



MIDDLE SCHOOL SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**OVERVIEW:**

Middle School Youth (Grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) can prepare for the *Sacraments* through the Edge program at Holy Spirit. This includes two groups of youth:

1. Those who are already baptized and desire to receive the Sacraments of **Reconciliation & First Communion**
2. Those who have never been baptized and desire to be **fully initiated** (Baptism, Confirmation, Communion) in the Catholic Church

The Sacrament of Confirmation (apart from those who may receive it during full initiation) is received during the high school years. Youth can begin this preparation as early as the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

The following are the basic requirements for those families with youth who are preparing for the Sacraments, as outlined above:

1. The youth must participate in a religious formation program for two years. If the family is transferring from another parish, it is acceptable if one of those years was done at another parish.
2. The Youth must be registered in Edge, and attend weekly Edge Sessions (5:00-6:30pm)
3. The Family must attend Sunday Mass regularly.

**SACRAMENTAL SESSIONS:**

The following is a list of the sessions the youth (and sometimes parents) must attend as part of the Sacramental Preparation. These sessions are *in addition to* the weekly Edge Sessions.

YEAR 1	YEAR 2
<p><b>Parent/Youth Sacramental Sessions:</b>  <i>The Youth, and at least one parent, must attend four (4) Sessions called "ALTERATION" about the Catholic Mass. These sessions are as follows:</i></p> <p><b>Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup></b>            SESSION 1: <i>"More Than Meets the Eye"</i></p> <p><b>Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup></b>            SESSSION 2: <i>"Our Father's Plan"</i></p> <p><b>Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup></b>            SESSION 3: <i>"The Mystery Revealed"</i></p> <p><b>Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup></b>            SESSION 4: <i>"What is Our Response"</i></p> <p>The "Alteration" sessions are held from 2:00 – 4:00pm in the Upper Room. If one, or more, of the sessions is missed, it can be made up the following year. The "Alteration" sessions are a great opportunity to know</p>	<p><b>Youth Only Sacramental Sessions:</b>            There are six (6) Sacramental Sessions held throughout the year for those youth in their second year of preparation. Those in their first year do not attend these sessions. <b>The Sacramental Sessions take place from 4:15-5:00pm on the dates below.</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup></b>  <i>"The Return Part 1: Introduction to the Sacrament of Reconciliation"</i></p> <p><b>Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup></b>  <i>"The Return Part 2: The Effects of the Sacrament of Reconciliation"</i></p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup></b>  <i>"The Return Part 3: How to Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation"</i></p> <p><b>Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 6pm</b>  <i>First Reconciliation Service</i></p>

## YEAR 1 (Continued)

more about the Mass, and, as a family, to draw deeper in a relationship with Christ through the Eucharist.



## YEAR 2 (Continued)

**Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

*“Not By Bread Alone Part 1: Introduction to the Sacrament of Holy Communion*

**Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*“Not By Bread Alone Part 2: The Effects of the Eucharist*

**Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

*“Not By Bread Alone Part 3: Receiving Communion*

## FUSE – Parent/Youth Series:

*FUSE is a **family** series on the **Theological Virtues**. Parents are invited to attend this 4-Week Series with your youth. There will some joint activities and some for just the parents and youth. This is a wonderful opportunity to share these nights with your youth. It is a suggestion that the parents of those youth in both Year 1 and Year 2 attend the Fuse Series together.*

November 7<sup>th</sup>: FUSE Series Week #1: “Spark: An Edge Night on Faith”

November 14<sup>th</sup>: FUSE Series Week #2: “Grounded: An Edge Night on Hope”

December 5<sup>th</sup>: FUSE Series Week #3: “Wildfire: An Edge Night on Charity”

December 12<sup>th</sup>: FUSE Series Week #4: “Infused: An Edge Night on Living the Virtues”



## Edge Retreat Day and Family Dinner:

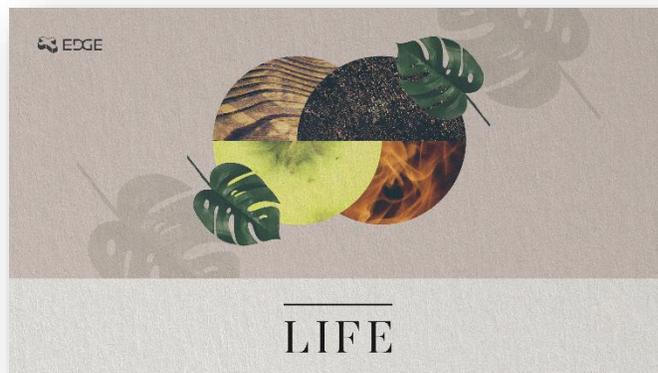
**Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> (Upper Room)**

***“Life: An Edge Retreat on Salvation”***

**8:30am – 4pm**

*Parents join the Youth for 4pm Mass followed by a family dinner in the Upper Room.*

*More details will be given in the Edge Sessions.*



## First Reconciliation Service:

**Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 6pm (Church)**

*Middle School youth will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the parish Advent Reconciliation Service. Parents are invited and encouraged to receive the Sacrament as well during this service. It will be a 30-minute long prayer service followed by individual confessions.*

## First Communion Mass: Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 5pm Mass (Church)

*Details and schedule for this Mass will be given in the Year 2 Sacramental Sessions as well as emailed home. All middle school youth will receive their First Communion at this Mass.*

## FULL INITIATION SCHEDULE:

*For the middle school youth who will be fully initiated through Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion, the following is a list of important dates. These should be attended only by those in their second year of preparation. Those to be fully initiated are called 'Catechumens' & 'Elect.'*

### **Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>: Rite of Acceptance (Catechumens – all ages) 9:30 am Mass**

- First Sunday of Advent
- Arrive 30 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass.
- Sponsors and parents should be in attendance.
- Meet with RCIA Coordinator & Fr. Bill prior to Mass for instructions
- Reserved seats within the first three rows for Catechumens, Sponsors / Parents

### **Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>: Rite of Sending Forth (Catechumens – all ages) 9:30am Mass**

- First Sunday of Lent
- Arrive 30 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass.
- Sponsors and parents should be in attendance.
- Catechumen's Sign the Book of the Elect (which will be presented at the Rite of Elect later that afternoon)

### **Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>: Rite of Election with Bishop Thomas (Catechumens – all ages) 2:30pm at Holy Spirit Catholic Church**

- Holy Spirit will have assigned seating for all Catechumens, Sponsors, and parents
- Arrive no later than 20 minutes prior to the Rite

### **Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>: Presentation of the Lord's Prayer & Creed (Catechumens) 9:30am Mass**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent
- Elect will be called forward and presented with a copy of the Lord's Prayer and Apostles Creed
- Sponsors and Parents should attend.
- Please sit within the first three rows.

### **Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>: Lent Scrutinies 9:30am Mass**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent (1<sup>st</sup> Scrutiny Sunday)
- Elect will be called forward to the closest aisle and asked to 'prostrate' (lay flat) on the floor during the Scrutinies (examination of conscious)
- Sponsors kneel next to the Elect
- Both Sponsors and Parents should attend
- Please sit within the first three rows

### **Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>: *Lent Scrutinies* 9:30am Mass**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (2<sup>nd</sup> Scrutiny Sunday)
- Elect will be called forward to the closest aisle and asked to 'prostrate' (lay flat) on the floor during the Scrutinies (examination of conscious)
- Sponsors kneel next to the Elect
- Both Sponsors and Parents should attend
- Please sit within the first three rows

### **Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>: *Lent Scrutinies* 9:30am Mass**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (3<sup>rd</sup> Scrutiny Sunday)
- Elect will be called forward to the closest aisle and asked to 'prostrate' (lay flat) on the floor during the Scrutinies (examination of conscious)
- Sponsors kneel next to the Elect
- Both Sponsors and Parents should attend
- Please sit within the first three rows

### **Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>: *Holy Thursday* 7:30pm Mass followed by adoration**

- Elect (of ALL Ages) will be dismissed during this Mass
- Sponsors and Parents should attend.
- Please sit within the first three rows.

### **Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>: *Good Friday Service* 7:30pm**

- The Elect of all ages will be asked to have part in this service (more details to follow)
- Sponsors and parents should attend.

### **Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>: *Ephphetha Rite* 10:30am**

- The Elect of all ages attend this Rite
- Details about their initiation will be given to both the Elect and the Sponsors and Parents at the conclusion of this Rite.
- Baptismal Garments to be distributed at the conclusion of the Rite

### **Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>: *Easter Vigil Mass* 7:30-10:30pm**

- All Elect, Sponsors and Parents arrive by 7:00pm.
- Elect to gather around Easter Fire in the courtyard.
- Details about Baptism and rehearsal for Confirmation and First Communion will be done at the Ephphetha Rite in the morning.
- All Elect, Sponsors, Parents, and family members must stay for the entire Mass. (Approximately 3-hour service.)