

## South Side Youth Ministry

4924 Bancroft Avenue - St. Louis, MO 63109 - 314.752.9633



### **LUKE 18 RETREAT WEEKEND** **April 30- May 2, 2010**

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,

Your child is invited to attend a Luke 18 retreat. South Side Youth Ministry (SSYM), which is supported by the five parishes; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Gabriel the Archangel, St. Joan of Arc and St. Mary Magdalen, is offering this wonderful retreat for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Preliminary information and helpful quotes are on the attached brochure.

The weekend is organized and coordinated by the SSYM youth ministry team, and supporting volunteers. Once the weekend begins, the team leads the group through various activities with the help of high school students. Through their time, energy, and most importantly, their love and prayers, they help God do His work on the weekend and minister to everyone involved on the retreat. With "Youth Ministering to Youth," the 8<sup>th</sup> graders are able to relate more easily to the experience of a Catholic Christian life at home and school. All meals will be provided.

The Retreat will begin with registration at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary Magdalen. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will spend Friday and Saturday nights at chaperoned, same gender, sleep houses that have two adults present. The parents of these homes will have participated in all of the requirements of the Archdiocese for working with youth. We also hope that you will do your part as their parents and talk to your children about what is and is not acceptable behavior. Sleep Houses are an important part of this weekend. The older teenagers interact with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to continue what has already been happening on the retreat, by encouraging them to talk during the evening in a comfortable atmosphere, about their feelings and experiences on this retreat.

In order to make this retreat a success, we need parent involvement. We are in need of the following things: help with transporting kids to and from the sleep houses, homes to be sleep houses, and help with food preparation. Please let us know if you can help with any of these important aspects of the retreat. If you are interested in being a sleep house but still need to attend the Protecting God's Children workshop, please visit this site- <http://www.archstl.org/>- for more information.

The weekend will conclude with 6pm Mass on Sunday, May 2 at St. Mary Magdalen church. Your family is strongly encouraged to attend this closing Mass. Since this is a special liturgy, please expect that this Mass will last until 7:15pm.

After Luke 18, your child will be welcome to fully participate in the high school youth group. This retreat serves as a bridge between the grade school and high school ministry components of SSYM. We will be inviting your child to participate in youth group every Sunday and Wednesday night. Both of these conclude by 9:30pm during the school year and 10pm during the summer.

Because of space restrictions, registration will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. We will begin accepting registration **March 18** and end on **April 14**. Please complete the enclosed registration form and return it along with the \$95 fee (checks can be made payable to: **SSYM**) in an envelope marked – **Attn: Luke 18**. Please mail to address on the top of this letterhead. We want everyone to be able to attend who would like to come so please make us aware of any hardship. May God's peace be with you and your family.

In Christ,

Greg Robeson  
Youth Minister

Michael James Mette  
Youth Music Minister