

BASH 2025 INFORMATION

Bishop Burbidge invites all middle school students of the Diocese to join him at BASH 2025!

BASH is our largest gathering of Catholic middle school students (6th-8th graders) every year! This event is an opportunity for the young Church in the Diocese of Arlington to gather each year to pray, learn, and celebrate the Catholic faith. We are planning for over one thousand middle school students to gather for an evening of faith, fellowship, and fun! This includes music, games, inspirational speakers, confessions, and a Vigil Mass for Sunday. Bishop Burbidge will be the principal celebrant and homilist for this Mass.

This information is being sent to every Director of Youth Ministry, Director of Religious Education, and school principal in the Diocese. **Please work together as a parish to bring as many middle school students as possible to this event.** This includes young people participating in scouting programs, sports leagues, altar servers, Hispanic youth programs, Junior Legion of Mary, and Confirmation students. **BASH is meant for ALL 6th-8th graders, and we ask that you are intentional about personally extending an invitation to young people with physical or cognitive disabilities.** We would like to ensure that all feel welcome at BASH; please contact us so that we may discuss individual accessibility needs.

Details for this year's BASH:

SATURDAY, May 10, 2025 – Bishop O'Connell High School, Arlington, VA

Registration check-in will begin at 3:00 p.m., the event begins at 3:30 p.m., and the day will finish by 8:30 p.m.

\$15 per person includes dinner and a free T-shirt.

1 (fully OPCYP compliant) adult leader is REQUIRED for every 10 youth.

Each participant will need a signed permission slip.

Our lineup includes:

- **Oscar Rivera** - Oscar Rivera is a Catholic speaker, musician, and evangelist who uses modern culture to illuminate the light of faith. He brings a message of hope in times of despair, love during times of hate, and a reminder to faithfully follow God, no matter the obstacles. Oscar takes his knowledge of the faith and inspires youth and young adults across the country at diocesan events and rallies as well as national events such as SEEK, Franciscan University of Steubenville youth conferences, and the National Eucharistic Congress.
- **Tons of inflatable games, pizza, Rita's, Smiley's Ice Cream, and more!** From the rock-climbing wall to bacon pizza, we've got a great day planned!
- **Gaga Ball tournament and free throw competition**, with great prizes available for the winners!
- **BASH T-shirts!** Every youth and adult participant will receive a BASH T-shirt. Sizes available: Youth Medium, Youth Large, Youth Extra Large. Adult Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large, 2X, 3X, 4X.

This event is significantly subsidized by the Bishop's Lenten Appeal; the \$15 per person is meant to offset the cost. However, we would not want a young person to miss the event for financial reasons so please let us know if assistance is needed. If you have teens in need of this assistance, please do not hesitate to call us at (703) 841-2559.

We recommend that you hang the enclosed posters (both English and Spanish) in the entrance to your church and school, and stand outside of your parish Masses to invite every middle school student that walks by! At the bottom of the poster, please write in any parish-specific information, including the name and phone number or e-mail address of the person coordinating this event for your group. Online registration opens on Thursday, April 10; instructions including the registration link will be found on the webpage at that time. <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/youth-ministry/bash/> Please call the Office of Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministries for the authentication code.

It is recommended that you advertise and register as early as possible! We always seek to welcome as many participants as possible, but with increased numbers in recent years, space may be limited as BASH draws near!

If you have any questions or need additional posters, please do not hesitate to call the Office of Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministries at (703) 841-2559. **We look forward to seeing you at BASH!**