

Established 8 December 1944

73 North Avenue ♦ Tallmadge, Ohio 44278 ♦ Phone: (330) 633-3637 ♦ Fax: (330) 633-6978

Website - www.ourladyofvictory.net

23 August 2023

Dear parents/guardians/families:

The theme for this year's *Catechetical Sunday* (September 17th) is: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened." - *Matthew 11:26*

These are the comforting words of Jesus Christ who is keenly aware of the challenges so many face these days, especially our youngest members as well as so many families. I say "comforting words" for it remains Jesus' intention to provide us with direction and guide us along the path we travel so that we may come to know Him, draw close to Him, and grow in holiness as we keep our lives focused on what truly matters: eternal life with God.

This path began at our baptism. Recall that day when you brought your child to the Church and declared publicly not only the name you gave your child at birth, but what your intentions were:

What do you ask of God's Church for your child? **Baptism**

*In asking for Baptism for your child, you are undertaking the responsibility of raising them in the faith, so that, keeping God's commandments, they may love the Lord and their neighbor as Christ has taught us. **Do you understand this responsibility? We do.***

The same question was asked of not only the godparents, but also of the faith community and all committed to supporting not only your child in their lifetime of faith, but also you, the parents and guardians.

That is always our intention at Our Lady of Victory as carried out through the ministry of *Religious Education and Formation* in our *Parish School of Religion (PSR)*. Never do we presume to replace the primary role you have with your children in raising and forming them as the responsible and faith-filled persons they are called to be. We humbly are committed to providing the support we can through our ministry of *Religious Education and Formation*, always with your commitment and support.

This communication is intended to provide you with some key information about this year's *Parish School of Religion (Grades K-6)*, *Edge* (a new and exciting offering for our 7th and 8th grade members), *Lifeteen* (for our 9th and 10th grade members), *Sacramental Preparation Schedule* for those preparing for *First Communion/Reconciliation*, and *Registration* for those preparing for the *Sacrament of Confirmation* (with more details about that process coming out in a separate communication).

We are keenly aware of the busyness of family life and have done the best we were able to do in arriving at the scheduled dates/times for *Religious Education/Formation* and *Sacramental Preparation*. We have checked with the Tallmadge City Schools regarding events (including sporting events) that will challenge available times, as well as (again, to the extent we were able) other sporting events, etc., external to Tallmadge City Schools. We do this each year since, sadly, we find that faith education and formation (including regular participation in what is central to our spiritual well-being as Roman Catholics - **the weekly celebration of Eucharist/Mass**) are too often made to be seen as in competition with these activities. While all of these activities are good and certainly beneficial to the development in a variety of ways of our youngest members, they must never be seen as a replacement for the "things that will last" and the "things that lead us to eternal life with God."

I fondly recall Question 6 in the *Baltimore Catechism* that so many of our elders were formed through:

"Why did God make you?"

"God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.", a conviction so beautifully and powerfully captured when you presented your child for Baptism, and one that we commit to, again, to support your role in whatever way we are able to do so.

Our Lady of Victory *Loving God. Loving Others. Making Disciples.*

Some important highlights about what accompanies this communication/email:

This year's Parish School of Religion* begins on Sunday, September 17th** with the 11:00 AM Mass* followed by a "Hot-Dog Picnic" (which is hoped to include entertainment, again this year, by **Josh the Juggler** and is sponsored by our Knights of Columbus and Our Lady of Victory's Ladies' Guild)

**This includes parents/guardians, children, teens and youth, Grades K-6, Edge Grades 7th and 8th, Lifeteen Grades 9th and 10th, Confirmation Youth Grade 11, as well as all Parishioners.*

***This is Catechetical Sunday*

- The **Registration Form** (PDF fillable) for this year's Parish School of Religion/PSR, all grades including Edge, Lifeteen and Confirmation. The link for Faith Direct is also included to allow for payment of your fees at the time of registration either through an ACH withdrawal from a checking or savings account or via Credit Card. *Please complete the form in its entirety, including any updated address, telephone number and email address.*
- The **Parent/Guardian Consent Form for Virtual Catechesis** (PDF fillable) *should that be necessary at any time*
- The **Photo Release Form** (PDF fillable)
- The **Emergency Medical Form** (PDF fillable)
- The **Parish School of Religion Schedule** (K-6) for **2023-2024** (including the dates/times for Sacramental Formation Sessions for our 2nd Grade children/families, as well as dates for First Reconciliation and First Communion); **Edge Schedule***** (7-8); **Lifeteen Schedule** (9-10); the Celebration of Confirmation is scheduled for **Friday, April 12, 2024** (a separate Formation schedule will be sent out shortly)
- (Forms will also be available on the Parish Website (www.ourladyofvictory.net) at <https://www.ourladyofvictory.net/parish-school-of-religion-psr-lifeteen-youth-ministry>. The "Parent/Guardian Handbook will be distributed on Sunday, September 17th.)

****Below you will find a letter from Ryan Perkins, our Edge/Lifeteen Coordinator that explains more about Edge.*

PLEASE, COMPLETE ALL REGISTRATION MATERIALS AND SUBMIT THEM EITHER:

(1) VIA EMAIL TO LTILENNI@OURLADYOFVICTORY.NET, OR JPASKO@OURLADYOFVICTORY.NET;

(2) VIA U.S. MAIL TO: MRS. JOANNE PASKO, C/O OUR LADY OF VICTORY PARISH, 73 NORTH AVENUE, TALLMADGE, OHIO 44278;

(3) VIA THE COLLECTION BOXES IN CHURCH;

(4) DROP THEM BY THE PARISH CENTER OFFICES DURING OFFICE HOURS MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

REGISTRATION MATERIALS ARE DUE IN BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH.

- **All** "In-Person" sessions for Grades K-6 will continue to be held at Tallmadge High School from 10:00 -11:15 AM on Sundays (see the Schedule);
- **All** "In-Person" sessions for Grades 7-8 (Edge) will be held at the Parish Center, Room 101, on Sundays from 10:00-11:30 AM
- **All** "In-Person" sessions for Grades 9-10 (Lifeteen) will be held at the Parish Center, Room 101, on Sundays from 5:00-6:30 PM
- **All** "Faith, Family and Fun" monthly Gatherings will be held in Finnerty Hall on Sundays (see the Schedule) and start with families gathering at the 8:30 AM Mass and then moving to Finnerty Hall at the conclusion of Mass, with the Gathering concluding by 11:00 AM
- Those choosing to **Home School** may do so once again. Please **note** this choice on the *Registration Form*.
- Know that all Parish School of Religion students will be advanced to the next grade level when sessions begin unless a parent/guardian requests that their child remain in the grade level they were in for the 2022-2023 year.

Edge (7th-8th Grades):

Dear parents/guardians/families:

This year at Our Lady of Victory, we will be starting an EDGE program for 7th and 8th grade. EDGE is designed to meet the educational, spiritual, emotional, and social needs of young adolescents. It serves to give them the lessons and education they'd receive in PSR classes and deliver it in a way that is fun, engaging and a break from the classroom setting that they are so used to.

The EDGE format is the same as Life Teen for those familiar with it. For those that aren't the structure is as follows:

Gather: This section of the (Life Night)/day involves an invitation to the teenagers that welcomes them to a (Life Night)/day. This can be anything from an interactive game, a chance to win a prize, a skit, or a funny video clip. Depending upon the specific night/day, some nights/days might utilize several of these aids. The Gather is always directly related to the main message of the night/day.

Proclaim: This section of the (Life Night)/day is devoted to the main teaching for the night/day. The Proclaim is advised to be 10-15 minutes long, depending on the topic. Typically, the talk is usually given by the youth minister or another Core member. Some (Life Nights)/days change the rhythm of this by suggesting a clergy member, a panel of people, or a team of 2-3 people lead the talk. (Life Teen)/Edge also has a prepared

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DVD component for certain (Life Nights)/days which can be shown in place of a live teaching.

Break: In this section of the (Life Night)/day, teenagers are given the chance to "break open" the message of the night/day. Typically, this takes the form of small groups. (Life Teen/Edge recommends one adult for every 6-8 teens in a group. Certain Life Nights/days recommend a large group wrap session or doing a group activity (like a prayer walk) to provide the teens a chance to digest the message of the night/day.

Send: The send portion of a Life Night/day is to wrap up the Life Night/day by giving the teens a way to take the message they learned and apply it to their lives at home.

Generally the send involves some personal prayer time. Depending on the night/day, teens might be given the chance to make a personal commitment to do something or not do something. The teens may also be presented with a small gift (such as holy water, a nail or a cross) to help them remember the message of the night/day.

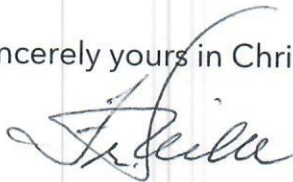
If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me at (330) 633-3637, ext. 19, or email at: rperkins@ourladyofvictory.net.

God Bless!

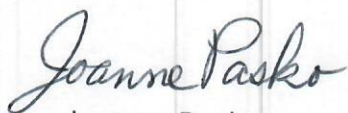
Ryan Perkins - Edge and Lifeteen Coordinator

Be assured of our continued prayers for you, your family and all who are part of Our Lady of Victory Parish.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Michael A. Matusz
Pastor



Joanne Pasko
Director of Religious
Education



Linda Herold
Pastoral Minister

Encl.