



*Parishes of St. Helen and Our Lady of Fatima*

## Youth Ministry

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August 31, 2011

Dear Parents:

Your child is embarking on a special journey of faith in this year preceding immediate preparation for Confirmation, also known as *Confirmation Preparation I*. The Diocesan policy on Confirmation states, "young people must be enrolled and complete the catechetical program the year preceding Confirmation." This year offers a chance to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ and to walk more deliberately as His disciple.

As Catholic Christians the single most important thing that we do is to gather at weekend liturgy. Nothing can take the place of being nourished by God's Word and receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ at the table. We all have busy lives, but we need one another to share in the joys and sorrows, the pain and struggle of our daily lives. The expectation is that families will attend Mass each weekend.

This program does require a commitment on the parts of parents to journey with our young people in this adventure we call faith.

As you can see from the enclosed calendar, there are a variety of opportunities with various dates and times. Take a look at it and feel free to call us with questions or clarifications. We did use all the district calendars in an effort to avoid major conflicts, but there still may be some.

We are also enclosing a registration form for your son/daughter for the overnight Confirmation Prep I service retreat offered on August 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> or November 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Helen's Parish. We are sure that it will be a great experience! The retreat will be focusing on our relationship with God, prayer, and service to others. The retreat will begin at 7:00pm on Friday and it will conclude at 5:15pm on Saturday. We are in need of parent chaperones to assist us at our various service locations, such as Bethesda House. Please call with your availability.

We are enclosing a list of what to bring and what not to bring on the retreat. You will notice that the teens are **NOT** to bring any electronic devices with them. This is a *retreat* and we are asking them to step out of their regular life for a day and a half. Your support in this is appreciated. We will, however, have a cell phone for emergencies: the number is 470.0958.

Peacefully yours in Christ,

Anna E. Denney & Lisa M. Kuban  
Pastoral Associates for Youth Ministry

## WHAT TO BRING ON THE RETREAT

- Sleeping bag
- Blanket
- Pillow
- Toothbrush, toothpaste
- Flashlight
- Pajamas
- Change of clothes (optional)
- Slippers (optional)
- Brush/comb
- Permission form, if not already sent in
- Questions
- Listening heart
- Snack to share
- Journal
- A good attitude!

## WHAT NOT TO BRING ON THE RETREAT

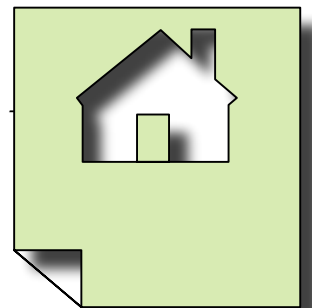
- Cell phones
- Ipods or other headphones
- CD players or other radios
- Video games or any other electronics
- Alcohol, drugs or cigarettes
- Negativity

\*\*The retreat centers do not allow the use of cell phones, Ipods or electronics. If you bring them, they will be taken away until after the retreat. This is an opportunity to go somewhere else and to do something different. Having cell phones or Ipods will get in the way of doing that. Please be respectful of this rule.

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Habitat for Humanity Mission Trip to Washington D.C.  
informational meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
at 12:15pm at St. Helen's Parish Center



Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany  
St. Helen's and Our Lady of Fatima Parishes

**MEDICAL CONSENT, PERMISSION AND RELEASE FORM**

I. \_\_\_\_\_, the parent or legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of parent/guardian) (Name of youth)

authorize the employees, representatives and chaperones of St. Helen's and Our Lady of Fatima Parishes to obtain emergency medical treatment, should it be necessary, during my child's attendance and participation in the Confirmation Prep II Service Retreat at St. Helen's Parish and at local service organizations on  
**(CIRCLE ONE)** October 21-22, 2011 at 7:00pm until 7:00pm  
January 6-7, 2012 at 7:00pm until 7:00pm  
**(Please bring your sponsor with you on Saturday from 3:00-5:30pm)**

I understand that I will be notified immediately should it become necessary to obtain emergency treatment. The person(s) who should be notified and the telephone number(s) are:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Special Medical Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

I consent and give permission for my child's participation and attendance in this activity/program. In consideration of my child's attendance and participation, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, waive and release any and all claims for damages I may have against St. Helen's and O.L.F. Parishes, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, New York, their representatives, chaperones, employees, successors and assigns arising out of any and all injuries by my child while participating in this activity/program.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

As a youth of St. Helen's and O.L.F. Parishes, I understand and agree to follow the rules and regulations as determined by the Parish, and the Diocese of Albany for this activity/program. I also understand and agree that I will notify my parent or guardian at the time of any violations requiring my dismissal from the program/activity and that I will be sent home at my own and/or parent's/guardian's expense.

Parent/Guardian

Youth Participant

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to chaperone  yes  no *(we need several parents to assist us please)*

I would be willing to help with  healthy snacks  or drinks  or desserts