



Saint Mark Catholic Church, 14740 Stumptown Road, Huntersville, NC 28078

April 28, 2009

Dear Parents,

It is time to register for our 8th grade Edge program. This program places a focus on the ideas of *Faith in Action* covering Morality and Discipleship in the Catholic faith. Throughout the year we hope to help your teen discover what it means to be an adult Catholic as they are preparing for Confirmation. Throughout this year we will explore topics such as the Catholic Church, Fishing for Disciples, Grace, Advent & Lent, and the 10 Commandments.

What is the Edge?

The Edge program approaches catechesis to middle-school youth using the Life Teen model. Middle-school youth are removed from behind classroom desks and brought into a large-group environment for gathering activities, teachings, and prayer. In small groups, they break open the teachings and build solid, Christ-centered relationships that allow them to comfortably explore their Catholic faith and make it relevant to their everyday lives. This helps build safe relationships during some of the most formative years of a teen's life.

The operative word in early adolescence is "change!" Educators, psychologists and youth ministers state that middle school years might be the last great opportunity to positively impact and assist a child in their educational, spiritual, emotional, and social development. It is during this "doubting Thomas" phase that many youth become leery of their faith, and begin to question what they believe.

When is the Edge?

The Edge is offered only on Sunday night running from September 13th until May 2nd. We begin by sitting as a community at the 5:00 Life Teen Mass (Mass time change effective Aug. 30th). Then we have a light supper as a group in the School Cafeteria at 6:15 followed immediately by the Edge night running until 8:00 pm. Within the Edge our students will have opportunities for social activities, large and small group service projects, and fun! Unlike our previous model of preparation in 8th grade, the Edge will integrate teaching, service, and social nights throughout the calendar. It is this approach that better allows for community and fellowship to be fostered and nurtured.

When is the Sacrament of Confirmation?

The immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be offered during the fall of 2010 for them as 9th grade students. This process would encompass four parent/candidate classes offered during the fall of 2010 on Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday nights. In addition to the four parent/candidate classes, our candidates will be asked to attend four Sunday Life Nights throughout the fall. These scheduled Life Nights will offer the students an opportunity to experience our Life Teen program, once again fostering a sense of community among their peers.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Peace in Christ,

Katie Herzing
Middle School Youth Minister
katie.herzing@gmail.com
(704) 948-1306, x117



The Edge is a comprehensive middle-school youth ministry program focusing on aspects of *Faith in Action*. Successful participation in this program is a prerequisite for our St. Mark 9th grade Confirmation preparation experience. Successful completion of 6th & 7th grade Faith Rocks program is a prerequisite for our 8th grade Edge program. Please contact the Middle School Youth Minister with any questions or concerns: Katie Herzing (katie.herzing@gmail.com)

Registration forms are due by June 15th,
All registrations received after then
will incur a \$20 late fee.

Program will run Sunday nights from
September 13th
until May 2nd

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The Edge will begin with Mass at 5:00, where we will all sit together in the front. We will follow immediately with dinner in the School Cafeteria (6:15) and the Edge night in the gym to conclude at 8:00. The total fee for this program is \$80 which includes the program fee and the weekly meal.

Family Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Family E-Mail Address(es) _____
(we will communicate **weekly** by email - please give email checked most frequently)

Father's Name _____ Religion _____ Work/Cell Phone # _____

Mother's Name _____ Religion _____ Work/Cell Phone # _____
If a divorced/separated family, which parent is primary contact?: _____

Emergency Contact _____ Relationship to child _____ Phone# _____

Student Name: _____ School 2009/2010: _____

Student Email: _____

Student interests, this is important for developing small group matches:

Sports/Extra Curricular Activities: _____

Favorite Bands: _____

Other Interesting Facts about you: _____

Small Group Request (one person they would like to be with): _____

Parental support at The Edge is vital for the success of our program. Below are listed several ways you as a parent can help support this life-changing ministry, please choose one:

_____ Edge Core Team (every week) _____ Social/Service Night Support (4x/yr)

_____ Weekly Lobby Helper (3x/yr) _____ Meal Team on Sunday Nights (4x/yr)