



Welcome to Anchor Youth Ministry!

We are excited and dedicated to bringing the hope of salvation to teenagers and enkindling Catholic discipleship & leadership to the next generation. Terms pertaining to **high school are bold**, *middle school are italicized*, and both are in normal text.

Anchor: Youth ministry program for all of St. Cecilia and St. Thomas Aquinas 6-12th graders. This includes: middle school (Small Group Ministry, EDGE) and high school (Life Teen, Small Group Ministry, Confirmation). Anchors are a biblical symbol of hope. Our program is defined by the dozens of caring adults who lead our programs - the "anchors" who help keep teens secure in their faith.

Hebrew 6:19: "This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm, which reaches into the interior behind the veil"

MS EDGE: Large group three times per month for fellowship, teaching, and discussion, for middle school. Meets on Sunday nights at St. Cecilia, begins in Sept. Led by Zeke.

MS Small Groups: Meet at St. Cecilia school on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:45 PM and are broken into three parts. The first part focuses on building community and having fun for its own sake, anchoring your child in our Catholic Communities. The second part explores the teaching of the church by discussing select passages from scripture, the catechism and Catholic Social Teaching. Through This we hope to help your child gain a better understanding of how their faith connects to every part of their life: from their identity as God's beloved child, to the ways we support our community. Finally, the last part dives into offering a practical experience of prayer that youth take an active role in.

MS Summer Offering: Every summer middle school will have an opportunity to come together and hang out, enjoy some good snacks, laugh, and celebrate the fun of summer together. Hosted at St. Cecilia once a week.

Intern: Due to the sheer number of teens we serve, we offer college internships to ISU Students. In addition, they gain practical ministry experience and support a particular area of our program.

Core Team: EDGE and Life Teen are led by a group of passionate, adult & teen evangelists commonly referred to as "Core."

Kick Off: An exciting and engaging event to start off our school year programs for Middle and High School students. Kick offs are over-the-top, memorable, fun, and are full of unexpected surprises and activities. The Life Teen and Edge kickoffs are held in mid-September.

HS Catholic Heart Work Camp: A week-long service trip to assist those in need in our country, complete with dynamic evening programs focused on fun and discipleship. Open for students in 9th-12th grades.

HS Confirmation (Chosen): Sacrament preparation held separately from Small Group and Life Teen. Sessions are for freshmen and sophomore candidates focusing on conversation with sponsors. This can also be done online/from home. Begins in October. (Chosen is the name of our curriculum.)

HS Confirmation Chats: A brief, 20 minute one-on-one with youth ministry staff or leaders with sophomore candidates once their preparation is complete. The interview helps them discern their next step and determine if they want to be Confirmed. Interviews take place in March immediately before the final Rite of Confirmation.

HS Fall Retreat: High school retreat usually in October to help teens see a supportive community and encounter God. Open to Grades 9-12.

High School Small Group Ministry: Weekly small group discussions to deepen students' relationship with Jesus Christ through a Catholic curriculum. Are gender & grade specific. Are limited to six students plus an adult leader and an upperclassman (11th or 12th grader) assistant leader. Participants are assigned to a small group when they start in their 9th grade year and stay in their small group year after year. The goal of a small group is to travel through to their 12th grade year with the same small group participants and leader. Small groups meet from 7:15-8:45 PM on Wednesdays at St. Thomas Aquinas.

HS Confirmation Retreat: Weekend retreat of preparation and transformation for Year 2 Confirmation candidates. End of February/Beginning of March. Held off-site, Friday evening through Sunday afternoon.

HS Life Teen (Life Night): A large group ministry open to all high schoolers, who can drop in as often as they like or attend for their weekly faith formation. Life Teen features games and fellowship with witness/teaching for grades 9-12. Centered on a Eucharistic spirituality, the goal of Life Teen is to lead teens closer to Christ through a prayerful community experience. Led by the Core Team and Kayla, Sunday evenings 7:00-8:30 PM

HS NCYC: The National Catholic Youth Conference is a gathering of American Catholic teens for fellowship, inspiration and sacraments. It will be held in odd numbered years in Indianapolis the weekend before Thanksgiving. Open for students in 9th-12th grades. Happens every other year (Odd Years)

HS Steubenville: A powerful summer weekend of speakers and Eucharistic adoration. We will sponsor a trip to a Steubenville youth conference every other year, usually odd numbered years. Open for students in 9th-12th grades.

HS Summer Gathering: Every summer high schoolers will gather to stay in touch and continue to grow in their faith together by reading and discussing the Sunday readings, a book, a book in the Bible, or something else in Catholicism to further their knowledge. There are also outdoor game nights once or twice a month to socialize, have fun, and enjoy the summer sun together.

Kayla Greiner: Director of Youth Ministry that implements all of the high school programming (Life Teen, Small Group, Confirmation, High School Peer Ministry Team) and helps Zeke supervise middle school. Works for both St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Cecilia parishes.

Zeke Mientkiewicz: Middle School Youth Minister that oversees the middle school (small groups, EDGE) events. Works for both St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Cecilia parishioners; helps Kayla when needed.