

# Middle School Faith Formation Information

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- **Club 3:16:** After school, starting at 3:16 we will have open Gym, a study area, and snacks each Wednesday. In addition, we will have a variety of fun activities like movies and open Youth Room, as well as service opportunities, until 4:15 classes begin. *No registration needed!* Just have your child head straight to St. Mary's to be part of Club 3:16!
- **Curriculum:** All children in the parish grades K-6 are using a program called *Alive in Christ*. This curriculum also has a website, [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com). It has materials and information for youth and parents. Take some time to check it out! Youth in grades 7 & 8 are using *Faith Fusion*, where they will cover the breadth of the Catholic faith over these two years.
- **Small Groups:** Middle schoolers will be in small groups. Each small group is led by a parish adult volunteer. Please do not bring friends to small group sessions; if you do they will need to fill out an emergency contact form. Small groups meet 4:15-5:30 or 6:30-7:45.
- **Service:** Twice during the year, each small group will work on a service project. Evening classes will visit the White Bear Care Center to lead activities with the residents; afternoon classes will do fall clean-up for local seniors. On these days, please arrive 15 minutes early. You will be notified by mail. Everyone will participate in our Service Day in January.
- **Walking to St. Mary's:** If your child is walking over to St. Mary's after school, please talk with them about guidelines for their safety (Ex. Can they stop anywhere on their way?) Please arrive no later than 4:00.
- **Kohler Kafé:** A meal will be served from 5:15-6:15 PM each Wednesday during Faith Formation. Use this as family time before or after classes.
- **Special Needs:** If your child has any special needs, please talk to Justin Kelly, 429-8001, ext. 223 or Karlene Feidt ext. 240. We are eager to meet the needs of all children!
- **Communication:** Communication to middle schoolers and their parents will be through the parish bulletin, e-mails, letters home and handouts given to the middle schoolers on Wednesdays. Be sure to ask if there were any handouts or notes. Also, check our website [www.stmarys-wbl.org](http://www.stmarys-wbl.org) for information.  
Not getting our e-mails? Contact Justin Kelly at [jkelly@stmarys-wbl.org](mailto:jkelly@stmarys-wbl.org) to get on the mailing list.
- **Special Events:** Remember to register for all special events by calling the parish office! Friends are welcome to come to special events as long as they register. Call 429-7771.
- **TEEN (Teen East Ecumenical Network):** Look for events throughout the year where you can have fun and meet teens from other local churches, like our River Boat Dance and All-Night Lock-Out.
- **Summer BLAST:** White Bear area youth groups collaborate in this great summer opportunity for middle schoolers. Summer BLAST will take place July 11-15, 2016. Each day includes a morning of faith building activities and service projects and an afternoon of fun field trips.
- **Youth Music:** Share your gift of music at Mass! Call Liz Racine at 429-8001 ext. 279 for more information.
- **Liturgy of the Word with Children:** Liturgy of the Word for Children is offered to young children during 9 and 11 AM Masses. If you are interested in helping with this ministry during any of the Masses, please call Karlene Feidt at 429-8001, ext. 240.
- **Altar Servers:** Boys and girls in fourth grade or older are invited to be altar servers. Those interested need to attend a training session in September.
- **Youth Volunteer Opportunities:** There are a number of volunteer opportunities for youth. Sign-up to help with Sunday Preschool, child care, yard work for elderly and disabled, and office work for the parish.
- **Weather Cancellation:** If we ever cancel any events or classes, an announcement will be placed on Justin's extension: 429-8001, ext. 223. On school days, we will try to have announcements made at Central and Sunrise.