



MINISTRY OVERVIEW

Our Lady of Grace EDGE is a middle school youth ministry for 6th – 8th grade students that strives to grow one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic church. EDGE is designed by the Life Teen International Inc., which creates Eucharist-centered faith formation resources for Catholic parishes around the world. At Our Lady of Grace, EDGE encourages students to witness Jesus Christ in a new way. Through interactive (& sometimes goofy) games, personal witnesses, small faith sharing groups, discussion on current issues, creative prayer, retreats, and role modeling, EDGE takes students out of the classroom and into the community of faith.

EDGE Nights

Every Wednesday, EDGE gathers for a promised experience of God, fun, and food. Each night is modeled after the Mass: Gather, Proclaim, Break, & Send. Although each night's topic is different, all share a basic structure that junior high students require. Almost all EDGE Nights include a small group discussion. During this time, students are grouped with peers of the same grade and led in conversation by the Core Team. These groups are consistent and allow the opportunity for confidential sharing and honest questions. These are frequently identified as the place where real faith grows. Over the course of three years in EGDE, our curriculum covers Church, Creed, Prayer, Social Justice, Scripture, & Sacraments. In addition to these catechetical nights, we have occasional social nights, or issue nights that focus discussion on a current issue affecting the lives of our students.

Leadership

EDGE is coordinated by Julia Eckrich who has worked in youth ministry for the last ten years. Julia grew up in Connecticut, is a proud alumna from the University of Dayton, and received her masters in theology from the University of Notre Dame. Julia is happily married to her husband, Andrew, and they love playing music together, teaching their Dalmatian tricks, and being foster parents. Julia loves working with young people who are curious about and hungry for truth in the Catholic faith. Middle School is an influential time where it's important to accompany them in their journey to see both the fun and beauty in their Catholic identity. EDGE is also led by a Core Team of adults and high school upperclassmen who act as models of faith for our junior high students. All our leaders demonstrate exemplary leadership and desire to share their love of God with everyone.

Retreats & Events

Along with our regular EDGE Nights, other special events are also planned throughout the year. These activities can include retreats, service projects, lock-ins, rallies, amusement park visits, and more. Each year these activities will be advertised at EDGE Nights and through EDGE communications and we greatly encourage everyone to attend at least one.

Communication

EDGE primarily communicates through email and text found at flocknote.com/ourladyofgrace/EDGE. Parents and students can also stay informed via Facebook (facebook.com/OLGedge) and Twitter (twitter.com/OLGedge). Finally, the OLG website is a good source of information as well (ologn.org/ym).