

Dear Parents:

Welcome to our High School Life Teen program at St. Laurence! Life Teen is our main outreach to all 9th - 12th grade students, and our mission is simple: *to lead teens closer to Christ*. Through teaching, discipleship, prayer, social events, and service, we hope to build up the kingdom of God one teen at a time. The goals of our Life Teen program are:

- To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today,
- To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic Church,
- To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

Our primary teaching nights are our Sunday Night *Life Nights*. These nights are held following the 5pm Life Teen Mass at the Ave Maria Center. A typical Life Night includes, prayer, dinner, dynamic teachings, and conversation group time. These nights count as High School CCE and typically run from September through beginning of May. In addition to our Life Nights, we offer *Discipleship Groups* (aka D-Groups) on Tuesday evenings from 6-7:30pm. These nights are smaller, more intentional small groups focused on building fellowship, accountability, and a deeper knowledge of Scripture. And finally we have our *Legacy* program. This program is a leadership development program for upperclassmen.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will also be prepared for during the high school years. Confirmation preparation is a two-year process here in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. The first year consists of attendance in a High School CCE program (Life Teen or Home Study). If your child is enrolled at a Catholic High School, this counts as their prerequisite year of religious education and so they are exempt from this first year of Confirmation program. However, they are still welcome to join us in our Life Teen program. The second year of Confirmation preparation consists of specific classes that dive directly into teachings on the Holy Spirit and the Sacrament of Confirmation. These classes run alongside and in conjunction with our Sunday night Life Teen program. In addition to these Confirmation classes, your teen will also attend a Confirmation retreat and complete service hours.

We typically recommend teens start their first year of Confirmation preparation their freshmen year and finish up their sophomore year. After receiving the sacrament, we encourage teens to become leaders in our programs by continuing to stay involved in Life Teen, Legacy, and D-Groups.

It is our hope that everything we do is supplemental to what you are doing at home to lead your children closer to Christ. If there's ever anything we can do to better assist you in that mission, please don't hesitate to let me know. We're praying for you and your families.

Sincerely,



Eric Painter  
High School Youth Minister