



# Signs & Wonders

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH RALLY 2023

Miracles are not just in Scripture! If we look, we can see that they happen everyday! We can stand in awe and wonder of God's amazing gracing in our lives and in the world.

Join Middle School Youth from around the Archdiocese to embrace the signs and wonders that God has done in our lives!

NYCYD will include:

- Great music
- Fun
- Inspiring speakers
  - Cecilia Flores
  - Brian Greenfield
  - Danny Ray
- A massive service project
- and Mass with Bishop Joseph Espallat!

**April 23, 2023**

**12:30pm - 5:00pm**  
**St. Joseph's Seminary**  
**Yonkers**

**\$25**  
**(\$45 after 4-1-23)**



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# Signs & Wonders

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**Magician, Illusionist & Speaker**  
**Danny Ray**

A magician with a Master's in Divinity! He has performed and spoken at LifeTeen's Catholic Youth Ministry Conferences, the National Youth Workers' Conferences, and appeared on the CW's Penn and Teller's Fool Us and won! He knows that when people are in a state of awe and wonder, they are more open to hearing deep spiritual truth. Danny and his wife started their ministry 17 years ago.



**Speaker**  
**Cecilia Marie Flores**

A featured speaker at the Steubenville Youth Conferences. She has served the Lord since encountering Him in the Eucharist at the age of 16. She followed his call to Honduras where she lived for 6 years as a missionary. Cecilia is a wife, mother, and proud Filipina and finds joy in loving those in need, leading worship, and eating at McDonald's French fries.



**Speaker**  
**Brian Greenfield**

Born and raised in Washington, DC. While attending Seton Hall University. While there, God moved powerfully in his heart and life. Brian believes that God has given him gifts to bring the message of Jesus Christ to others and knows that there is a prevailing hopelessness in this world that can only be remedied through an encounter with Christ. Brian is currently the Director of Campus Ministry at Jesuit High School in Tampa, Florida.



**Mass with**  
**Bishop Joseph**  
**Espailat**



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK  
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**Registration Information:**  
**ArchNY.org/youth-faith-formation**

# Middle School Youth Rally

April 23, 2023

St. Joseph's Seminary Dunwoody, NY

## **IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**

Please review the "Middle School Youth Rally Registration Instructions" to make sure registration is complete and received on time. For registrations received **on or before March 31, 2023 the cost is \$25.00** per attendee. *Late Registrations received on or after April 1<sup>st</sup> include a \$20 late fee, may not include MSYR Swag and are not eligible for any financial assistance.* Tickets are non-refundable. Substitutions can be made if the adult/youth ratios are maintained. **Registration cut-off is Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM.**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Date: Saturday, April 23, 2023  
Start Time: Check-In begins at 11:30 a.m. and the Youth Rally begins 12:30 p.m.  
End Time: 5:00 p.m. (after Mass)  
Location: St. Joseph's Seminary  
Participants: MSYR is for students in Grades 6-8<sup>th</sup>

**NOTE:** Parishes can choose to have 8th grade students participate in either the New York Catholic Youth Day on Saturday, April 22 or the Middle School Youth Rally on Sunday, April 23. Students in grades 6th and 7th may only participate in the Middle School Youth Rally on Sunday, April 23.

## **COST**

Registration before/on March 31, 2023 is \$25.00 per participant. The first 15 parishes to complete registration (including forms and payment) before by March 31<sup>st</sup> will be entered into a drawing for an LCD projector. After this date the cost will be \$45.00 per participant and may not include NYCYD Swag and are not eligible for any financial assistance. Registration cut-off is Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM. *Any additions after this point are near impossible, **IF we can take participants after Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> they will not receive any materials.***

## **SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

There are a limited number of scholarships available. Please contact the Department of Youth Faith Formation for additional information.

## **EXTRA MONEY**

We encourage all participants to contribute to our collection which will go to our Youth Engagement Scholarship (YES!) Fund, which will help provide scholarships to youth who need assistance in attending events such as MSYR. Every \$1 or \$5 helps! Please encourage your youth to contribute what is reasonable for them. We also anticipate having vendors on site this year to visit during lunch and free time. Many of these vendors are ministry leaders sharing about potential experiences youth can participate in. Please do not have young people bring excessive funds. Lunch and afternoon snack is provided at no extra cost for those who register by the cut-off.

## RULES

Please read and review the Code of Conduct with your adults and youth for MYSR 2023 prior to the event. Thank you! (See separate handout)

## NYCYD REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

- \_\_\_ Read through the “MYSR Registration Instructions” (See separate handout)
- \_\_\_ Register online by using the registration link provided in the instructions
- \_\_\_ Make payment by credit card or check by 3/31
- \_\_\_ Distribute, collect, and email completed forms for each participant\* along with the appropriate cover sheet by 3/31
- \_\_\_ Review Transportation and Drivers Policy <https://bit.ly/DYFFYMPG> (See pg. 21-22)
  - \_\_\_ *If needed* have drivers complete the “Driver Information Sheet” <https://bit.ly/DYFFDriverForm> (Return Completed to Parish)
  - \_\_\_ *If needed* complete “Bus Service Contract” <https://bit.ly/DYFFBusContract> (Call 646-794-3024 to confirm where to send completed form)

\* Please be sure that each adult (18+), and chaperone (21+) in attendance have completed the Archdiocese of New York’s Safe Environment Background Check and Training (Virtus or Safer Spaces depending on role); each adult WILL BE VERIFIED through the Archdiocesan system. There is no way to verify compliance the day of the event. **To aid in this process please ensure all Adult Names are received by Friday, March 31, 2023.**

## UPON ARRIVAL AT THE NYCYD SITE

- Check-In begins at 11:30 a.m. at the main entrance to the Cardinal Spellman Recreational Center. **Please do not bring your group in to the check-in tables.** All participants but the Group Leader, including chaperones, should wait at a designated space away from the main entrance until check-in is complete.
- At check-in make sure you bring the following:
  - **Forms** – Bring the original copy of the form for each participant. These will be verified at check-in; no participant adult or youth will be admitted without a form. Adult Chaperones should keep a copy of these forms on them for the duration of the event.
- If you have any questions or changes, please report to the “HELP DESK” located in the check-in area.
- When you register, you will receive a bag for your group containing a complete detailed schedule of the day, chaperone survival guides, t-shirts ordered and other MYSR Swag!
- Once check-in is complete, proceed to meet your group to distribute items, making sure that each youth and adult has a MYSR Shirt. Then move your group to the tent for the opening session which will start promptly at 12:30 p.m.
- Enjoy the day!

## WHEN DEPARTING AT THE END OF THE DAY

- Please do not leave the event venue until all your young people have left the premises in the appropriate transportation. Please have an adult leader verify the designated pick-up person for youth being picked up on site.

- Please encourage all participants to complete the evaluation so that we can grow and improve this event next year.

# *F.A.Q.'s*

- What meals will be provided at MYSR?
  - There are no meals provided, however an afternoon snack will be provided.
- Will there be an option to purchase additional food or snack during the day?
  - No, if a participant has a special need, they should plan to bring a snack or what they need to stay healthy during the event.
- Is there coffee provided for adult chaperones/leaders?
  - No, there is not coffee available.
- Can the group or an individual leave the event early?
  - It is expected that groups and individual participants arrive on time and stay through the end. This is not only out of respect for the presenters and for planning purposes, but also a safety issue. No one should be in the parking lot once the event begins. If a parent/guardian must pick up a youth early due to illness or another urgent reason, this should be noted on the youth's permission form and the Adult Leader along with another adult should walk the youth to the vehicle and verify the person picking up is authorized to do so with the parent/guardian. Never leave youth unattended.
- Can I bring additional teens that weren't registered prior?
  - The registration cut-off was extended until April 14<sup>th</sup> to allow for extenuating circumstances this year with a late fee of \$20. It is near impossible for us to take registrations the week of the event for many reasons out of our control. IF we can accept any, they will incur a \$20 late fee and will not receive a t-shirt, swag, or other materials, we are unable to waive this fee under any circumstance.
- What should we bring?
  - An open joy-filled heart! Watch the weather to see if you may need rain gear, if participants have special dietary or medical need, please make sure they have what they need for this, a small amount of money for the vendors if they choose.
- Can we transfer spots?
  - Yes!
    - Within a group- just make sure to adhere to the proper ratio of youth to adult leaders.
    - Between groups- contact [Christina.Davis@archny.org](mailto:Christina.Davis@archny.org)
- What are the transportation/parking options to get to the event?

Whichever method you choose make sure to refer to the Transportation and Drivers Policy (see above link).

  - **Bus:** Parishes are encouraged to bring youth by bus to the event. This helps facilitate an organized entry to the day and departure when the day is over. Buses will have a designated space to unload and park, please follow the directions by the Traffic Control Volunteers.
  - **Carpool:** Adult volunteer driven vehicles driven in a carpool.
  - **Public Transportation:** If you will be using the subway and need a shuttle, please contact [Christina.Davis@archny.org](mailto:Christina.Davis@archny.org) by March 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - **Parent Drop Off:** is not encouraged, if you opt to use this method, plan a space to meet your group on site, communicate this with parents clearly and provide a map/diagram of the meeting spot and parent pick up spot, arrive early as youth must be chaperoned from the moment of arrival. Plan to arrive early and do not leave the event venue until all youth have been picked up by their designated parent/guardian and this person has been verified.

# MSYR PROMOTION

## ANNOUNCE AT MASS AND/OR YOUTH GATHERINGS

Invite high school teens and young adults who have had positive experiences at past NYCYD's to share at Mass and at youth gatherings about the NEW Middle School Youth Rally. Ask the priest to invite the youth to participate!

## BULLETIN/NEWSPAPER

Publish an announcement in your local newspaper/school paper. Write up an announcement or use the insert at the bottom of the page to place in your bulletin. If you have youth writing in your local paper or school paper, ask them to plug in an announcement.

## FLYERS

Please make copies of the promotional flyers and distribute them to all middle school youth in your parish.

- These forms can be passed out Religious Ed or Youth Ministry sessions or inserted into your parish bulletin. Some schools are ok with posters being hung if they are given at least a week's notice.

## PARENT SUPPORT

Ask parents to speak with other parents about how past NYCYD's impacted their teens. The Middle School Youth Day is new so you may need to be creative in how you have parents share with each other. Consider even having an older teen who has attended NYCYD share with parents about their own experience of events like this.

Sample Parent Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Middle School Youth Rally is Sunday, April 23 at St Joseph's Seminary. This year, we are exploring the theme of "Signs & Wonders", miracles are fascinating in fact Scripture is overflowing with accounts of God controlling nature, healing the sick, and raising people from the dead. The Church consistently investigates and approves miracles attributed to the intercession of saints.

So, what is the point of it all? Miracles can and should strengthen our faith in God, but the miracles we experience in this life point to the ultimate miracle that we are all promised through Jesus — resurrection from the dead and eternal life with God.

As the parish youth ministry leader (or D/CRE), I think this is a great opportunity for them to connect to other youth across the archdiocese. At the Middle School Youth Rally, they will take part in a service project and celebrate Mass with Bishop Espallat.

There will be live music, workshops and speakers that will challenge the youth to have expectant faith in God, who performs miracles as a way of revealing His power and goodness! If you have questions about the day or want to talk about what to expect the Middle School Youth Rally, please let me know. We'd love to have your teen join us!

## PERSONAL INVITATION

***Personally invite your teens to attend (the most effective way to get teens there).***

- Produce creative Flocknote invitations and send them to every youth and parent of youth in your parish. (see the above Sample Parent Letter)

- Have parents, adult leaders, and/or youth leaders follow up by calling parent and teens. Have adult leaders call parents, and youth leaders call their friends.
- Ask young people to invite friends. Offer simple prizes to the person who brings the most friends, such as: T-shirt, CD, free registration to youth group event, gift certificate, candy, etc.
- The average person needs to be invited up to 7 times in various ways before deciding to come to an event like this – don't give up and keep inviting.
- Use social media like **Instagram**, **Twitter**, and **Facebook** (see below for samples)

## **POSTER**

Place posters in prominent areas of visibility. (See your Regional Specialist)

## **BULLETIN INSERT (SAMPLE)**

All youth in grades 6-8<sup>th</sup> are invited to our first archdiocesan Middle School Youth Rally held on the grounds of St. Joseph's Seminary Sunday, April 23. The day will include Mass and Eucharistic Adoration with Bishop Espallat. Our speakers include Cecilia Marie Flores, Brian Greenfield with well-known magician with a Master's in Divinity Danny Ray who will help us explore this year's theme of "Signs & Wonders"! Please contact \_\_\_\_\_ for more information.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA (SAMPLE)**

*Don't forget to follow us, tag us, and mention us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter -  
@youth\_faith\_formation\_archny*

- We encourage you to use your own photos of your youth ministry or the provided MSYR graphics.
- (For Adult Leaders) I work with young people in my community to help them build a relationship with God. On April 23, I will be joining hundreds of other teens and youth ministry leaders at the Middle School Youth Rally with national speakers to as we reveal in God's work exploring his Signs & Wonders! Do you have a youth in your life that would benefit from this inspiring day? DM for more information!
- (For Youth) Don't miss out! Our first Middle School Youth Rally is April 23! This year's theme – Signs & Wonders — is all about experiencing God's work through his Signs & Wonders! Interested? Let's talk more about it!
- (For Youth) The first ever archdiocesan Middle School Youth Rally is April 23! Let's make this year better than ever, invite your friends to experience this inspiring day filled with incredible speakers, interactive workshops, and hundreds of other teens!



Sunday  
**APR 23**

For grades 6-8th

An event for **Middle School Youth** from across the archdiocese to celebrate being Catholic, through engaging speakers, activities, and worship



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MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH RALLY 2023



**Signs & Wonders**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH RALLY 2023

Sunday **APR 23**

**Bishop Espallat** – Celebrant and Homilist

**SPEAKERS**

**Cecilia Marie Flores**

**Brian Greenfield**

**Danny Ray**

An event for **Middle School Youth** from across the archdiocese to celebrate being Catholic, through engaging speakers, activities, and worship



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