

Middle School Parent Information 2017 – 2018

General:

The aim of the middle school program is to get the teens involved! The teens are challenged to put what they heard that night into relevant terms based on where they are in their life. For example, when we discuss Purgatory we ask the kids what is Purgatory, why do some souls go there? We try to tie everything we do and say into today's world.

There will be a different topic that we will cover each night which will challenge them to continue to learn about the Catholic faith.

Middle school meeting starts after the 5:30PM Mass. We dismiss at 8:30PM by coming into the PLC and signing your teen out. If we get a volunteer we will also dismiss from the side of the PLC. If you have a teen in the high school program we will take the middle school teen to the church so they can be dismissed with their sibling. No teen can be released unless a parent or guardian is here to pick them up.

Each teen will be placed into a specific team so they can build friends and feel comfortable about sharing their ideas and feelings with the other team members. They will earn points for activities completed and extracurricular activities they participate in their community and in our church.

We start all middle school meetings in the hospitality room. The kids will be provided a snack (Volunteers prepare and serve the food) and go over housekeeping items, team point standing, a brief presentation or video and a discussion about what topic we will be discussing that evening.

Each team will work together on the assigned activity. They will come back to the big group and will either share what they uncovered during their discussion or answer questions about what they learned. A team will be chosen to develop and say the ending prayer before they are dismissed.

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We have developed a new interactive program for the eighth grade teens. The teens will be presented a topic that will cover current events and society beliefs that they are or will be facing in life. For example one of the topics will be 'What is the purpose of marriage'? Another one is titled 'Church vs Society'. As you can see these topics will generate a lot of interest and discussions by the teens and their team leaders. I encourage all of the eighth grade parents to come in and review the topics we will be covering. The intent of the program is to get the teens to understand Catholic Church teaching on those topics.

New: We have updated the sixth and seventh grade program to include more time to discuss the topic and we limit the topic to three items. Again, we want the teens to understand what they are learning at their level.

The children/teens need to be able to say the 8 basic prayers by the end of the year. I ask you to pray with your teens every day so they can remember them and understand what they are saying.

During the middle school meeting, cell phones are not allowed. If the teens use their phones during the meeting, the phone will be taken away from them. Phones will be returned at the end of the evening. If there is an emergency and you need to reach your child please call me at 470-695-7733. I will get your message to your child.

We ask that all teens come to every team meeting since we only have 56 hours available to help them understand our faith. I need you to show your teens that you put value in our program and demonstrate that you believe that learning about one's faith is important. We are also trying to build team spirit and a sense of community which they will have for their entire life. When they come they will have fun while learning.

We will be contacting the parents of all teen's kids that miss two consecutive meetings to make sure everything is ok. If you're teen cannot

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come to a meeting please email me at, glee@gsrcc.net so it can be marked on the attendance sheet.

We have social activities once a month for the kids. We encourage them to come to as many as possible. Again, we are trying to build long term relationships with their peers and make middle school enjoyable for the teens. We will need at least 4 adults to chaperone at these social activities

We will have two service projects planned this year. We request that your child participates in at least one. Their participation is important so they can see their faith in action and see that they can make a difference in their community.

We have our own bulletin board which is located in the PLC information hallway that will have important information about our Middle School Faith Formation.

Support Needed:

I need your **commitment** to bring your teen every week to the middle school Faith Formation program. I totally understand that there are many items that vie for your family's available time; however, we have limited amount of time per month to help your teen to have a better understanding of their faith. On the average we have only six hours per month with your teens. Parents are encouraged to go over the discussion topics with their teens at home, so the teens can hear the information multiple times.

Please read the weekly emails that will be sent home every Tuesday by me. Those emails will explain what we covered on Sunday, a brief outline of the

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upcoming Sunday's topic, any social event information, service opportunities and other topics that pertain to the middle school program.

We need your help! We need team assistants that can help the team leader in group discussions and activities on Sunday evening.

We need to have at least four parents to chaperone all of our events and activities. Please choose one that you want to commit to and let me know.

We need to have at least two parents are to help out in the preparation/serving the meals for middle and high school teens on the Sundays evenings that we meet.

There are special requests that are sent out from time to time requesting assistance.

Without parent support we will not be able to provide the quality Faith Formation program that is important. We will be unable to do all of the service projects, activities and events that we have planned for this year.

Special activities:

We have hangout nights scheduled every months so the teens can build a long lasting friendship with other Catholic teens. Please pick up the schedule so your teens won't miss out on these fun evenings.

There will be a middle school retreat in late January at the church (TBD). All middle school teens are strongly encouraged to attend this informative and exciting activity which is geared to them. We will have missionaries that will be presenting the material and related activities and free time for the teens. The retreat will start at 8:30AM and end at 4:00PM. More information will be provided in late December. We will be addressing questions and comments about the Catholic faith that they are getting from their peers at school. This retreat is not mandatory but is strongly

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recommended. The majority of teens that have participated in previous years felt they benefited from attending.

Domestic Mission trip – TBD