

# Holy Cross . . . a place where YOUth belong

## Youth Ministry News

126 High Street  
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Volume 7.4  
November, 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.



### **Important Confirmation Information**

All teens in our Confirmation preparation process are to attend the following Youth Ministry / Confirmation events in November:

#### **Updated November Calendar:**

#### **November 1: Response to Gang Violence: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Parish Hall**

Bishop Garcia has asked all parishes to focus their prayers and attention on the disease of Gang Violence on Sunday, November 1, the Feast of All Saints. That evening we will:

- address the issue of gang violence, how teens can respond, with a focus on teen safety
- remember our loved ones who have died.
- share the Church's teaching on the Communion of Saints
- do a labyrinth trust walk

#### **November 8: Teaching Mass (follow-up to our Church Tour) 6:30 p.m. in Church**

Parents and sponsors are invited to attend this teaching Mass with Fr. Mark along with the Confirmation candidates. Sleep in on Sunday morning; this does count for your "Sunday obligation."

#### **November 15: Teens and Sex (part 1): 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Parish Hall**

Join us for pizza at 6:30, followed by a presentation by Jeff Bisht from the Pregnancy Resource Center's TASK (Teens Are Saying kNOW) Force. He will share his own story and talk about the value of sexual purity in today's world. Confirmation sponsors who are in their teens or early twenties are encouraged to attend with their candidates.

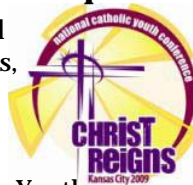
#### **November 22: Teens and Sex (part 2): 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Parish Hall**

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



#### **National Catholic Youth Conference Update**

Thanks to the generosity of our parish, and the hard work of our pilgrims, their parents, and families in our High School Youth Ministry, our NCYC pilgrims have reached their fund-raising goals. Teens and adult chaperones attending the National Catholic Youth Conference will be blessed at Mass the weekend preceding their departure (November 14, 15). They will leave for Kansas City on Thursday, November 19. Please keep them in your prayers. You can connect with the pilgrims online by joining the following live streaming options free of charge at [www.nfcym.com](http://www.nfcym.com) or <http://mycatholicvoice.com>:



Thursday opening session (11/19) approx 6:00 p.m. PST  
Friday morning session (11/20) approx 7 a.m. PST  
Friday evening session (11/20) approx 6 p.m. PST  
Saturday closing session (11/21) approx 6:30 p.m. PST

#### **Coffee and Donuts November 8**

Holy Cross Youth Ministry is hosting the monthly Coffee and Donuts after Mass on Sunday, November 8. Teens and parents are needed to help with this Ministry of Hospitality. Please call the Youth Ministry Office to volunteer.

#### **Fair Trade Sales November 8**

We will be selling Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate after Mass on Sunday, November 8. Teens and parents are needed to staff the table. This is part of our social justice outreach. Call the Youth Ministry Office to sign up.

#### **Farewell Reception for Fr. Mark November 15 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Parish Hall**

Everyone is invited to celebrate Fr. Mark's ministry to Holy Cross Parish and wish him well as he moves on to Santa Rosa in Cambria. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletins

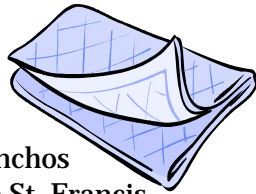


### **Service Ideas and Opportunities**

As Catholic Christians we are called to a life of service. Part of Confirmation preparation is being active in apostolic service. Here are some ideas to consider:

#### **Blanket Drive: Winter Months**

Youth Ministry traditionally holds a blanket/poncho drive during the winter months. You could make this your service project by volunteering to collect and distribute the blankets and ponchos collected. They can be taken to St. Francis Soup Kitchen, the Holy Cross Food Pantry, or other agencies that serve the homeless in our community.



#### **Fair Trade Sales: Once a month**

Help to organize and coordinate our monthly fair trade coffee and chocolate sales. Volunteer to work the table each month after the Mass you usually attend, or get volunteers to staff the table. Supplies are ordered by the Youth Ministry Office.

#### **Religious Education Helper**

Volunteer to help in one of the Religious Education Classrooms on Sunday morning, be a youth assistant for the Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11:00 Mass, help with Club Noah during the 11:00 or 12:30 Mass. Call Claudia at 458-3041 to volunteer.



#### **Specific Opportunities in November:**

- November 8:** Host coffee and donuts
- November 8:** Fair Trade Sales
- November 15:** Help with reception for Fr. Mark
- November 29:** Help with Advent Wreath Making

**More information and sign-ups will be available at the November 1 Youth Ministry Meeting (or from the Youth Ministry Office).**

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



### **Leadership/Travel/ Mission Opportunities**

There are four events for high school teens coming up in the future. If you are interested, please let Mary Sue know ASAP.

#### **December Retreat for High School Teens**

December 11-13, 2009  
Camp St. Francis, Aptos  
Approximate Cost \$125

Take some time away during Advent to spend some time with Christ. Sponsored by St. Joseph's LifeTeen.

#### **LA Youth Day / Disneyland**

Sign-up now for our annual trip to LA Youth Day:

**March 17 – 21, 2009**

Experience nationally known Youth Ministry Speakers and Musicians with over 12,000 other Catholic High School Students. Then spend a day at Disneyland & California Adventure. Reservations must be made before December 13. Approximate cost: \$350.



#### **Mexico Mission Trip**

June 13 – 19, 2009

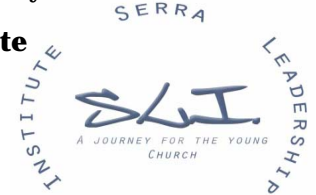
Put your faith into action: Help build houses with Amor Ministries and St. Joseph LifeTeen. More information is available from the Youth Ministry Office.



#### **Serra Leadership Institute**

Last week in June  
Camp St. Francis

For teens wishing to develop their leadership skills and be part of the Youth Committee. Scholarships to attend will be available from the Youth Ministry Office.



#### **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 special Advent Reconciliation opportunities.
- Focus on doing good deeds for others; preparing your heart for Christ's coming.