



*Holy Cross  
High-School  
Youth Ministry  
Handbook  
2011 - 2012*



**D**o not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.



Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

1 Tim 4:12-16

Dear high-school student and family,

Welcome to another year of high-school youth ministry at Holy Cross. Teens today have a dizzying array of opportunities and struggles that are unique to this generation. With the continued growth of the internet, television, cable, i-pods, Facebook and movies, it's sometimes hard to discern what direction to go next.

Our hope is that this booklet will help you be more informed and better aware of the many opportunities for getting involved here at Holy Cross and making good decisions by:

- 1) Providing an overview of offerings and opportunities.
- 2) Helping you to plan your calendar for the coming year.
- 3) Allowing you to discuss planned activities with your family and friends.
- 4) Helping you to participate more fully in the community of Holy Cross.

This year promises to be an exciting time as you enter or continue in high-school. Allow God the opportunity to change your heart, so that you may be spiritually ready and mature as we enter a new millennium.

God Bless,

Pat Haviland

Msgr. Dan Deutsch

High-School Youth Minister

Pastor

For further information or sign up, please call 879-4751 ext. 111



# High-School Community Events

## **\*Large Group at Church\***

**JAMS:** These are fast paced evenings, put on by our Peer Ministry Team, 5 times a year on **Sunday evenings (mostly)**. **JAMS** include evenings that help teens see how God is part of their everyday life and may Include: skits, games, snacks, talks, guest speakers, teen witnesses and small groups as well as **Special Events** where teens can gather and just have a good time All high-school students and their friends are welcome.

**No sign up needed for on site events.**

**September 25 (6:30—8:30) Kickoff!**

**December 11 (6:30—8:30)**

**March 4 (6:30—8:30)**

**April 29 Starved Rock trip (Time TBA)**

**May 20 (5:30—8:30 / Food, Party, Games, Recap\*\*)**

(\*\*incoming Freshmen welcome)

## **\*Small Group at Church\***

**Forum:** If you have the desire to know God in a personal way and grow in that relationship, then this part of our ministry is for you. This is accomplished through teen topic, reading and discussing God's Word, experiencing the power of prayer, fellowship and sharing, bringing the Catechism and Church teaching to life, which leads to sharing Jesus with others in both word and action. This group meets **at Church** on **Wednesday evenings from 7-9 from late August— early June. No sign up is required.** Please check the bulletin for weekly information.

### **Forum Includes:**

Teen Lead evenings (by our own Peer Ministry team), Games, Skits, Video Clips, Movies, Prayer, Saints, Dating, Guy/Girl stuff, Identity, Pro Life, Scripture, Parents, Family, Friends, Decision Making, Judging Others, Peer Pressure, Modesty, Media, Stations of the Cross, etc....

**Special Forum Evenings:** Open Gym Nights (1 per. Month), Pumpkin Carving, Awesome Thanksgiving Dinner, Rosary Making, Christmas Caroling, Christmas gift exchange, Laser Tag, Bowling, bonfires, etc.....

For Further updates...check out our Holy Cross website at [holycross-batavia.org](http://holycross-batavia.org) and Facebook

# Leadership, Prayer and Service Opportunities

**Peer Ministry:** This group is formed in the Spring and early Summer and is open to Sophomores through Seniors, who desire to learn about their faith and share it with their peers through skits, mimes, talks, games, small groups, discussion, prayer, retreats, rallies, outreaches and the daily example of a Christian lifestyle. Applications will be available at our last Jam of the year in May.

**Special Forces:** This ministry open to all high-school students, focusing on middle school retreats, service and stations of the Cross. Our goal is to help teens take on various leadership and service opportunities without a huge time commitment. Applications are available in the Narthex.

- Oct. 14 Middle School Rally at Holy Cross (CEC Gym) 7-10PM
- Dec. 4 Parents afternoon off (1—4 PM) HS and Middle School students lead games and activities for younger kids to give their parents the afternoon off.
- Jan. 8 6th grade large group special event....games, skit and a faith-filled message.
- Feb 26 Middle School Outreach (1-3PM)
- March 10 Confirmation / help Peer Ministry Team (9AM-1 & 2-6PM)
- March 16 Teen Stations 6:00–6:45  
(Practice March 15 from 1-3, and March 19 from 6-8)
- May 20 Middle School Bash—TGIS (1-3)

**Service Saturday:** Throughout the year, we will be helping coordinate service opportunities, mostly on Saturdays from 9AM—noon. This is focused on HS and Middle schoolers and their families, but is open to all and includes things like: raking leaves, mowing, washing windows, weeding, visiting those in the nursing homes, Christmas caroling, bingo, trips to Feed My Starving Children, Easter party for children with disabilities, etc.... We are also in need of adult / parent drivers. Sign up is requested.

**F.O.P. (Festival of Praise).** These are awesome opportunities to pray twice as quoted by St. Augustine. This evening is typically the first Monday of the month from 7—8:15 and is lead by one of our Priests and includes worship, prayer, testimony and teaching.

## Retreats / Rallies / Mission / etc..

### **October 15, 2011 "Walk the Talk"**

Catholic men's conference at the Holmes Student Center in DeKalb. This is open to all the men of the parish. Cost for teens is only \$15.00 (\$30 for adults). The day will include dynamic speakers, inspiring music, Mass, Reconciliation and lunch. <http://www.thetalk.org>  
Tickets are available in the Narthex after Mass

### **January 27—29, 2012**

Bishop Lane Retreat. This promises to be an awesome retreat in the woods south of Rockford. What makes this retreat different is that it is put on by teens—our Peer Ministry Team—who know the struggles teens go through.

### **March for Life:**

January 20—24, 2012 Washington DC. Information is available in the Narthex and on the Diocesan Respect Life Website: <http://www.rockforddiocese.org/respectlife/marchforlife>

### **April 1-3, 2012**

"Here I Am Lord". A weekend of awesome music, speakers, reconciliation, Mass. The theme of the weekend is, "Vocations and Discipleship". Their website is <http://www.hereiamlord.net>

### **Good Friday Retreat, "In Christ Alone" , April 22—23, 2012**

This is open to all High School students and their friends. The retreat goes from 10 AM Friday to 2 PM on Saturday afternoon. End your Lenten experience with an impacting Good Friday Retreat right here at Holy Cross...walking with our Lord and your friends in this desert experience ...our theme is "In Christ Alone". It's a little different, but this retreat's timing offers us a great opportunity to grow deeper in our faith with ourselves, our families, friends, Christ and His Church....this Retreat is "In House", so we've cut our costs down a lot and lessened the transportation challenges for everyone..... Friends are welcome.

## **July 2012, Steubenville**

Franciscan University high-school age youth conference. Join us with over 2500 teens from around the country for a truly life changing experience. We're shooting for July . An information meeting will be on **December 7 from 6 – 6:45 deposit of \$40.00** must be sent in by early January, 2012.

## **Summer 2012 / Mission Trip**

We are headed back to St. Anne's Mission in North Dakota on the Chippewa Indian reservation for a Mission Trip. This is open to all current HS students. We are also in need of chaperones. There will be an information meeting on Wednesday, Wednesday, January 18 at 6PM in St. Jude.

**UnPlugged (2012):** this is an awesome HS weekly summer event on Wednesday evenings from 6—9PM, starting June 20 through mid August. This past summer we averaged over 150 teens who took part in this experience and included a slip-n-slide, epic water balloon battles, plane crashes, bonfires, live music, ultimate Frisbee, team competition and games, prayer, small groups, inspiring talks and of course snacks. There is no sign up and friends are welcome!

## **Other Holy Cross Events & Service Opportunities**

(Your participation in these activities is strongly encouraged.)

- August      Saint Vincent DePaul Golf Outing—see parish website
- Oct. 2      Aurora Life Chain 2:30—3:30
- July 2012    Vacation Bible School. Exact dates TBA.  
Sign up to be a small group leader, or help with singing.  
Times are 9 AM—Noon.

# Other Parish Ministries

## and Contact People

Ushers	Joe Essling	606-3710
Greeter	Jean Porter	879-2223
Lectors / Speaker Series	Cindy Augustine	406-6540
Altar Server	Greg Norris	879-4750
Children's Minister *Religious Education	Pat Roatch	879-4751 ext. 110
Early Teen Youth Minister	Jen Haviland ext. 111	879-4751
Early Teen Rel. Ed. Minister Karen McQuillan		879-4751 ext. 109
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion *must be 16 and Confirmed	Roy Kautz	879-5247
Saint Vincent DePaul	Bernie Schlameuss	879-4751 ext. 307
Enriching Lives Ministry	Ed Barsotti	879-4750 ext. 321
H.S. Youth Minister	Pat Haviland	879-4751 ext. 111
Music Director	Jon McLearn	879-4750 ex. 112
Food Pantry	Christina Surtz	482-2395