



Journeymen - Founded Spring 2019

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Raleigh, North Carolina

Journeymen...because we are all men on a journey.

What's the purpose of the group?

To build genuine friendships among men at St. Francis and have a place to discuss faith, work, relationships, struggles, successes, family life, etc. – anything the group decides would be interesting or helpful to discuss.

How is it different from a Bible Study or other men's groups?

Journeymen focuses on building relationships with other men by sharing a meal and sharing everyday life experiences. While studying Scripture (Bible Study) and serving the community (Knights) are tremendously important, this is more of a small Christian community faith sharing group.

What's the format?

We rotate meetings at different homes. The group meets every 3 weeks, typically on Thursdays from 6:30pm-10pm. The first half we enjoy a casual meal with beer/wine and lots of laughter. The second half we have remarkably deep discussions that focus on a specific topic. Each session one volunteer arrives prepared to serve as the discussion facilitator. Topics vary widely, including "Why Do Men Suck at Making Friends?", "The Joy of Fatherhood", "Exploring Catholic Social Teaching", "Family Budgeting", "Fruits of the Spirit". Each Journeymen group chooses the topics they feel would be valuable to discuss together. Usually, 12-18 men show up for any given session. When regular attendance grows beyond that, we begin a new Journeymen group so hosting isn't overly burdensome, and discussions can continue to be highly participatory.

Who is in the group?

We are diverse in many ways. Some of the guys are in their early 20's and single, many are married in their 30's and 40's, and some are in their 50's, 60's, 70's, and early 80's. Many different places on life's journey are here, but we all have one thing in common: desiring to share and grow in their faith journey with other men and to talk about things that truly matter in our lives. Among us we have founders of our parish as well as inquirers brand new to Catholicism and St. Francis. We have diversity in pretty much any category you can think of – even political affiliation!

Is it any fun?

Well, we start with interesting guys who are trying their best to follow Jesus Christ. Then we add good food plus beer/wine...so yeah, we share a lot of laughs. Each Fall we rent cabins at Hanging Rock State Park for the weekend and enjoy hiking, bonfires, great discussions, plentiful dad jokes, and mediocre food!

What kind of guys would like Journeymen?

Men who are searching to become better men, better husbands, better leaders and willing to be open and honest with other men in a confidential setting. We start with building strong friendships, and God takes it from there.

For more information, contact St. Francis Parishioners Matthew Kane at Matthew@MatthewKane.org or Jacob House at jacob.w.house@gmail.com