

St. Theresa Parish
The Edge
Catholic Middle School Ministry
Parent Information Packet
2009-2010

“So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.”
2 Corinthians 5:17

The Mission of The Edge

The purpose of The Edge program is to create an environment that leads Jr. High students into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

This is done through:

- Christian fellowship
- The teachings of Christ and the Church
- Through an experience of being loved and accepted by adults and peers

The overall goal of the Faith Formation program here at St. Theresa is to prepare your children to be adult Catholics. These years of a Jr. High student are the beginning of something that will take place with these young people for the next ten years. They will begin to understand who they are and form their identities. That is why the most important part of our mission statement is Christian fellowship and the building of relationships. The Church tells us that one of the most important things we can do in the evangelization process is to build relationships. In the life of a Jr. High student, their friends are the most important thing to them, and it is important that they are surrounded by good, Catholic friends, so as they grow older, they will be able to go deeper and deeper with their faith.

Staffing of The Edge program

The Edge program is run by the Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Ryan Howe. Assisting Ryan is the Edge team, a group of young adults, and teens who help bring the Jr. High students into the program and to accomplish the above mentioned mission. Each team member, acting in a volunteer capacity, has been interviewed and evaluated by Ryan to be a worthy representative of the Church to our Jr. High students.

Description of an Edge meeting

Each Alive night will start at 6:15pm with pizza and social time. Please do not drop your children off earlier than 6:15pm because we will not be ready to accommodate them. At 6:45pm, we will begin the night, typically with a few games so that we can come together as a group. After these icebreakers, we come together to start the topic of the night. We usually begin with a skit that will give an overview of what the night is about in a humorous way. When the skit is over, the youth minister then will give a brief, 3-4 minute teaching about the topic. Following this, Jr. High students are broken down into small groups to discuss the topic in further detail. This is the time when they discuss how the topic impacts their lives and how they can meet Jesus in a deeper way. Finally, they come back together for a prayer experience in which they will be given an opportunity to meet Jesus in a real way. The night will end at 7:45pm.

Registration

The Registration fee (\$95) is collected to cover the cost of pizza, drinks, and whatever gifts may be given out during the school year. For more information on registration, please contact Ryan in the Youth Ministry office at: (602) 840-0850.

Discipline

The Edge program holds a three-strike policy for minor problems such as talking. There will be two warnings given, and if the problem continues, two of the team members will escort the Jr. High student to the office in which the parents will be called to pick up their child from the event.

For larger problems, such as fighting, the parents will be called to pick up their child from the event.

If drugs and alcohol are found on any Jr. High student, the police will first be called and then the parents.

Description of Edge Power Nights

The Power Night is on a Friday in which the Jr. High students have the opportunity to come together and learn about a topic in more depth. The Power Night begins at 5:00pm with an hour of social time in which there is a combination of free time and organized icebreaker games. After the games, we come together to begin the topic for the night. The Power Night is very similar to the structure of an Edge night. In fact, the Power Night can be described as two Edge nights put together that deal with the same topic. The difference is that the interaction level increases. The Jr. High students are given the opportunity to act out skits and draw and decorate posters based on the topic of the day. We have pizza at 5pm, and finish the day with a prayer experience. For example, the Power Nights of past have finished with a liturgy of the word lead by one of the priests. The Power Night will end at 9:00pm.

Web Service

Available to the parents is an online resource to access The Edge and find out what is coming up. Online at www.godtalk.org is the Saint Theresa youth ministry page. Once there, click on The Edge link, found on the right hand side of the page. Once there, Parents will find available to them the following information:

- Semester calendars
- Registration Paperwork
- Parent Information packet
- Other upcoming events

For more information, please contact Ryan at (602) 840-0850 or online @ www.godtalk.org