

SS Francis and Clare of Assisi Family

The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and locally here at SS Francis and Clare of Assisi have had a lot of discussion about increasing the emphasis on faith and virtue formation with our youth playing sports. I am pleased to announce that CYO and SS Francis and Clare of Assisi have partnered with a Catholic organization called **SportsLeader** to help move us forward in this endeavor.

### **What is SportsLeader?**

*“The more we can help our young people grow closer to Christ through the platform of sports, the more we are accomplishing our mission within Catholic athletics.”  
Lou Judd, the Director of SportsLeader.*

SportsLeader is a national Catholic sports organization that focuses on developing our Catholic faith through athletics with an emphasis on Virtue training, Catholic identity, Mentoring, and Ceremony. It is focused on making sports an intentional ministry to help bring people closer to Jesus Christ and our Catholic faith. Through virtue-based formation of our coaches and student-athletes, we will create opportunities for mentorship and ceremony while embracing our Catholic identity in an inclusive manner.

SportsLeader gives us the tools to engage our coaches in a proven faith and virtue enhancement program. It is in curriculum format and will be sent electronically to coaches each week, so it is easy to access and implement with the athletes. The digital format will also be shared with teachers, parents, and anyone invested in the faith development of the youth in our athletic programs.

For more information, please see their website at [SportsLeader.org](http://SportsLeader.org) and the CYO home page for coaches at [coachingforchrist.net](http://coachingforchrist.net).

### **What does this mean directly for our Athletic Ministry of the parish?**

As our parish Director of Athletic Ministry, my role has now changed to include overseeing the SportsLeader program. Our individual Sports Coordinators will be taking on more of the day-to-day tasks of their respective sports, and they will be a first point of contact for coaches, athletes, and parents. These dedicated and passionate individuals are willing to take on more responsibilities to ensure that SS Francis and Clare of Assisi continues to offer the best athletic programs in the Archdiocese for the youth of our parish. I cannot thank the people listed below enough for what they have done for the youth of our parish, and I look forward to how they will take the next step in developing our young athletes for Christ. Thank you all!

### **What can you do to help?**

Prayerfully consider assisting by:

- Taking one of the open Coordinator positions listed below
- Contacting one of the Coordinators below to offer assistance
- Coaching girls and boys to bring them closer to Christ through sports

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Christ,  
Michael Pawlik  
Director of Athletics Ministry  
[athletics@ss-fc.org](mailto:athletics@ss-fc.org)

**Cross Country:** Co-ed 2nd-8th **Matt Dafforn** mattdafforn@caitofoods.com

**Football:** Boys 3rd-8th **Brad Hayse** haysebg@gmail.com

**Flag Football:** Co-ed K-2nd **\*\*OPEN\*\***

**Kickball:** Girls 3rd-8th **Katie Kurzawski** coachk.ssfckickball@gmail.com

**Cheer:** Girls 3rd-8th **\*\*OPEN\*\***

**Girls Basketball:** Girls 3rd-12th **\*\*OPEN\*\***

**Boys Basketball:** Boys 3rd-12th **Brad Hayse** haysebg@gmail.com

**Girls Volleyball:** Girls 4th-8th **\*\*OPEN\*\***

**Boys Volleyball:** Boys 4th-8th **Austin Hillman** Austin@indyelitevolleyball.com

**Wrestling:** Boys K-8th **Dr. Jeff Amodeo** jlamodeo@gmail.com

**Softball:** Girls 6th-8th **\*\*OPEN\*\***

**Baseball:** Boys 7th-8th **Dr. Jeff Amodeo** jlamodeo@gmail.com

**Soccer:** Co-ed 5th-8th **\*\*OPEN\*\***

**Track & Field:** Co-ed 3rd-8th **Matt Dafforn** mattdafforn@caitofoods.com