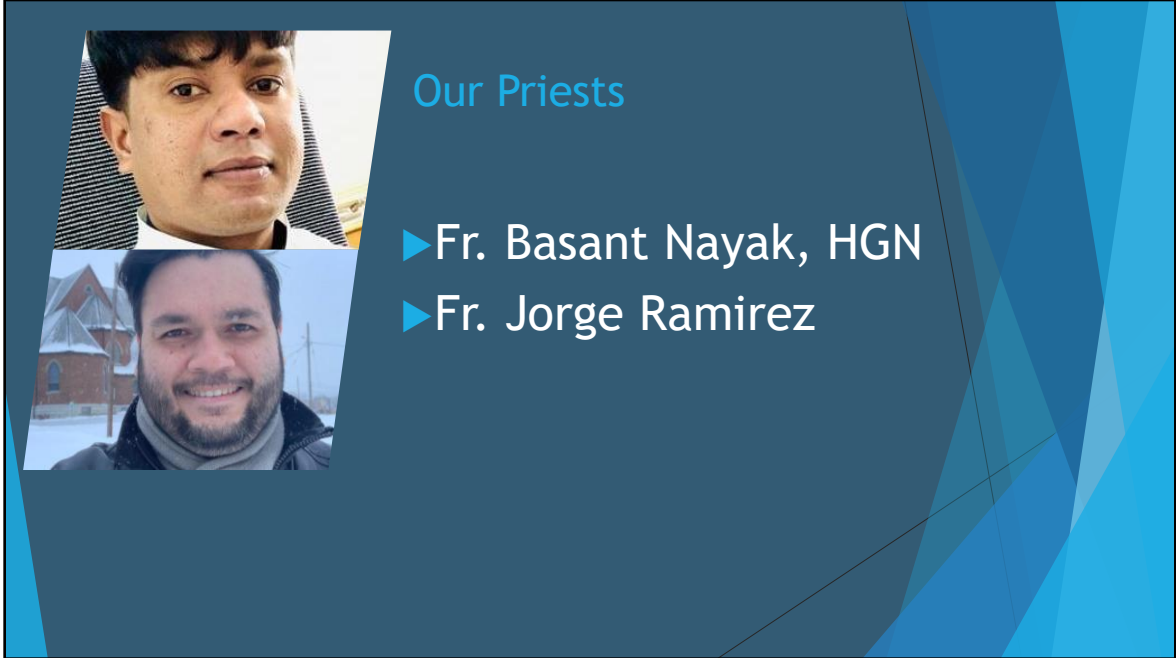


The diocesan team also consists three other members who will share their gifts to help ensure that NCYC is an enriching experience.

Patricia Capellazzi is an active member of the Parish of the Holy Family, was a part of the diocesan NCYC team in 2023 and brings 40+ years experience as a registered nurse. I am grateful God blessed me with a nurse as my mom!

Will Rein is the Pastoral Associate at Peace of Christ Parish in Rochester. Will has over ten years of parish ministry experience both here in our diocese and the Archdiocese of Boston. This is first NCYC and he is looking forward to sharing the love of God with our pilgrims.

Kristen Smith, the wife of Don Smith, has extensive experience in youth ministry and college campus ministry. She is currently a campus minister for the RIT Newman community.



Our Priests

- ▶ Fr. Basant Nayak, HGN
- ▶ Fr. Jorge Ramirez

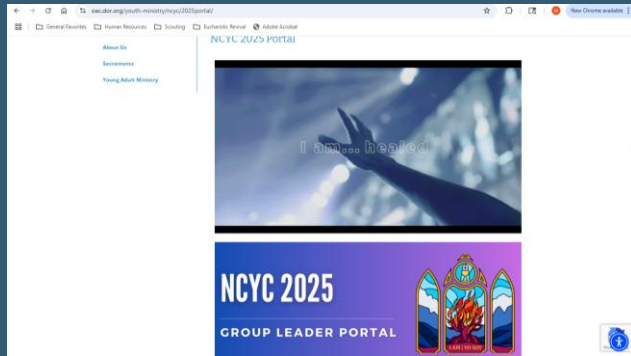
For the first since 2019, we are blessed to have some of our priests joining us on the pilgrimage.

Father Basant Nayak is parochial vicar at St. John of Rochester in Fairport. Father Nayak is a part of the Heralds of Good News (HGN), a religious order of missionary priests from India.

Father Ramirez or Father George, as he is often called, is the pastor at Holy Trinity in Webster. He is originally from Colombia and was ordained as a priest for our diocese in 2016.

NCYC 2025 Portal

<https://oec.dor.org/youth-ministry/ncyc/2025portal/>



Our office has a portal for NCYC 2025. There is a section dedicated to families with information that will help you prepare your child for the pilgrimage.



PRAYER



Prayer of Blessing

- ▶ Holy Spirit of Love we pray to you for our youth who are about to embark on this NCYC pilgrimage. Fill their hearts with the certainty that you have chosen them to love, to praise, and to serve! Enable them to savor your friendship. Fill them with your joy and consolation. Give them the courage to face the challenges of our time and the joy of living in friendship with you, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen!



Questions?