

FAQs

Welcome! We are so happy that you are exploring being a Small Group Host!

Jesus called people in Matthew 4 by simply saying, "Follow me."

If you're willing to follow our lead, as we follow Jesus, we'll help you on this journey!

Please read through these frequently asked questions.

Submit the interest form and we'll give you a call!

What are Small Group Seasons and Launches?

Although some groups enjoy getting together year-round, official Small Group "Seasons" are 6-7 weeks in the fall and 6-7 weeks during Lent. Each season is preceded by a "Launch Weekend" when everyone in the parish is encouraged to sign up for groups online. When people sign up for a small group or when you host a small group, your commitment is only for the upcoming 6-7 week season.

When will my small group meet?

As a small group host, YOU get to choose the day and time! Although a limited number of small groups meet at the parish after weekday Mass, most of our small groups meet in homes at the time of the host's choosing. You can even host a group on Zoom! In-person groups usually last for 90 minutes, and Zoom groups for 45-60 minutes.

What resource will we use?

Each season, Michael and Lisa, with the approval of Fr. Larry, choose at least one recommended resource for Small Groups. In the Fall, a book or video series is offered, and during Lent, we like to use the Sunday Mass readings each week. Some groups choose their own resource, and we support them in this.

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The Practical Stuff

Hosting a small group is like hosting a group of friends:

- If hosting in your home, all you really need is one room and a bathroom! Hosting a small group is not about having an instagram-ready house, it's about the people. Everyone has dirty dishes, toys, paw prints, and furniture they don't especially like...don't worry about these things!
- Offer simple refreshments; no need to be fancy. We suggest you provide the first week and then allow other participants to take turns bringing something. This allows group members to feel more responsibility for the group.
- Greet people at the door, especially the first week.
- We will provide you with nametags. Wear them the first few weeks, until everyone knows each other's names. Avoid the embarrassment of forgetting someone's name and feeling too far along in the season to admit it!

Who will support me when I start Hosting?

You will be part of a supportive community of small group hosts.

We have a **Small Group Leadership Team** designed to care for all of our small group hosts. We are here to walk with you! Your **Small Group Coach** will be here for you and you can always email Michael and Lisa at smallgroups@stmaryhudson.cc.

Before each new season of small groups you will be invited to a **retreat** just for you; an opportunity to prepare spiritually to lead a small group and dive more deeply into the parish resource. At the conclusion of each season, hosts gather for a **You Rock!** event, featuring dinner, sharing wins, and an opportunity to gather in fellowship and fun.

Submit the Interest form - we'd love to talk with you more!
