



Dear Parent,

Welcome to *The EDGE*, St. Ambrose and St. Mary's Junior High Youth Ministry Program that will help bring young people closer to Christ! Our goal is to give our seventh and eighth grade youth the edge, the Catholic edge, the Jesus edge, as they go through this time of remarkable change in their lives.

As most of you know, St. Ambrose and St. Mary's youth ministry combined forces last year to become known as Anderson Life Teen. During this time we implemented a weekly mass that was geared directly toward today's youth. Teens serve in most of the liturgical roles, including the music roles which includes drums and guitars. Following the "teen friendly" Mass youth would enjoy dinner before junior high and high school youth had their respective youth ministry sessions. We have had a lot of rave reviews when it comes to the "teen friendly" Mass. It seemed that the majority of youth liked the concept of EDGE Nights but the overall consensus was the need for more creativity in the nights, more discipline, and better sharing opportunities for those who wish to go deeper. We are excited to announce two concepts that we are implementing to this year's junior high ministry; Peer Ministry and more meaningful small group time.

In order to enhance this ministry we must have your assistance. We are desperately trying to have a well-oiled machine but it will take each and every one of us to make this possible. Please understand that all youth ministry events are scheduled with the understanding that we will have adequate parent and parishioner support in order to properly and safely execute them. At this time we want to have weekly EDGE gatherings, socials, etc. but do not have enough support yet to make this possible. We ask that you prayerfully consider where you may be able to live out your baptismal call. More will be discussed at **Sunday evening's parent meeting**. The meeting will be limited to 30 minutes followed by a time for questions and dinner. There are many ways you can participate:

- Clear your child's schedule for *EDGE* Nights and Life Teen Masses and encourage him/her to attend. Make *The EDGE* a commitment. During the odd months(Sept, Nov., Jan., etc.)we will have a youth focused Mass at 5:30 on Sundays at St. Ambrose. The typical time for high school teens during these months will be 5:15 until 8:30pm. Where as, junior high youth are asked to come from 4 until 7 as their EDGE nights will take place BEFORE the Life Teen Mass. **Please note that all are asked to come from 5:15 until 8:00 on the first night, September 7th.** During the even months(Oct., Dec., etc.) we will have lunch and our respective EDGE and LIFE Nights at St. Mary's after the 11:30 bilingual Mass. As long as we have adequate supervision we plan to make road trips such as ice skating, youth rallies, etc. You will receive a schedule at Sundays' parent meeting.
- Come to all the masses that are aimed toward the youth. The music and the homily are geared toward young people, so the liturgy has special meaning in their lives.
- Join our Life Teen or *EDGE* Core Team. It's a great way to stay connected to your child's spiritual life and a great way to strengthen your own. Your interaction with your child's peers will give you valuable insight into the mind of the junior high youth.
- Look at the registration form to choose other areas such as making phone calls, babysitting, etc.

We look forward to seeing you and your son/daughter at our *Youth Ministry Kick-Off* on Sunday, September 7th from **5:15-8pm** at St. Ambrose. **Don't forget your child's registration form, registration fee, your child, and your favorite taco topping and drink to share.** All will be dismissed in time to cheer on the Colts. Please pay close attention to the specific times for the rest of the year.

We are very excited to begin our second year of Anderson EDGE. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at St. Ambrose's parish office, 644-5956, or rebecca@minister.com More information can also be obtained from www.st.ambrosechurch.com, www.stmary.catholicweb.com, and www.myspace.com/andersonlifeteen

Blessings to you and your family,

Rebecca Fritchie,
St. Ambrose Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Anderson Life Teen & EDGE Youth Minister