



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.

Act of Entrance: A short rite during mass where Year 2 Confirmandi (soon-to-be-Confirmed) are recognized. This is celebrated at your individual parish as they pledge to pray for and support you. Usually first two weekends in January, held at both parishes during a normal Sunday Mass time.

Anchor: Youth ministry program for all of St. Cecilia and St. Thomas Aquinas 6-12th graders. This includes: middle school (EDGE) and high school (Life Teen, Small Group Ministry, Confirmation, Anchor High School Peer Ministry Team). 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.

Anchor High School Peer Ministry Team: For 11th & 12th graders, a group of 10 teens meet with Kayla once a month to plan social high school youth ministry events, are a sounding board for events, recruitment, communication to peers, disciple underclassmen. First Sundays of the months.

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. We typically sponsor a trip every 2-3 years. Open for students in 9th-12th grades.

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.)

Confirmation Interview: 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 March 1 - April 1, immediately before the final Rite of Confirmation.

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

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.

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

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

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 eight students plus an adult leader and an upperclassman (11th or 12th grader) assistant leader. Participants are randomly assigned to a small group when they start in their 9th grade year and stay in their small group year after year. Participants are strongly encouraged to participate in small groups for their 9th & 10th grade years in addition to their Sacrament Prep classes for Confirmation. 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 both parishes.

Middle School 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.

Journey: 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.

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.

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.

Life Night: An evening Life Teen session from 7-8:30 PM on Sunday nights (See below.)

Life Teen: 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, nights begin in September.

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.

Parent Night/Parent Retreat: An event for 6-12 parents to attend while middle/high school programming is taking place. Our parent nights are usually two-four a year. For an opportunity to socialize, meet with other parents, pray together and are opportunities to learn how to grow in their faith with their children.

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.

Summer High School Small Groups/Games: 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.

Theology of the Body: Tenth Grade curriculum by Ascension Press, *YOU*. Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body introduces teens to the truth that life is not, in fact, all about them; it is about going out of themselves to be a sincere gift for others.

Totus Tuus: Totus Tuus, a Latin phrase meaning "Totally Yours" is a week-long summer program dedicated to promoting the Catholic Faith. Hosted at St. Thomas Aquinas in July.

Vacation Bible School: A week-long summer program dedicated to promoting the Catholic Faith in fun initiatives. Hosted by St. Cecilia in July. Middle School and High School students participate by being group leaders.

Youth Ministry: Goal 1- To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today. Goal 2- To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community. Goal 3- To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

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