

December 27, 2007

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope all of you had a Blessed Christmas. As many of you know, Greg Matern, our Middle School youth minister, has resigned effective December 31. I want to thank him for his service, dedication, faith and fun he shared with our teens.

Because of this situation, I am making some changes for the Middle School Programs from January – May. We are blessed to have a ‘team of people’ who will minister to our teens and you. Vicki Paine and Lauri Wilkie, teachers from our school, will be staff during the Sunday and Wednesday night sessions. Doug Hennen, a recent education grad, will be helping with many youth events. I will work with the core team/catechists on session plans. As always, our core team/catechists will also be volunteering for numerous events. I am trying to keep as many already scheduled events as possible. Please review the enclosed updated calendar.

When we have new leaders, sometimes students want to ‘test the boundaries’. I would appreciate if you would review the following expectations with your teen:

- Everyone is expected to treat themselves and others with respect
- If someone is disrespectful, the core team/catechist will speak with him/her
- If they decide to continue being disrespectful, the onsite coordinator will be contacted
- If they still continue the behavior, parents will be called.

I am also asking that all teens eat something before their sessions. Apparently a number of them are leaving the room to get pop or are bringing candy. Many of our rooms are ‘peanut free’ because of severe allergies, so we cannot have food in the rooms. . There are times when we do give them snacks. However, they should not be leaving a room to get pop/food. I really appreciate everyone’s cooperation on this.

As we begin a new year, let’s look forward to many ways we experience faith with our teens. None of our programs/events can happen without our dedicated teen and adult volunteers.. As we look beyond the next few months, I will be establishing a committee to do youth ministry visioning. If you need to reach Vicki, or Lauri you can do so at their parish emails: vpaine@epiphanymn.org and lwilkie@epiphanymn.org. You can reach me at either 763.862.4335 or kgebhard@epiphanymn.org.

Christmas Blessings!

Katie Gebhard
Director of Faith Formation