

Proposed changes to Youth Ministry-

Middle School Youth Group- Wednesday nights- 6:30 to 8 pm- 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Directed at relationship building and current events/issue nights. Example Edge Nights from Lifeteen. Lives of the Saints- They Encountered Christ and their life was changed.

- Formation is the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month to fit in with Family Formation. 1 time a month is a fun event. Need to develop class room lessons and in home lessons.

-Encounter- Confirmation 1- 8<sup>th</sup> grade- Focused on the Encounter and sustaining a relationship with Christ. First half of the year is the Encounter- we accomplish this through lived experiences of the presence of Christ and through retreat opportunities and events. 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year how do we sustain that encounter through a life of prayer and sacramental living.

- Opening Event- Adoration with Praise & Worship & Prayer Teams
- Lifeline Mass- 4x a year
- Ignite sponsored by Partnership for Youth- Middle School event- quarterly
- Retreat on Commitment to Christ
- Archdiocesan Youth Day – Oct 27<sup>th</sup>
- Prayer conferences with sponsor- 4x a year

Also included in year 1 is a homily notebook to track Mass attendance.

The goal is that by the end of year 1 they understand and are given the opportunity to encounter Christ and commit to a life of prayer and sacramental living of our faith

-Light the Fire -Confirmation 2- focused on New Life in Christ through the Holy Spirit- Develop Generosity and Mission. Confirmation 2 meets as part of senior high ministry. .

- Meets 2 times a month following the Ignite Youth Mass
- Who is the Holy Spirit? What Does He Do?
- Life in the Spirit Seminar in February
- Truth and Meaning of vocation
- Chastity Speaker
- Obstacles to Holiness- World, Flesh, Devil
- Sunday Service- continues as is in the program.
- Saint Report
- Holiness Revolution Book study with Sponsor

Senior High Youth Group- Sunday- 5 to 8- reason for change is to make the youth mass central to youth ministry, which will include Praise and Worship. Benefits of moving to Sunday nights makes more time for volunteering within the youth ministry program particularly middle school youth group. It better fits the busy schedule of High school students.

## RE-IMAGING FAMILY MINISTRY

### PRESENT FAMILY FORMATION PROGRAM:

Presently, the Family Formation Program runs on the first Wednesday of the month from October through May. Children, grades 1-6, come to St. Joseph's Hall with their parents for the evening from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. Families are encouraged to attend 5:30 PM Mass, can come for dinner at 6:00 and the evening's program begins at 6:30 PM.

Usually, we begin with an activity for children and parents together – it may set the theme for the evening or be a safe boundaries lesson or a prayer time. Then children and catechists leave for the school classroom and their lesson, and the parents, and any interested parishioners, stay in St. Joseph's Hall for a speaker presentation on the topic of the evening. Then Mary guides the parents through the home lesson packet for the FF lessons to be taught at home for the next three weeks. The children rejoin the parents at about 7:55 PM to end the evening.

The catechists come each month for a training evening where we talk through their lesson for the evening and any changes in the schedule as well as hearing the speaker presentation. It works well to have the speaker present to the catechists as a kind of "dry-run". It is a less formal setting with an interested and encouraging audience who always take the opportunity to comment and discuss and ask questions. This way the catechists hear the presentation which may help in their preparation for class. A talk they would otherwise miss because they take the children out for class on FF evenings.

Family Formation runs on the Liturgical Year, in a three year cycle following Cycles a, B and C (the readings of the Liturgy. This year's theme was "The Mass". The topics of the month were: *"Where Heaven and Earth Meet"* (Overview of the Mass); *"I Believe"* (The Creed); *"Water and Fire"* (Baptism and Confirmation); *"The Call: Are You Listening?"* (Vocations and Holy Orders); *"Sacrament of the Sick"* (Everyone You Always Wanted to Know); *"Written on Stone, Chiseled in Your Heart"* (The Ten Commandments); *"Kneeling Before the Majesty of God"* (Eucharistic Adoration); *"Mary: God's Masterpiece"*.

### FUTURE FAMILY FORMATION PROGRAM:

- To extend the family style programming to Preschool through 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
- To develop lessons for pre-school (3 years – Kindergarten) based on the Family Formation topics each month.
- To develop programming for grades 6-7 based on the Family Formation topics of the month.
- To develop topics for parents of use and interest according to the ages of their children.
- To provide evenings of prayer, activities, education and discipleship in which families participate together.
- To create opportunities for family faith development and experiences.

• Survey – what worked, what didn't work  
end of yr.