

Holy Cross . . . a place where YOUth belong

Youth Ministry News

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Holy Cross Youth Ministry Commission is committed to empowering the youth of our parish by nurturing and affirming their gifts, talents and self-esteem.

Welcome to all High School Students

Welcome to our incoming freshmen and all returning high school students!! I hope you are having a wonderful summer and break from school. It won't be long before we are gearing up for another year of fun and faith-filled activities. Mark your calendar for our welcome back event on **Sunday evening, September 7, beginning at 6:30 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. We want everyone to have an opportunity to get back together and meet our newest high school students. I look forward to seeing you there.

Want to know what is going on?

There is a lot going on in Youth Ministry; this newsletter is one way to keep you informed. Please pick one up at the beginning of each month and keep the monthly calendar on your refrigerator or somewhere you will see it. Updates can be found in the "Youth Ministry Corner" of the weekly parish bulletin or in the kiosk outside of Church. All of this information is also available online at our parish web site: www.holycrosssantacruz.com. Just click on "Faith Formation" and then "Youth Ministry."

Confirmation and Youth Ministry Registration

- Registration materials have been mailed to returning Confirmation candidates.
- Confirmed teens will receive an invitation to be part of our Youth Activity Team this week as well.
- These registrations can be returned to the Youth Ministry Office before August 24.
- Registration for teens interested in beginning Confirmation preparation will be available at the Parent-Teen Meeting on **Sunday evening, August 24**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Teens wishing to be confirmed in the Spring of 2010 must attend this meeting with a parent.
- Please call the Youth Ministry Office if you have any questions.

Holy Cross Parish Sacramental Preparation Policies for Youth and Teens

Preparation to receive any sacrament is a two year process. Candidates for receiving Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation) are expected to be active in the parish and its Religious Education programs. This means attending Mass on a regular basis and participating in the Saturday or Sunday Religious Education Program (elementary or middle school), or the Junior High or High School Youth Group. During the second year of the preparation process, specific preparation for the sacrament takes place. There is a service component and weekend retreat that is part of the Confirmation preparation process.

Diocesan Confirmation Guidelines

By diocesan guidelines:

- Confirmation is a two year process for baptized teens who will be 16 at the time of Confirmation, or have finished their sophomore year in High School.
- Parents and sponsors are part of the Confirmation preparation process.
- Active involvement in the parish is expected (attending Mass and participating in the life of the parish).
- Apostolic Service is an essential part of the preparation and should include service with adult mentors as well as with other teens.
- Each year of preparation includes a retreat day and at least one interview with the Confirmation coordinator. The second year also includes a required weekend retreat for the candidate.
- The date for Confirmation is set by the bishop's office and is usually after Easter, in April or May.

Help Wanted – Volunteer Opportunities for Teens

Many colleges are looking for extracurricular activities and leadership positions that you have been involved in . . . let us help you expand your horizons.

For Anyone

Youth Leadership Team :

Help plan, organize and lead social activities including: Welcome back night, Parish Carnival Booth, Bonfire, Trust Walk, Dinners, Movie Nights, Caroling, Pumpkin Carving, etc. Meet as needed to plan events.

Hospitality Team:

Help to set up, serve snacks, and clean up after Sunday night Confirmation and Youth Ministry events. Should be able to arrive early and/or stay after meeting.

For Confirmed Teens

Confirmation Mentor:

Journey with another teen in their Confirmation process. Help with Sunday night Confirmation sessions.

Retreat Team:

Help to plan and facilitate Confirmation Retreat Days, Weekend Confirmation Retreat and/or other retreats for parish youth. Should be able to attend and participate in the planned retreat.



Eucharistic Minister Training

There will be a training session for Confirmed teens and adults interested in being Eucharistic Ministers on Saturday morning, August 30, from 9 a.m. until noon. Please see the bulletin for more information and let Sr. Barbara know you are interested in being trained.

Youth Office
Closed until
August 12

A Note to Parents

Parent involvement is crucial to the success of any youth ministry program. Our mission is to empower our teens, nurturing and affirming their gifts, talents and self-esteem, forming them into disciples of Christ in the world today. Parent volunteers are needed in many capacities, from leadership roles to one-time activity helpers. The more you are involved in the life of the parish and your teen's activities, the more they will be involved. There are lots of areas of involvement to choose from. See the list below! Please call the Youth Ministry Office if you are interested in helping in any capacity. An opportunity to volunteer will also be given at the parent meeting in August.

Help Wanted – Adult Volunteers

By our Baptism, all are called to help build the Reign of God here on earth. How are you called to serve? It takes all of us to make Youth Ministry at Holy Cross an outstanding program.

Adult & Young Adult Small Group Leaders:

Share your faith by facilitating small group discussions at youth group or as part of the Confirmation preparation process.

Confirmation Sponsors:

Must be at least 16, confirmed, and an active, practicing Catholic.

Drivers/Chaperones:

Transport youth to outings, for service projects, on retreats. Must be fingerprinted and complete diocesan driver form.

Activity Coordinator/Team:

Help to guide and plan the social activities with the Youth Leadership Team.

Parent Session Coordinator:

Coordinate refreshments for and facilitate parent sessions on Confirmation session nights (materials provided).

Hospitality Coordinator:

Helps to coordinate snacks and birthday cakes for Sunday night meetings.

Service Coordinator:

Plans and coordinates service projects for teens and other parish members to participate in. Could include Spring Break or Summer Mission Experience.