

Holy Cross . . . a place where YOUth belong

Youth Ministry News

126 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
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Volume 7.5
December, 2009

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

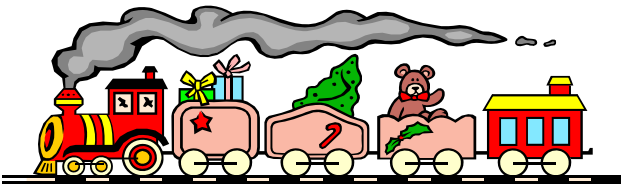
CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

December Sessions

**Sunday, December 6
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

Basement of 210 High Street

- Year 1 teens attend with parent
- Year 2 teens attend with sponsor or stand-in
- All teens bring their Confirmation journals
- Year 1 Topic: *Prayer*
- Year 2 Topic: *The Gift of Understanding*



REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR SLIGHTLY USED OR NEW TOY OR GAME FOR THE HOLY CROSS FOOD PANTRY TOY DRIVE!!

- Cars, trucks, dolls, puzzles (complete), coloring books, crayons, games (complete) ~ NO stuffed animals or books.
- Brown paper bags are also needed!!

Teens Are Saying kNOw (part 2)

Rescheduled from November 22

December 13, 2009

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Basement of 210 High Street

Jeff will conclude his presentation with a discussion of the risks and consequences of premarital sexual activity.

All Confirmation Candidates are to attend.

See back side for information about:
New Year's Eve Vigil for Peace
LA Youth Day / Disneyland
Super Bowl Pizza Sales

Service Opportunities

December 6: Holy Cross Food Pantry Toy Drive
see information under December 6 session

December 12 & 13: Fair Trade Sales

Promote awareness of Fair Trade and support Catholic Relief Services by helping with sales after Mass this weekend. Sign up December 6.

December 13: High School Youth Ministry Christmas Caroling



Join us as we bring Christmas cheer to the elderly in nursing homes or homebound.

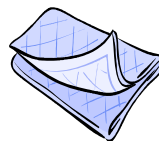
- We will be joined with some of the children from the Young families group.
- Meet in the Hall parking lot at 2:45 p.m. and return around 5 p.m.
- Parent drivers are needed.
- Sign up to participate on December 6.

Tuesday, December 22:

Church Cleaning

10:00 a.m. in Church

Clean pews, woodwork and windows in preparation for our Christmas celebrations. Takes about 1 – 1 ½ hours.



All Winter: Blanket and Poncho Drive

Help distribute blankets, or just bring some . . . Participate in this outreach for the poor and needy in our community.

Remember . . . All Confirmation candidates are to be involved in at least three apostolic service activities: home, parish and community. Three reflection sheets are to be filled out and returned to the Confirmation coordinator each year. Additional sheets are available from Mary Sue.

New Year's Eve Vigil for Peace

For several years, Holy Cross has hosted a vigil for peace on New Year's Eve ending with a midnight Mass for Peace. This year the vigil will include prayers for peace in our community and an end to gang violence. The planners are hoping to gear part of the evening to youth in our community, inviting them to come and pray for peace in their own lives and the environment they live in. While details are still falling into place, consider doing something different this New Year's Eve ~ be a part of the vigil for peace. Watch the bulletin for more information as the date gets closer.



LA Youth Day / Disneyland

Sign-up now for our annual trip to LA Youth Day: **March 17 – 21, 2009**

- We go as a group with St. Joseph's, Resurrection, St. John's and St. Michael's.
- Leave on Wednesday after school (4 p.m.)
- Return on Saturday afternoon (about 4 p.m.)
- Experience nationally known Youth Ministry Speakers and Musicians with over 12,000 other Catholic High School Students.
- Spend a day at Disneyland / California Adventure.
- Registration forms will be available at the December 6 Confirmation Session.
- Initial forms and deposit are due December 13.
- Approximate cost: \$350.

Summer Service Opportunity



Mexico Mission Trip

June 13 – 19, 2009

Put your faith into action: Help build houses with Amor Ministries and St. Joseph LifeTeen. More information is available from the Youth Ministry Office.

Super Bowl Sunday is February 7

Get ready for

Super Bowl Take 'n Bake Pizza Sales

- Order forms will be available at the December 6 Confirmation Session.
- Take orders from friends and family.
- We will be taking orders after Masses in January.
- Sign up to help make pizzas the morning of February 7
- For each pizza you sell, you get \$10 in Youth Ministry Bucks which can be used to pay for LA Youth Day/Disneyland, Confirmation Retreats, and other youth ministry related fees or events.
- This is our only general fund-raisers for Youth Ministry activities.



The Season of Advent

A new liturgical year begins on November 29 with the first Sunday of Advent. During these weeks before Christmas, we prepare our hearts and homes to welcome Christ. Here are some suggestions for getting ready for Christmas:

- Make an Advent Wreath for your home; pray with your family every night before dinner.
- Use your Confirmation Journal daily, read the gospel for the day, or a scripture verse, and write a brief reflection
- Celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. See the December calendar for Advent Reconciliation opportunities.
- Focus on doing good deeds for others; preparing your heart for Christ's coming.

December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation



What does that mean?

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 is such an important feast in our Church that it is like a Sunday ~ all Catholics are called to celebrate that feast by attending Mass on that day! See the calendar for the Mass Schedule.



**Looking for a Confirmation Saint?
Check out December Saints on the
December YM calendar.**