

# Holy Cross . . . a place where YOUth belong

## Youth Ministry News

126 High Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
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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.

### Confirmation and Youth Ministry Registration for 2011-12

- Registration materials are available on the Youth Ministry page of the parish website [www.holycrosssantacruz.com](http://www.holycrosssantacruz.com) and in the Parish Office.
- Registrations should be returned to the Youth Ministry Office by August 28.
- Information for all teens interested in beginning Confirmation preparation will be available at the **Information Meeting on Sunday evening, August 28, beginning at 6:30 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. Teens wishing to be confirmed in the Spring of 2013 must attend this meeting with a parent.
- Please e-mail Mary Sue at [msbabb55@aol.com](mailto:msbabb55@aol.com) if you have any questions.

### Save These Dates:

**Welcome Back Night  
for all  
High School Teens  
Sunday, September 11  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Parish Hall**



This is our kick-off event for the 2011-12 school year, planned by our Holy Cross Youth Committee. Fun and games, scavenger hunt, food and friends. Bring a friend, all are welcome!!



**Diocesan Youth Day  
Saturday, October 8  
9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Mission San Antonio  
Jolon, CA**

Join about 500 Catholic teens from our diocese for a day of music, activities, workshops, prayer, food and fun. More information will be available in early September. All teens in our Confirmation preparation process are expected to attend. Other high school teens are strongly encouraged to come too. We will carpool from Holy Cross.

A **calendar of all events for 2011 – 12** is available on the Youth Ministry page of the parish website. It is also attached to print copies of the Registration Forms in the Parish Office, and to print copies of the August Youth Ministry News.

### **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 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, May or June.

### **Help Wanted – Teen, Young Adult , 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. Here are just a few ways you might serve. Please contact the Youth Ministry Office to volunteer.

#### **Confirmation Sponsors:**

Must be at least 16, confirmed, and a practicing Catholic.

**Confirmation Mentor:** (for someone who has a long-distance sponsor )

Journey with another teen in their Confirmation process. Participate in Confirmation sessions.

#### **Drivers/Chaperones:**

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

#### **Set-up / Clean-up:**

Help is always needed on Sunday evenings around 5:45 to 6 p.m. to set up our space.

Help is also needed from 8:30 – 9:00 p.m. for clean-up

#### **Sunday Night Helper:**

Extra hands for Sunday night youth ministry or Confirmation activities. A great way to be mentored into a more active role in Youth Ministry.

#### **Hospitality Coordinator:**

Helps to coordinate snacks for Sunday night meetings.

#### **Service Coordinator:**

Helps to plans and coordinates service projects for teens and other parish members to participate in.

#### **Holy Cross Youth Committee (HCYC)**

Help plan, organize and lead social activities including: Welcome back night, Parish Carnival Booth, Bonfire, Trust Walk, Dinners, Movie Nights, Caroling, other Social Events. Commitment to attend HCYC meetings.

#### **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.

**It is diocesan policy that anyone 18 years and older, working with younger persons, must be cleared through the Diocesan Safe Environment Process (includes fingerprinting for the Diocese).**

Youth Office closed from August 1-17  
Mary Sue will be back in the office August 18