

St. Stephen and St. Thomas Aquinas Youth ministry

September 2009

Dear High School Youth!

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all! My name is Jennifer Giddings and I am the new Director of Youth Ministries for grades 6 - 12 for both St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Stephen parishes. What this means is that I will be working with you and for you in helping you to grow in your relationship with Christ and to build a stronger relationship with your home parishes.

You'll have the opportunity to participate in a number of different activities this year. You'll have the opportunity to attend faith formation classes, bible studies and youth group meetings, service trips in the area and out of state, retreats and conferences, take a more active leadership role in your parishes, and lot of fun community building events. All of this will be done TOGETHER - both parishes. So I hope that you'll bring a friend with you and join us in one of the many opportunities that are offered by your youth ministry program.

The following events are just a taste of many of the larger events that we're offering this year. Please keep your eye on the parish bulletin and website for more information about youth ministry activities.

Join the facebook fan page to have the most up to date information about youth ministry at St. Stephen and St. Thomas Aquinas. Make sure that you add **St. Stephen and St. Thomas Aquinas Youth Ministry** as a fan page!

If you or your parents have any questions about youth ministry or you want to know how to become more involved or have suggestions for activities PLEASE email me at: ***giddijen@gmail.com*** or call either St. Stephen or St. Thomas Aquinas parish offices and leave a message for me! I'll get back to you as soon as possible!

I'm looking forward to being able to spend more time getting to know you all. Don't be afraid to come up and say hello to me!

In His service,

Jennifer Giddings

Catholic Heart Work camp

- CHWC is a week long summer mission trip where campers will be given the opportunity to help restore homes, play with children, and work with social service agencies.
- CHWC also incorporates into the program music, games, witness talks, Mass, prayer, and the chance to meet with youth from all around the United States!
- This camp is open to all youth who are currently in grades 8 - 12.
- Cost of the trip will depend on the number of youth who sign up to participate and fundraising efforts. Approximately between \$400 and \$550 for the week. Includes meals, transportation, CHWC supplies, housing, some supplies, and free day activities.
- We will be attending workcamp the week of July 25 - 31, 2010. Camp destination to be determined
- Visit www.heartworkcamp.com for more information about workcamp!

We R.O.C.K.

**Rely On Christ the King
Jamboree 2009
Sunday, Nov. 1**

Registration forms for the Diocese of Lansing's High School youth Jamboree are now available on the St. Stephen parish website or email giddijen@gmail.com to receive a copy of the paperwork for you and a friend! The keynote Performer will be Bob Rice.

Also included in the day will be three rounds of workshops, lunch, dinner, Eucharistic liturgy with Bishop Earl Boyea, and a celebration dance with Inflatable games.

Over 1000 teens and adults from all over the diocese of Lansing and beyond are expected to attend Jamboree 2009. You will not want to miss this opportunity to have a great time! The cost to participate is **\$25** per person if you sign up before **Wednesday, September 30**; **\$35** per person if you sign up from **October 1 until October 11**.

Don't let the price be a factor in your participation in this conference! Scholarships are available. Contact Jennifer Giddings at giddijen@gmail.com before **September 20** if you need assistance.

Looking for Service Hours? Wondering how you can live out your baptismal call?

Put your God given gifts and talents into action in your home parishes! Do you play an instrument or sing? Contact Jennifer Giddings about starting up a youth praise band or becoming a cantor! Involved in drama or public speaking? How about becoming a trained

lector or EEM! Like to talk? Why not be a greeter? Like working with little kids? How about volunteering to help with faith formation! If you've got an interest, I can help to connect you with the appropriate ministry choice in your home parish! Contact me right away at giddijen@gmail.com!

FREE DINNER! Thurs, Oct. 8 at 5:30pm join us for the Focus on Life dinner and speaker. Email giddijen@gmail.com by Oct. 1 if you'd like to attend.

Mark your calendars NOW for the March for Life in Washington D.C. January 21 - 24, 2010! More information will be available at the end of September and space will be EXTREMELY limited!

Faith Formation for both St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Stephen youth

Faith Formation meeting dates and topics:

- SEPTEMBER 27: **HOW DOES BAPTISM CHANGE ME?**
- OCTOBER 18: **AM I A GOOD STEWARD OF OUR FAITH ?**
- NOVEMBER 15: **HOW AM I TIMELESS?**
- DECEMBER 6: **AM I WAITING FOR THE KING?**
- JANUARY 17: **HOW AM I NOURISHED WHILE I WAIT?**
- FEBRUARY 21: **WHO AM I IN THE STORY?**
- MARCH 21: **HOW DO CATHOLICS SPEND SPRING BREAK?**
- APRIL 18: **HOW AM I COMMUNITY?**
- MAY 16: **HOW AM I RELATED TO MARY?**

ALL CLASSES HELD AT STA
JR. HIGH after the 8:30 a.m. Mass
SR. HIGH after the 11:00 a.m. Mass

Youth Group meetings will begin in October after an adult leadership team has been formed and trained. Please be patient with us! We want the best program possible!

Other important events!

- *Mass in the Grass at St. Stephen's on Sept. 20 - volunteers needed for set up/ tear down & to work the youth group bake sale booth! Email giddijen@gmail.com to sign up!*

- *World youth Sunday: Oct. 25. Youth lectors, EEM, gift bearers & greeters are needed. Email giddijen@gmail.com to sign up!!*
- High School Winter retreat at Subiaco retreat house in Oxford, MI. Date: TBD
- **FEED THE FIRE** from 4 to 6pm at St. Agnes, Freeland
 - October 24** **December 12** **January 16**
 - February 20** **March 20** **April 17**