

The EDGE | 2023-2024

SCL Youth Ministry

Dear 6th, 7th, and 8th grade parents –

Welcome to *The EDGE*, St. Catherine Laboure's Middle School Youth Ministry Program which is sure to be another year of excitement and fun! Our goal is to give our middle school kids the "edge", the Catholic edge, the Jesus edge, as they go through this time of remarkable change in their lives.

Our Edge program is built with the simple idea that "...no one will take away your JOY!" –*Jn 16:22*. We LOVE to have fun! Community building and joyful play is a large part of what we do, while taking time to help grow their relationship with God. Creating a community and culture of joy and love centered around Christ is our first goal as our 6th graders walk through the doors. And as our Middle Schoolers grow into 7th and 8th grade we take more and more time to help cultivate their faith, making sure our programming is geared specifically toward each unique group!

In many respects middle school youth are on the "edge" because so much is going on in their lives physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially. It can be a very stressful and difficult time for them and you, their parents. While their peers begin to take on a more significant role during these years, middle schoolers are still very connected and influenced by their parents. They are still craving a close relationship with you and other adults in their lives.

That is why we are welcoming *you* to The Edge too. We consider your participation in this ministry as vital as anything we do. There are many ways you can participate and help your child to participate:

- **Join us for our experiences with the middle schoolers off campus (more info below.)** (We are planning to be a presence with them in the place where they interact with their friends most!)
- **At Mass there are a number of ways to serve** and be active in the Mass through helping with seating, being a greeter in the back of church, training to be a lector, and more. Come find Steve in the back of church and we'll get you involved!
- **Join us in our SCL School Community Garden and help us grow food for the local community.** All surplus produce is donated to the Affton Christian Food Pantry. The more we grow, the more we give!

As part of this packet please find The Edge & Excursion registration and release form, the Edge 23-24 calendar and our first Excursion Flier of the year. Please return the registration form and rules **as soon as possible**. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me. We are looking forward to seeing your middle school child at middle school ministry!

Praying for you and your families,



Steve Brinkmeyer

Middle School Youth Minister

Office: 314.843.3245, ext.301

Mobile: 314.698.1276

sbrinkmeyer@sclparish.org

www.sclym.org

The EDGE meetings: With the blessing of so many kids who participate in junior high youth ministry at their various grade levels, it's challenging to do the faith component at age-appropriate levels of junior high youth group. Therefore, each gathering will continue to be individualized by class. This also allows for a more personal approach to the Junior High Ministry. At these gatherings, we'll cover different topics to relate God to their daily lives and help make their faith come to life! Each class will spend time with our Youth Minister during their regular school day on Thursdays. This will work out to be roughly once a month. Our Middle School Youth Minister will also be joining our PSR Students for meetings with our 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade on various Mondays throughout the year! We have provided a calendar for the year with dates that can be found within this packet of paperwork. If there is ever any doubt, please refer to that calendar.

Trivia Night: A favorite junior high tradition is our annual Trivia Night for all of our SCL Middle Schoolers. All proceeds will support high school teens. Don't forget to mark Friday, April 12th, 2024 on your calendar now! More info will be sent home closer to the date. We surely appreciate all your support with that event!

Middle School Excursions: attached is a schedule for our entire Middle School EDGE year. We will have an off-campus activity in the months of October and February. Please stay tuned for more information on our lock-in on Friday 2/16/24 at the Incredible Pizza Company. This event will be from 10:00p.m. – 12:00a.m. Our first fieldtrip will be to Rockin' Jump on Friday 10/20/24. Excursions are open to all middle schoolers and encouraged to build community for everyone at SCL Parish!

Lunch and Lead: This will be our 3rd full year of Lunch and Lead! A program where our **7th and 8th graders can step into leadership roles in their class, their school, and in their community.** They do this by planning and growing a community Garden on the school grounds in partnership with our Parish Victory Garden. While growing the garden, the students will also have the opportunity to grow themselves by learning about leadership through the lens of the papal encyclicals Laudato Si and Fratelli Tutti. More information can be found on the SCLYM website at sclym.org/projects. Last year the Gardens from SCL provided over 1000 lbs of food to the Affton Christian Food Pantry!

Enclosed please find a **release** form for our Middle School Excursions this year. You will see that all of the dates and activities have been arranged in advance which should allow for better planning. There will once again be a 3 event package, including a discount. The use of **one release form for all activities** should also help to lighten the paper load a bit. I will, however, be sending home **Attendance Confirmations** each month prior to the next event. The Attendance Confirmations allow for you to sign your child up if they haven't already purchased the pass, but also to confirm that s/he will attend. If you purchase the 3-package pass, **please still CONFIRM** that your child will attend as each event approaches. **If your child does ANY event with us in the next academic year, we MUST have a release form on hand for him/her.** The total for the pass is \$85.00 **** However, if it better fits your schedule/life, feel free to pay for each event individually as it approaches.**

Please review this information and the online registration carefully. **Select the events that your child will attend,** complete the online payment (or send a check to the School Office payable to SCL). **I would appreciate it if I could receive everyone's completed form online by October 13th,** prior to our first event, Rockin' Jump. All digital paperwork must be completed for your child to attend.

In the upcoming months, **I will accept registration forms and attendance confirmations for individual activities up to 7 days prior to the event.** Due to lunch costs, activity center commitments, and chaperone planning, I ask that you please be mindful of this. As a reminder, additional *release forms* will not be sent home prior to each activity, however, **attendance confirmations will be sent home or will be sent electronically for a digital response for each event.**

Chaperones: I truly cannot do these events without parent helpers. Really, it's policy! If you have a free afternoon/evening to chaperone I (and all of the Middle Schoolers) would greatly appreciate it! Please take a look at the dates and if you are available to chaperone an event, please let me know. This is a wonderful opportunity to be an example of service to your own children and to get to know the other students in your child's class. If you have younger children that need to tag along, that's OK too depending on the event. I would need help in a variety of ways: helping everyone who registered get in, getting the kids' lunches, and chaperoning to keep everyone safe. I am ever so grateful to you as parents for your time to make events such as these possible. Thank you!

SCLYM EDGE & EXCURSION

Registration & Release

Registration and release forms for this academic year will take place online at

www.sclym.org

as well as online *payment*.

We are constantly working to improve our online registration process. We greatly appreciate your patience with us in any kinks that you may experience. With that in mind, our website does “play nice” with desktop and laptop registrations over mobile registrations. If you cannot pay online or need other accommodations, please contact Steve at sbrinkmeyer@sclschool.org. This year we have updated our billing system. This means that we will no longer be using PayPal for transactions for Excursions. The system that we use functions very similarly.

Online you will select which events that you want your child to participate in (as many or as few as you/your child are able)

1. Rockin’ Jump	(10/20/23)	1:00pm – 3:00pm	\$35.00
2. Incredible Pizza Lock-In	(2/16/24)	10:00pm - 12:00am	\$35.00
3. Middle School Trivia Night	(4/12/24)	7:00pm - 9:00pm	\$35.00

The cost of each event includes the activity, and food. A student may choose to participate in an individual activity or may purchase the full package for a discount. Payment and Registration can be completed on the website. The release form can also be found on the website at sclym.org.

Registering and purchasing all events together “**The 3 activity package**” price (Rockin’ Jump, Incredible Pizza Lock-In, Junior High Trivia Night) is **\$85. Fees paid for any activity are non-refundable.**

****You may also choose to register online now and select NONE of the Excursions, and to pay for each event one at a time as the respective dates approach. Information will be sent out before every event for another opportunity to register.**

Registration and **parent release** form and **full payment** must be submitted for your child to participate. (If paying by check, please make it payable to SCL.) Students may register for all 3 activities and one release form will apply for all activities circled above.

PARENT CHAPERONES!!!

Parents, first of all we want to thank you for all you do for your kids and helping them grow in their faith. One of the ways you have done that is by encouraging them to participate in Middle School Youth Ministry here at SCL. We know your lives are incredibly busy and packed with multiple activities, sports, and events all year long. Even so, it is required by the archdiocese that we have a 10:1 ratio of students to chaperones. If you have signed your child up for any of these **events please commit to chaperoning at least one of our events** this school year.

I'm hoping that giving you these dates in advance will give you the chance to add one (or all!) of these dates to not only your child's schedule but also to your own. We cannot go on these excursions without the help of our parent volunteers and your time means the world to us!

Please look over these dates and check which ones you are willing to commit to volunteering for:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Rockin' Jump	(10/20/23)	1:00pm-3:00pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Incredible Pizza Lock-In	(2/16/24)	10:00pm - 12:00am
<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior High Trivia Night	(4/12/24)	7:00pm - 9:00pm

Please visit www.sclym.org to commit to chaperoning an event.

Thank you for your help!

SCLYM Middle School EDGE | 2023-2024

Subject to Change

22 – SCL Preview Day (PM)

22 – Lindbergh First Day of School

23 – SCL First Day of School

AUGUST 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2023

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- 1 – Lunch and Lead
- 4 – Labor Day
- 7 – 6th Day School Ministry
- 14 – 7th Day School Ministry
- 21 – 8th Day School Ministry
- 29 – Lunch and Lead

- 2 – 8th PSR Ministry
- 5 – 6th Day School Ministry
- 12 – 7th Day School Ministry
- 19 – 8th Day School Ministry
- 20 – Rockin' Jump
- 27 – Lunch and Lead
- 28 – Trunk or Treat

OCTOBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER 2023

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- 2 – 6th Day School Ministry
- 9 – 7th Day School Ministry
- 16 – 8th Day School Ministry
- 20 – 7th PSR Ministry
- 22-24 – Thanksgiving Break

- 1 – Lunch and Lead
- 4 – 6th PSR Ministry
- 7 – 6th Day School Ministry
- 14 – 7th Day School Ministry
- 14 – 8th Day School Ministry
- 25 – Christmas Day

DECEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- 4 – 6th Day School Ministry
- 8 – 7th PSR Ministry
- 11 – 7th Day School Ministry
- 15 – MLK - No School
- 18 – 8th Day School Ministry
- 21 – Confirmation Retreat
- 26 – Lunch and Lead

- 1 – 6th Day School Ministry
- 5 – 8th PSR Ministry
- 8 – 7th Day School Ministry
- 14 – Ash Wednesday
- 15 – 8th Day School Ministry
- 16 – Incredible Pizza
- 19 – Pres. Day-Lind/SCL No School
- 23 – Lunch and Lead

FEBRUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- 3 – 6th Day School Ministry
- 7 – 7th Day School Ministry
- 11-15 – Spring Break
- 21 – 8th Day School Ministry
- 22 – Lunch and Lead
- 28-30 – Holy Triduum
- 31 – Easter Sunday

- 4 – 6th Day School Ministry
- 8 – 7th PSR Ministry
- 11 – 7th Day School Ministry
- 12 – Junior High Trivia Night
- 18 – 8th Day School Ministry
- 26 – Lunch and Lead

APRIL 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 2 – 8th Day School Ministry
- 7-9 – 5th Grade Camp
- 10 – 7th Grade CONFIRMATION
- 16 – 7th Day School Ministry
- 22 – 8th Graduation
- 23 – 6th Day School Ministry

Regular Junior High Ministry will happen during the day for SCL day school students and during PSR for Lindbergh Students. Excursions are open to all and encouraged to build community!