

SMM Youth Group

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New Found Family

Core team member talks about finding a home with SMM Youth Group

Christie Kurczak
Core Team Member

I'm a Kentucky girl. I was born and raised in Kentucky. The first twenty-two years of my life were spent there. On the first Saturday of May you'll find me eating Derby Pie and sipping sweet tea. I prefer to go sans shoes whenever possible. And I never imagined that I would live anyplace but my 'Old Kentucky Home.' That all changed about eight years ago when a military man swept me off my feet and took me to Oklahoma...and then Germany...then back to Kentucky...and now here in lovely Georgia.

The thing that I miss the most about my Kentucky home is not the call to the post for the finest horse racing in the world, or the bluegrass gently swaying in the spring breeze. The thing that I miss is my family. What I have found here though, where I absolutely least expected it, is a new family. It consists of about 100 weird and rowdy teenagers (you KNOW I love

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Confirmation Retreat Success

Claire Lundy
Peer Minister Team

The Confirmation retreat this year was based around the theme "this is a time to be real". We had many times where we were real, such as adoration & confession. For many of the candidates they had not experienced adoration, so that was very special to them & many had not been to reconciliation in a while either so they felt renewed & forgiven after that. We also played some fun games, made some good memories, and had a few talks from peer ministers & core team members. We found new ways for the teens to grow deeper in their faith through their Confirmation journey. We had small groups to help get to know each other & these were the groups we stayed with for the weekend to learn new ideas about our Lord. We had early mornings & late nights filled with lots of laughter & serious times. We all had a great time! The peer ministers & core team are praying for the candidates & will be here to support the teens through this journey & the journey after the sacrament.

The peer ministers and core team are praying for the candidates.

One Roof Competition

Last year the Middle and High School programs had a competition to bring in food items for the One Roof Food Pantry. Once again we will be competing with the middle school. The food item for the month of October is cereal. The rules are slightly different this year. For each student that brings an item, whether it is one item or 10, we get one point. So the more teens

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you), and a handful of crazy (yet extremely dedicated) adults. I have found a new home in the High School Youth group at St. Mary Magdalene.

Like any family, this one has many different personalities. That is one of the many things I love about it. Each and every one of you brings something unique and wonderful to this family. You all touch my life and my heart (and those of everyone you meet) in ways that are unable to be adequately put into words. We certainly have our struggles and issues in the group at times as well, but more importantly there exists a unique and loving closeness that is not to be matched among any other group of teenagers I have met. You offer a breath of fresh air to the community at St. Mary Magdalene. Your dedication to one another, the life of the parish, and the community in general is refreshing. Through this group, I have seen what kinds of amazing things can be done when teenagers work together in a positive and loving environment. When I imagine all the wonderful things that are ahead for the world with each of you making a difference in it every day, I am filled with hope. And I am inspired by your faith and desire your desire to learn and grow more in that faith with every step you take.

Thank you for the gift that you are to me, and to my family. I could not be happier to have landed here in this place, at this particular time, so that I could come to know each of you. Thank you for welcoming me in, and opening your arms and hearts to us, and to everyone who walks through the doors at SMM. Thank you for being an integral part of my family. I thank God for each of you and the blessing that you are in my life every day.

With Love in Christ,
Christie

Sermon Contest

Why should you pay close attention to Father Dan's homily each week? The first reason is that they are filled with insight, church teachings, and great reflections for your daily life. The second reason is that it could help you win a \$50 Visa Gift Card. Each week Susan will ask a question about Father's homily, High School PREP students will have a chance to answer the question at the sign in table on Sunday nights. At the end of the semester, Susan will pick two correct answers from the

entire semester. Those two people will each get a \$50 Visa Check Card.

Six Flags Trip

We will be going to Six Flags over Georgia on Saturday October 18th from 10am to 10 pm. We will be leaving the church property at 9 am and returning around 11 pm. Permission slips will be available in the narthex and online. The cost is \$30.00 per person. Money and permission slips are due by Wednesday October 15th. There will be no late money or permission slips accepted. Friends are welcomed but must fill out both a permission slip and a medical release form. These are available on the website. You may place the money and forms either in the youth ministry box or slide it under my door.

Saint Vincent de Paul's Needs

We have been given the opportunity to help out our SVdP Society by putting a basket together for a silent auction during their Casino Night. The High School program is doing an Advent Gift Wreath. We are looking for gift cards from any store or business for any amount. The gift cards will then be placed on an advent wreath. Please help us support this worthy group. Items should be donated by Sunday October 26th.

Mission Trip information Meeting

We are headed to Chattanooga Tennessee for our mission trip this year. If you are interested in participating please plan on being at the informational meeting on Sunday October 12th from 1:15 to 2:00 pm in the church hall. ❖

GENERAL INFORMATION

Permission slips are always available on line when needed at www.smmcatholic.org. Click on youth group and the forms are on the left hand side of the page

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DISCIPLES

SMM PROPERTY

SUNDAY OCTOBER 5TH FROM 6-8 PM

Who were the men chosen by Jesus himself to carry on his works? Can you relate to any of them or are they just a bunch of names in the bible?

OCCULTS AND SUPERSTITIONS

SMM PROPERTY

SUNDAY OCTOBER 19TH FROM 6-8 PM

Learn what makes Matt B's sick to his stomach. Understand what really makes a cult a cult.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

SMM PROPERTY

SUNDAY OCTOBER 26TH FROM 6-8 PM

It's our annual costume party so come in an appropriate costume. Remember friends are welcome.

OTHER FAITHS

SMM PROPERTY

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2ND FROM 6-8 PM

We all have questions about faiths, both ours and others. We will spend the night talking about other faiths and answering questions so we can better understand each other and ourselves.

Each month we will have various questions from the teenagers answered here. Right now we have only a few questions so start thinking up some questions! Look for the question jar on the welcome table at Youth Nights. You can submit anonymous questions on the youth group website at www.smmcatholic.org, the click on youth group at the top. Questions may also be submitted by email to: sbaker@smmcatholic.org

that bring an item, the more points we get. Plus, you can now bring items to ANY youth event. This includes, flag tag, hang out night, concerts, and lock in. So anytime you are coming to bring a food item with you.

Heart Walk Event

We will be getting a group together to participate in the Atlanta Heart Walk on Saturday November 1, 2008. This would be a great opportunity to earn service hours. If you are interested in join us please contact Susan or Christie for further information.

Susan's Vacation

Susan will be on vacation from Monday October 13th through Friday October 17th. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Christie Kurczak at 270-872-8768 or via email at steve_christiek@hotmail.com.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

From the website:

Q: Didst thou knoweth-If you clap your hands in the hallway by the side exit, down past the nursery, it makes a "BOING!" sound?

A: No I did not know that, but later when the building is empty I will perform extensive tests to verify.

Q: If I am frozen and kept alive and sent into space for eternity, since I technically am never dying would I be denied heaven and ever meeting God?

A: There is a line in the creed that says we believe that Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end. This means that Jesus will return to earth and all humans, living, dead, or floating in space, will be judged.