

Youth Ministry

(in parents' terms)

As you probably know from your own child, the teenage years can be an eventful if not difficult time in the lives of our youth. Faced with a multitude of changes from squeaky voice boxes to the discovery of the opposite gender, teens are beginning to explore a much larger and more dynamic world than they ever realized as children. While this can be a very exciting period of growth and maturity for them, the sheer plethora of modern ideologies, media, and technology can make it a stressful and confusing time as well. We recognize that as parents, the task of raising your children to realize truth in the midst of today's culture can sometimes be a daunting one. That's why here at Sacred Heart's Youth Ministry we want to help you, by creating an environment where your teen can come not only to know Christ, but to make the faith a real and active part of their life. Our goal is to help you form your teens in a love for God that will guide them through these foundational years as they progress in their journey through life.

Sunday LIFENight @ 6:15-8:00pm (following the 5:00pm mass)

Our weekly Sunday Life Nights are a fun and interactive way to learn more about Christ. Each night focuses on a new topic, teaching students about their Catholic faith and how to live it out in their day to day encounters. Music, activities, lessons and more; this is the heart of our youth program here at Sacred Heart, and with a little time, we are sure it will be dear to your heart as well.

Open to all High School aged teens.

Required for those seeking Confirmation in the Parish

For Those Seeking Confirmation:

Our Confirmation program will begin in January. Please look for announcements in November/December to register

Must be:

- *At least one year in high school catechesis*
- *Baptized*
- *Registered for Sacred Heart LIFETEEN*

Tuesday Night EDGE @ 6:15-8:00pm

The world does not wait for our children to reach high school before influencing them, why should Christ? This ministry is based off of the high school LIFENights but is adapted to fit the spiritual and practical needs of Junior High teens.

Open to all Junior High teens.

Periodic Encounters – TBA.

Is your teen looking for a little something extra? Or maybe he/she is just interested in learning more about God's Word? Throughout the course of the year we will be offering several programs to allow our teens to dig deeper into the riches of our faith. These study groups are separate from the weekly Life Nights, and do not fulfill the requirements for confirmation.

Open to anyone interested. Times and dates will be announced at weekly meetings and in the monthly parent newsletter.



Things to look for in the coming year:

- **Sacred and Safe:** There is a new program required throughout the Archdiocese which educated teens Sexual Abuse and what to do if they or a friend finds themselves in such a situation. This course is required for all parish students K-12. There is an opt-out option for parents who do not desire their teen to attend, and a mandatory permission slip for those who do. Dates will be announced when they have been set, but look to November as the probable time.
- **Confirmation 2012:** Sign-ups will begin in November with classes most likely beginning in January.
- **Spring Retreat:** This will most likely be an evangelistic retreat for all teens. A great opportunity for a real encounter with Christ for anyone, whether they are firmly rooted in Him already, or not sure if He even exists. Tentative date in February.
- **Steubenville Conference:** An intense weekend retreat with a focus on evangelization and a Eucharistic experience of Christ amidst thousands of other teens. Teens typically mark these weekends as some of the most powerful days in their high school years, as well as an important moment in their personal ongoing conversion. It is our goal to bring as many teens as we can to a Steubenville Conference this year, most likely either Steubenville on the Bayou (Houma, LA) or South (Alexandria, LA). More info and sign-ups will come when information for the coming year is released. The weekends are usually in mid-June to July.
- **Archdiocesan Youth Conference:** AYC is put on annually by the Archdiocese. It is a gathering of thousands of teens from the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese, filled with faith, fun, and prayer. The Cardinal is a huge supporter of this summer event which he also helps to lead. We hope to bring out teens to this conference as well in response to the Cardinal's enthusiastic invitation. AYC will be July 20-22, 2012. Look for more info and sign-ups in Spring of 2012.

We are building up a new kind of program here at Sacred Heart, one which we hope will now only bring teens to Christ this year, but 10 years down the road. As such, we are striving to work on the foundational aspects of our ministry this year, ensuring that we build upon firm rock that will uphold the exciting things we have planned for the future. As such, some things which would be more concrete in years to come are still being tested and worked on by our youth staff and volunteers in order to create the best experience for all our teens here at Sacred Heart. Thank you for patience and understanding as we continue to improve our ministry in this period of transition.

Remember Parents...

We are here to help you by helping your teen. We hope that you too will take an active part in our ministry as we strive to serve the teens of this parish. Each month we will send out a Newsletter that will tell you what is happening with our teens along with some suggestions as to how you can apply at home what they have learned here. If you ever have any questions, comments or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the Parish Youth Office by **tel. c) 281.622.9248 / w) 936.760.1711** or **e-mail: RJanise@shconroe.org**