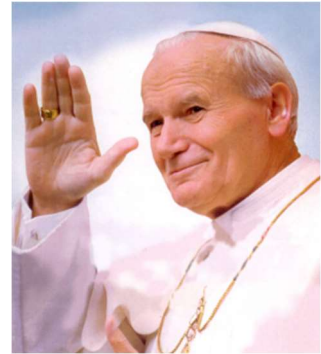


Welcome!



Dear Most Awesome Parents, Confirmands, Teens, and Pre-Teens!

We are so excited for a new year to begin! Please take a moment to see what we have in store for your child this upcoming fall.

SJYG Edge and Lifeteen

Welcome to all our new youth members and confirmands, and welcome back to those who have joined us in previous years! We are so excited for you to be here and we cannot wait to see what the Lord wants to do in your lives and in our Edge and Lifeteen Programs this year! The journey with Our Lord is a most precious one and we are blessed to be on this path with you and your Teen.

Edge (Grades 7 & 8)

We want to welcome you to Edge! We are so excited for your family to be joining us and we look forward to whatever the Lord has in store for us this year!

If you are not familiar with our Edge program, it is the middle school version of Lifeteen, which is the programming we use for high school. Edge takes Church teaching and makes it fun and interactive for middle schoolers. One of our goals throughout each year is to help our pre-teens to form a community, so when they travel on to Confirmation, they have formed bonds with each other and with various members of our high school Core Team.

Edge meets twice a month, mostly in the gym, on Friday nights from 7-8:30pm. Edge uses games, activities, powerful “proclaims”, works of mercy and various forms of prayer, praise and worship, to introduce the youth into forming a deeper connection with the Lord.

We look forward to getting to know all of our families and not only getting to know one another in community, but growing closer, in a deep and meaningful way, to the Lord.

Lifeteen & Purpose (Confirmation Program)

*Please **READ CAREFULLY** the following expectations **WITH** your teen and then sign and return. All confirmation classes will take place **EVERY SUNDAY EVENING** from September-June (with the exception of holidays and scheduled breaks, which will be indicated on the calendar). Your teen’s attendance will be expected at the 6pm Mass, which will be more teen focused. Mass will be followed by our new Confirmation/Youth Group Program until approximately 8:30 - 8:45pm. Sunday Mass, **EVERY SUNDAY and HOLY DAY is REQUIRED.** (A Holy Day Calendar will be provided).*

Our program consists of Lifeteen on Sunday evenings with 12 nights dedicated to Purpose, which is specifically dedicated to Confirmation Preparation. Dates for Purpose are indicated on the calendar. On

those dates that are indicated, teens will come for Confirmation Prep at 4pm, attend Mass with us at 6pm and be with our Life Night at 7pm.

CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ All parents and teens will attend the information and registration session. Times and dates will be forthcoming. This is a **MANDATORY** session. If you absolutely cannot attend, you must schedule an appointment with the youth minister and the pastor before the start of the program.
- ❖ A candidate entrance interview for first-year program candidates and a final exam interview for second-year program candidates will take place.
- ❖ Candidates will attend all Purpose Confirmation Preparation sessions on the indicated days in the calendar. If they need to miss, they must complete an assignment and a parent **MUST** contact the Youth Minister to excuse them from class. **NO TEEN** will miss more than 3 sessions of Life Nights.
- ❖ Candidates must attend Mass each Sunday and Holy Day. It is recommended that they attend with their family. If the family cannot attend for any reason, the candidate is invited to attend the 6pm Mass with the Confirmation/Youth Group Program. If the candidate is not attending the 6pm Mass, they must have a priest sign the current week's bulletin and submit that to the Youth Minister at the Sunday evening session. This is to be done even if a Mass time other than the 6pm Mass is attended at St. Joseph Church.
- ❖ Candidates will be expected to complete several Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy throughout their time in Confirmation Class. The opportunities will be provided for them by the Core Team and each candidate will be required to complete a minimum of four Works per year. They may use a total of five Community Service Hours from their other obligations to count for one of the Works. The Youth Minister will explain this to the candidates.
- ❖ Candidates are expected to be obedient and respectful to the Core Team, all guest speakers, and fellow students. Anyone deemed to be disruptive in class will be sent home. In order to be readmitted to class, they and their parent(s) must meet with Youth Minister, Coordinator of Evangelization, and Pastor.
- ❖ Punctuality is important; the students are to be in the Youth Group room (The Upper Room) immediately following Mass. Pick-up is between 8:30pm and 8:45pm. Conversations sometimes run over.
- ❖ Parents may be asked to assist/chaperone/drive for some events.
- ❖ Candidates are to take responsibility for all assignments, sessions or Masses missed etc. If assignments, sessions or Masses are missed, they do not complete their Corporal/Spiritual Works of Mercy, or they do not make the Confirmation retreat, candidates should not expect to be confirmed in the spring with their class, but rather will have to repeat the year.
- ❖ Most Confirmation assignments will be completed during the Purpose/Youth Group Session. Some assignments may need to be finished outside of those sessions. External assignments are to be completed and submitted to the Youth Minister by either turning in handwritten assignments or by emailing their responses. Candidates may also be required to keep a Prayer Journal. While we understand that your teen will have a great deal of school work to do as well, our goal is that your teen, with your assistance, will view their Confirmation work as a priority.

- ❖ The Archdiocese of Hartford requires that each candidate make a Confirmation retreat to be eligible to receive the Sacrament. As a parish, we attend the Steubenville Retreat to fulfill that obligation. The Candidate is required to make that retreat in their first program year. Second-year program candidates are encouraged to attend again if they are available. Details for the 2023-2024 retreat will be forthcoming and registration will begin in January. In addition, as part of the Purpose Program we will attend either a second retreat at Trinita or a special Teen focused event. In an effort to keep retreat costs down, we will be holding fundraisers. More information will follow. We are looking at several different ways of raising funds this year. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer to organize a fundraiser, please see the Youth Minister! We LOVE volunteers!

Grades 11 & 12 – Lifeteen

The journey of a full Catholic begins once Confirmed. What a beautiful treasure to be able to continue learning and growing in the Catholic Faith. We welcome your teen to continue on the path with Our Lord and Evangelize with us through our Lifeteen Program. Your teen is welcome to come on retreat again this year!!!! Please encourage them to do so As a parish, we attend the Steubenville Retreat to fulfill that obligation. The Candidate is required to make that retreat in their first program year. Second-year program candidates are encouraged to attend again if they are available. Details for the 2023-2024 retreat will be forthcoming and registration will begin in January. In an effort to keep retreat costs down, we will be holding fundraisers. More information will follow. We are looking at several different ways of raising funds this year. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer to organize a fundraiser, please see the Youth Minister! We LOVE volunteers!

PAYMENT FORM

Edge Sessions\$100.00
 Lifeteen & Purpose (Confirmation Preparation\$150.00
 Steubenville Retreat Deposit to secure a spot for your teen \$60.00
 Payment Due Date: TBD

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES – ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR SACRAMENTAL RECORDS

Steubenville Retreat:

This typically costs between \$350-\$375 per student. It includes the cost of the retreat itself, accommodations and meals, transportation and tee shirts. If there is a hardship, the Steubenville Retreat can be paid in installments with complete payment due **NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY**. If there is a hardship, please see the Youth Minister. We ask that a \$60.00 deposit be made to secure your teens spot by TBD. This fee is subject to change as more information is released from Lifeteen. We will be having several fundraisers throughout the year to help off-set retreat costs.

Please complete the table below

Family Name:			
Program Name	Cost Per Teen	Number of Teens	Total to be Remitted
Edge	\$100.00		
Purpose Confirmation	\$150.00		
Steubenville Retreat deposit	\$ 60.00		
Lifeteen Grades 11 & 12	Free		
Total Cost Per Family			

Parent/Guardian Affidavit

I/We have read the requirements and agree to all the requirements for enrolling our teen.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teen Signature: _____ Date: _____

Initial if you give SJYG permission to take photos of your teens during Life Nights and all related activities to post on social media sites and to use for promotion _____

Remit the Payment Form along with your payment. Checks should be made payable to St. Joseph Church. If you have any questions, please contact me at 860-309-7902 or lrodgers@stjoseph-winsted.org.

God Bless,

Lindsay Rodgers & Core Team