



OUR LADY OF GRACE EDGE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PHILOSOPHY

Our Lady of Grace EDGE is a junior high youth ministry program for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders that strives to grow one, holy, Catholic, & apostolic church.

EDGE is a program designed by Life Teen International, Inc. Life Teen creates Eucharist-centered faith formation resources for Catholic parishes around the world.

At Our Lady of Grace, EDGE encourages students to witness Jesus Christ in a new way. Through interactive games, personal witness, small faith sharing, discussion on current issues, creative prayer, and role modeling, EDGE takes students out of the classroom and into the community of faith.

EDGE NIGHTS

The EDGE program facilitates Catechetical, Issue, and Social Nights from August through May each year. There are six semesters of EDGE curriculum that include Church, Creed, Prayer, Social Justice, Scripture, & Sacraments. Although each EDGE Night is different, all share a basic structure that junior high students require. Each night is modeled after the Mass with Gather, Proclaim, Break, & Send sessions. Also, each night is promised to include an experience of God, fun, and food!

LEADERSHIP

The coordinator of EDGE is Julia Eckrich. This is her first year at OLG but her fourth year working in youth ministry. Julia grew up in Connecticut, is a proud alumna from the University of Dayton, and a joyful resident of Indiana. She loves working with young people who are curious about and hungry for truth in the Catholic faith. Middle School is an influential time and Julia strives to help students see the fun in their Catholic spirituality and explore the possibility of holiness through authentic faith.

EDGE is also led by a Core Team of adults and high school students who act as models of faith for our junior high students. Adults include young adults, parents, and priests who desire to share a journey towards God with students. High school students are juniors and seniors from several local schools who are identified as being outstanding role models and who demonstrate exemplary leadership.

GROUPS

Most EDGE Nights include a small group discussion. During this time, students will be grouped with peers of the same grade and will be led in faith conversation by the Core Team. These groups are consistent through each semester and allow the opportunity for confidential sharing and honest questions. These are frequently identified as the place where real faith can grow.

EVENTS

Besides EDGE Nights, special events are also planned during the year. These activities can include retreats, service projects, lock-ins, rallies, amusement park visits, and more. Each year these activities will be advertised at EDGE Nights and through EDGE communications

COMMUNICATION

EDGE primarily communicates through email and text found at flocknote.com/ourladyofgrace/EDGE. Parents and students can also stay informed via Facebook (facebook.com/OLGedge) and Twitter (twitter.com/OLGedge). Finally, the OLG website is a good source of information as well (ologn.org/ym).

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