

*Jesus, the Bread of Life, taken, blessed, broken and given away so that all might be healed and have LIFE.*

Father, **TAKE** the lives of our teens. We offer them to You with open hands. Through the example of Jesus, teach them to surrender their lives fully to You.

**BLESS** them with the knowledge that they are Your beloved ones and that they truly belong to a community of love and mercy.

**BREAK** open their hearts so that the seed of the Word and the power of the Eucharist can be planted in fertile ground, take root and transform their lives.

**GIVE** these teens to the world with the power of the Holy Spirit to witness to the love of Jesus and serve Him in each person they meet.

Let this **LIFE TEEN** ministry be bread for the world. As Christ gave You thanks and fed many, may we give You thanks for this ministry and ask You to "multiply" it and nurture its growth for Your glory. Amen.

### **YOUTH MINISTRY at St. Richard Church...**

#### **You Are Welcome Here:**

*"This is what is needed: a Church for young people, which will know how to speak to their heart and enkindle, comfort, and inspire enthusiasm in it with the joy of the Gospel and the strength of the Eucharist; a Church which with know how to invite and welcome the person who seeks a purpose for which to commit his whole existence; a Church which is not afraid to require much, after having given much; which does not fear asking from young people the effort of a noble and authentic adventure, such as that of the following of the Gospel."*

*—Pope John Paul II 1996 World Day of Prayer for Vocations*

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# Life Teen Youth Ministry Leading Teens Closer to Christ

“What the young need today are not adults who will hand over information, but adults who will in a sense hand over themselves and the secret of their own faith...Adolescents need adults who are willing to take the time to enter their lives and walk along with them in a journey of faith.” P. 15, “A Future for Youth Catechesis”, by Michael Warren.

## What is Youth Ministry?

The framework for contemporary Youth Ministry comes from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), outlined in a document called “Renewing the Vision”. This document lays out not only the **purpose** of youth ministry, but also explains the 8 components of a **purposeful** youth ministry.

### The eight components of Youth Ministry:

Advocacy  
Evangelization  
Prayer and Worship  
Catechesis  
Community Life  
Justice, Peace, and Service  
Leadership Development  
Pastoral Care

**Youth Ministry is a comprehensive program designed to meet the following goals:**

### Goal 1: EMPOWERMENT

*To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.*

### Goal 2: PARTICIPATION

*To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.*

### Goal 3: GROWTH

*To foster the total person and spiritual growth of each young person.*

## **Parental Responsibility**

Parental involvement is imperative. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus scolded his disciples and told them: *"Let the children come to me and do not hinder them."* Proverbs 22:6 states, *"train a child in the way they should go; and even when they are old, they will not swerve from it."* The faith foundation a parent gives a child continues for a lifetime. Middle school is not the time to give your child the option of going to mass. It can create a poor standard of expectation. LIFE TEEN meets weekly from September to May. ***Nowhere else in your child's daily life will there be an invitation and challenge to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus and the Catholic Church than at LIFE TEEN.***

## **Our Specific Goals here at St. Richard Church:**

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### **Energizing Lifeteen Mass**

*If teens and participants are actively participating in the Mass, then they will be drawn nearer to God. We aim to have every part of the Mass—from the homily to the music—speak to teens in a language that they understand and draw them into worship.*

### **Amazing Life Nights**

*Dynamic, Prayerful, Real—touching teens wherever they are in their lives and encouraging them to experience their faith every day—not just on Sundays. We count on the support of parents and the community to help us “Break Bread” together every week by providing the meal that we begin with.*

***\*\*This is a great opportunity for Parents to COME and SEE what LIFE TEEN is about—Parents are ALWAYS needed to help provide, prepare, and serve meals***

### **Real Relationships**

*Jesus was an effective mentor for 12 people....if we can do half of that (6!), then with our CORE, we can enter a ministry relationship. Our CORE Team of Adult Leaders build real relationships with your children, based on mutual trust, respect, and a shared faith, and are trained to act responsibly with the information that your child shares with them.*

### **Commitment to Prayer**

*A CORE Team of Adult Leaders who are praying for the teens, you as parents, our leadership, and the Church. We commit to a holy hour, consecration, Daily Mass, etc. We can't give what we don't have.*

### **Ongoing Parent & Family Support**

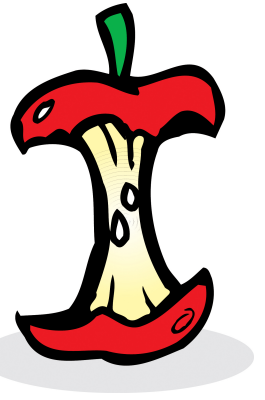
*Sometimes families and young people experience things that are difficult to deal with or talk about—Please feel free to contact Youth Ministry at St. Richard's for assistance and referrals for life's challenges. Parents are always invited to set up an appointment with Holly Joy to meet the special needs of your family.*



**Contact Director of Youth Ministry, Holly Joy, for more information.  
724.444.1971 x128 [hollyjoy@saintrich.org](mailto:hollyjoy@saintrich.org)**

## *Building Our Team*

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The CORE: The central portion of an apple containing the seeds and where the stem attaches. Particularly the portion that remains after the main part of the fruit has been eaten.

Just as the CORE is the most important part of an apple, the strongest part of youth ministry CORE Team—those adults who have committed themselves to staying attached to the mission and the Church, they are the faithful who remain after giving all that they have so that your people may feast on the fruits of the Catholic Faith.

The CORE Team of adults for LIFE TEEN should expect to receive ongoing training and resources to prepare them for and supply them with opportunities to EVANGELIZE PARENTS and PROVIDE MINISTRY TO HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH.

### **What does a CORE Team Member Do?**

The role of an adult LIFE TEEN CORE Team Member is to work together with the Youth Minister in building the ministry program for late adolescent youth, providing a safe environment, and serving as role models in participating in the dynamic life of the Church.

CORE Team Members commit to the following:

- Attendance for *at least two* monthly training and planning meeting (Scheduled on Thursday evenings each month, from 6:30-8pm, or by appointment)
- Attendance for *at least two* LIFE NIGHTs each month. Regular LIFE NIGHTs are Sunday evenings, after the 5:00pm Youth-Oriented Liturgy, and additional service projects and retreats as schedules permit.
- Advocating Youth Ministry among parents, youth, and members of the community.

**LIFE TEEN needs at least 15 Adult CORE Team Members—  
Might YOU be one of them?**