

# Middle School Faith Formation Information

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- **Curriculum:** All children in the parish grades K-8 are using a program called *Faith First*. This curriculum also has a website, [www.faithfirst.com](http://www.faithfirst.com). It has materials and information for youth and parents. Take some time to check it out!
- **Small Groups:** Middle schoolers will be in small groups. Each small group is led by a parish adult volunteer. Please do not bring friends to small group sessions, if you do they will need to fill out an emergency contact form.
- **Service:** Twice during the year, each small group will work on a service project. Some classes will visit the White Bear Care Center to lead activities with the residents or visit another site to perform a service project. On these days, please arrive 15 minutes early. You will be notified by mail.
- **Walking to St. Mary's:** If your child is walking over to St. Mary's after school, please talk with them about guidelines for their safety (Ex. Can they stop anywhere on their way?)
- **Open Gym/Community Room:** The gym will be open for middle schoolers from 3:15-3:45 PM and again from 5:00-6:15 PM. Middle schoolers are welcome to play basketball, do homework, or socialize. Parent supervision is required after 5 PM.
- **Kohler Kafé:** A meal will be served from 5:15-6:15 PM each Wednesday during Faith Formation. Use this as family time before or after classes.
- **Special Needs:** If your child has any special needs, please talk to Justin Kelly, 429-8001, ext. 223 or Karlene Feidt ext. 240. We are eager to meet the needs of all children!
- **Communication:** Communication to middle schoolers and their parents will be through the parish bulletin, letters home and handouts given to the middle schoolers on Wednesdays. Be sure to ask if there were any handouts or notes. Also, check our website [www.stmarys-wbl.org](http://www.stmarys-wbl.org) for information.
- **Special Events:** Remember to register for all special events by calling the parish office! Friends are welcome to come to special events as long as they register. Call 429-7771.
- **TEEN (Teen Eastside Ecumenical Network):** Look for events throughout the year where you can have fun and meet teens from other local churches, like our River Boat Dance and All-Night Lock-Out.
- **Summer BLAST:** White Bear area youth groups collaborate in this great summer opportunity for middle schoolers. Summer BLAST will take place July 9-13, 2012. Each day includes a morning of faith building activities and service projects and an afternoon of fun field trips.
- **The Big Day of Serving (formerly 1 By Youth):** A day-long service event for middle and high schoolers. Help those in need with friends and youth from across the Twin Cities to improve a neighborhood in need on Saturday, May 5, 2012.
- **Youth Choir:** Share your gift of music at Mass! This group will sing 2-3 times a year. Call Liz Racine at 429-8001 ext. 279 for more information.
- **Liturgy of the Word with Children:** Liturgy of the Word for Children is offered to young children during 9 and 11 AM Masses. If you are interested in helping with this ministry during any of the Masses, please call Karlene Feidt at 429-8001, ext. 240.
- **Altar Servers:** Boys and girls in fourth grade or older are invited to be altar servers. Those interested need to attend a training session in October.
- **Youth Volunteer Opportunities:** There are a number of volunteer opportunities for youth. Sign-up to help with Sunday Preschool, child care, yard work for elderly and disabled, and office work for the parish.
- **Weather Cancellation:** If we ever cancel any events or classes, an announcement will be placed on Justin's extension: 429-8001, ext. 223. On school days, we will try to have announcements made at Central and Sunrise.