



What are Life Teen & Edge?

Life Teen and Edge are an international Catholic movement that serves the Church by providing resources and faith experiences that help lead teens closer to Christ. This is accomplished through a vibrant Eucharistic spirituality and by creating opportunities for teens to grow in their faith. Life Teen & Edge operate much like the “Young Life” model of ministry found in many of our high schools in the Norfolk area.

Life Teen & Edge are 100% Catholic, teaching the totality of the Truth of our faith, challenging teens to live that same faith in every aspect of their lives.

Is there a curriculum for Life Teen & Edge?

Yes. Life Teen & Edge follow the curriculum established by the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. It will cover all of the essential teachings of the Catholic faith on a curriculum including God, the person of Christ, the Sacraments, the moral life, social teaching and the sanctity of life, and Church history.

What is CORE? Who will be the CCD teachers?

In the Life Teen & Edge models, there is not one specific “teacher” for a “class”. Instead, a CORE team works together to present the Gospel and the teachings of the Church in a setting where teens can come into full contact with what they are hearing.

The CORE team is a group of active parishioners who will be formed to actively teach the Catholic faith, get to know the teens of the parish, and help connect the faith with the lives of teens. CORE members are challenged to act as both a catechist and a relational minister with teens. We are currently recruiting CORE members.

Catechist:

- Developing talks for Life Nights
- Building an environment that draws teens
- Always presenting the official teaching of the Church
- Learning more about the faith to be able to present it
- Inserting Church teaching in small group conversation
- Studying the Scriptures of the week

Relational Minister:

- Praying for teens by name
- Getting to know the teens’ interests and values
- Sharing own experiences in the faith
- Asking questions to challenge teens to go deeper
- Speaking with teens before and after Mass
- Creating a comfortable place for teens to talk about God

What are Life Teen & Edge doing differently than other Christian Formation programs?

In some ways, not much. We are all simply trying to teach the promise of salvation through Christ and a life in the Church. But Life Teen & Edge take it a step further by delving into the life of teens more specifically.

Life Teen & Edge recognize and view teens as a distinct culture. Today's teen culture is totally different than the one in which you grew up. Clothing, language, music, social outlets and attitudes about life are all elements that help define this culture. It is essential to successful youth ministry to recognize the culture from which the teens emanate in order to bring them into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

So who is ultimately responsible for my teen's faith formation?

According to the Church, the parent(s) of the child are the first teachers of the faith. The CORE team will work closely to teach the faith. Ultimately, the Coordinator of Youth Ministries and the Pastor are the ones who will establish the curriculum, maintain Sacramental records, and interview candidates for Confirmation.

How is our parish implementing Life Teen & Edge?

This fall, Blessed Sacrament will implement Life Teen & Edge as our Christian Formation program for grades 6-12. Life Nights (grades 9 – 12) will be held on Sunday evenings (6:00 pm – 8:00 pm). Edge Dawns (grades 6 – 8) will be held on Sunday mornings (9:00 am – 10:10 am).

We hope to expand youth ministry into more social, spiritual, and service related activities. We will strive to offer supplemental retreats and activities.

How can I help?

Right now, we need prayers! Please pray for the successful growth and continuation of the Life Teen & Edge programs.

The most important things you can do to make Life Nights & Edge Dawns successful are...

1. Attend Mass as a family, every Sunday, without exception. This builds a culture where the Sacraments are a regular part of the life of your family. Talk about the faith at home.
2. Establish Life Teen & Edge as a priority. Encouraging and not providing excuses for teens will go a long way to get them to ***“give it a chance”***. Teens who attend faithfully find a place where they enjoy spending time... but we need you to help us get the ball rolling.

We will also need parents to help occasionally with providing food or snacks, transportation, or help building the teaching environment. If you are willing, please let us know.

Where can I learn more?

There is a ton of information about Life Teen & Edge available on their website, www.lifeteen.com and their website for adult leaders www.catholicyouthministry.com.

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