Dear High School Parents,

I hope that you and your family are having a wonderful summer! The start of LifeTeen is quickly approaching. As you hopefully already know, LifeTeen is our faith formation program for high school students, along with our high school foundation religious education courses. This year in LifeTeen we will be focusing on the Catholic Church and the Sacraments. We will again have service opportunities, a retreat (tentatively scheduled February 2-4 at Green Lake Conference Center), and social opportunities throughout the year.

The registration form is included in this envelope. All children attending any of our religious education programs can be signed up on the same sheet. To compensate for materials that we will need for the year, along with snacks, and other supplies, **there is a onetime payment of $85**. **Please complete the registration form by August 28th and send/drop off at the parish office (601 N. 8th Street).** Additionally, due to the increase of social media usage, the Diocese is now requiring that we also have families complete a separate digital communications and media release form. This form will be distributed the first weeks of LifeTeen.

**Confirmed Students and Roncalli Students**

Faith formation doesn’t stop after Confirmation! We would **love** and **expect** to see our confirmed teens at LifeTeen! For this reason, we’d like confirmed Juniors and Seniors to still register for and attend LifeTeen, but at no cost. Roncalli students are also **invited** and **expected** to attend LifeTeen as a way to grow in faith, prayer, and community and as a way to be involved in parish life. Therefore, there is no cost to Roncalli students to attend LifeTeen, but please register your child(ren).

**LifeTeen**

LifeTeen begins on **Sunday, September 24thfrom 4:30-6:30PM in the Elementary School Social Hall and LifeTeen House across from the Waldo Worship Site.** This was the time most favored by high schoolers when polled at LifeTeen/Edge. During this time, we will also have a communal meal. All teens should plan to be at LifeTeen from 4:30-6:30

**High School RE Courses**

Prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, students (who are not attending Roncalli High School) will be required to take six foundational courses in Catholic beliefs and practices: **Jesus Christ and the Paschal Mystery**, **Scripture**, **Sacraments**, **The Catholic** **Church**, **Morality**, and **Social Justice/Catholic Social Teaching**. This is to ensure that all students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation have a solid foundation in their faith and can articulate the truths of their faith. Each course will be six hours in length over three days. To allow for flexibility and be mindful of busy schedules, students can take courses at a time that works for their schedule and courses do not need to be taken in any particular order. All courses will be available each summer and will be cycled through again during the school year. Ideally, students should be taking 1-2 courses/year from the summer prior to their freshmen year of high school to the summer before their junior or senior year, so the courses will not require a significant time commitment.

The courses are meant work in conjunction with LifeTeen and **are not replacing LifeTeen**. **Students should still be attending LifeTeen frequently.** It is the requirement of the Bishop and the Green Bay Diocese that **all youth should receive at least 30 hours of faith formation each year**. We will be taking attendance at LifeTeen to monitor student attendance. If a student takes two of the foundational RE courses in a year, there are still 18 hours of required faith formation needed during the year (which would equal 12 LifeNights). The courses, however, will allow more flexibility within the LifeTeen program in regards to topics covered and will allow more time for prayer and relational ministry. Remember that both knowledge of faith and practice of faith/development of a personal relationship with Christ are necessary.

Dates and times for the next round of High School Religious Education Foundational courses (for Fall/Winter) will be mailed out and posted on our St. Francis of Assisi LifeTeen Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts once the dates and instructors are decided. Current juniors who have not yet been confirmed, need to only take four of the courses since the courses were first introduced last year. We keep record of the courses each student has taken and needs to take.

**Masses**

 Due to low attendance when we’ve had the 5:00 masses and decreasing teen interest in the mass, there will no longer be a 5:00 mass. Instead, each of the different youth groups (LifeTeen, Edge, Elementary RE, Roncalli, SFA Middle School, and SFA Elementary) will plan and participate in all of the ministries for regularly scheduled masses. Two groups will be featured on the second weekend of each month, so every three months the LifeTeen teens will have a mass to plan and will provide the following ministries: serving, lectoring, ushering/hospitality, cantoring/music ministry, and Eucharistic ministers (Confirmed and commissioned teens or parents**). Our masses for LifeTeen will always be one of the 4:00 Saturday masses.** **The dates of our scheduled LifeTeen masses are: October 14 (Waldo), January 13 (Grand), and April 14 (Grand). It is an expectation that your child and you are present for and participating in these masses.** We will do trainings for the various mass ministries and for the music within the first few weeks of LifeTeen. One the registration form, all teens will be required to sign up for two ways they’d be willing to participate in these masses (e.g. serving and music ministry).

**Parent Letters**

We will be introducing parent letters and calendars for high school parents this year as a way to stay in touch more effectively with high school parents. Parent letters and calendars will be available to students at LifeTeen and also posted on our Facebook page and website.

**Parent Help Needed:**

In order to make our youth ministry program as successful as it can be, I need your help! First, I need help from parents and the parish community to make meals for LifeTeen**. I ask that all parents sign-up for 1-2 weeks during the year in which they’d be willing to either come to the LifeTeen House to cook a meal for the teens or bring a prepared meal to the Elementary School Social Hall before LifeTeen begins at 4:30.** Supplies and ingredients will be available. This is an important part of our ministry because this time helps to foster community and will be most successful if the core team and I don’t need to worry about preparing the meal and can instead focus our attention on being present to the teens. You can sign up for a time that week that works for you through Sign-up Genius: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d48abaf2caaf49-cooking>

Secondly, ministry without prayer is fruitless. The greatest way we can help our teens and youth is by praying for them**. I am asking all parents/family members (and extending the invitation to our parish community) to sign-up for two weeks in which they will either spend half an hour in adoration praying for the youth (from Elementary RE through our college students), their families, and those who work with and minister to our youth or offer up the same intentions at daily mass during that week.** If we truly believe that prayer is our relationship with God and that prayer has a powerful impact, than incorporating prayer into our ministry is of the greatest necessity. You can sign up for weeks that you are able and willing to go to adoration or daily mass through Sign-up Genius: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d48abaf2caaf49-praying>

Lastly, if you are willing and able to give of your time and gifts in any other way (such as helping chaperone events, providing music ministry at LifeTeen/Edge, etc.), please feel free to let me know.

**Confirmation**

Direct confirmation preparation (required of all teens wishing to be Confirmed) will again take place during the summer of 2018. Information will be sent out in early spring to sophomores and juniors (who haven’t already been confirmed). **There will be a Confirmation retreat led by Spiritus at our parish on Saturday, March 10th for those needing to complete the Confirmation retreat requirement**.

We hope that you will join us this year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at elizabeth.fritsch@sfamanitowoc.com or at 652-7821.

Many Blessings,

Elizabeth Fritsch

Coordinator of Youth Ministry