



Encounter

YOUTH MINISTRY

August 27, 2020

Dear St. Michael's Teens and Parents,

This year has been quite the rollercoaster ride. It's hard to believe that March was the last time we were able to gather in person. Back to school time is here and we are looking forward to the day our teens can gather in person again. During the months off teens participated in an online Faith Over Fear Challenge. Teens earned "points" by participating in various challenges and posting daily in the categories of prayer, service, leadership and of course humor. Winners will be announced soon! We also hosted a virtual escape room during Lent as well as an Easter scavenger hunt online through GoToMeeting.

Attached you will find information about Encounter as well as a schedule for the year. All dates are subject to change pending any restrictions that might come our way. We are focused on an in person start to gatherings in October. We will meet once a month in the Upper Room. Arrangements are underway for some online groups and activities through Google Classroom and GoToMeeting. Be sure to sign up for our Remind to get all the details.

Please be sure to fill out the attached forms to sign up your child and take note of the included schedule for the upcoming year. Forms should be returned on our first day together, Sunday, October 4 at 9:30 a.m. Dates for confirmation and confirmation retreat are pending. We hope to have final dates for you at our first gathering.

Encounter Youth Ministry is an intentional movement to reach out to Catholic Teens in order to support, inspire and encourage them in their discipleship. Encounter YM began four years ago in response to the alarming rate young people are leaving the Church. The ultimate goal is to provide young people with an authentic experience of Christ and the richness and beauty of the Catholic Church. This is primarily done through a series of monthly gatherings where teens can truly Encounter the person of Christ and build a personal relationship with Him. Our prayer is that we can combine solid Catholic teaching with authentic Christian witness in a way that will enliven the Holy Spirit within our young people. Any adult volunteers who would like to get involved with Encounter can contact the parish office or email EncounterYM.info@gmail.com.

Our theme for this year is "Arise" from Ephesians 5:14 "Awake, O sleeper, and **arise** from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." No matter where we are on our faith journey there is always opportunity to experience God in a new way. There is always an opportunity to die to sin. Each of us are called to constant transformation by the Holy Spirit as we seek the light of Christ.

In Christ,

Stacy Oeding & Irma Rerich