Middle School Schedule and Outline for 2026-2027

I welcome you to the middle school program here at Saint Helen's! We truly have an amazing year planned with innovative and cutting-edge programs that will help your middle school student in grades 5 through 8 experience their faith in new and exciting ways.

The 2026-2027 year will consist of:

Large Group Sessions

Sunday EDGE Youth Ministry

GAIM Time Masses

Hallo Prayer Challenges

Retreat Day

Large Group Sessions

Large Group sessions are the place where students will gather to lean and experience their faith, have small group conversations and meet new people. For this year we are offering three days and times to accommodate your busy schedules. At registration you will pick a day and time to attend for the year.

Monday – 4 to 5 pm - Grades 5 to 8 in the gym

Tuesday – 7 to 8 pm – Grades 5 to 8 in the gym

Wednesday – 4 to 5 pm - Grades 5 to 8 in the gym

SCHEDULE

September 14,15,16

November 9, 10, 11,

December 14, 15, 16, with parents Trivia and Advent Prayer Service

February 1, 2, 3, Fr. Paul Houlis (parents are encouraged to attend)

March 15 and 17 Reconciliation service with parents 6 to 8 pm in the church

Sunday EDGE Youth Ministry

With the success of our high school SPARK sessions, we have decided to make this a permanent part of our middle school curriculum. EDGE Youth Ministry sessions will take place on Sunday mornings during the year. All students will be REQUIRED to attend 2 of them but students are welcomed to attend as many as they like.

EDGE will start at 10:50 am in the Meany Hall Gym. Students will enter through the garden gym door in the back of the parking lot. There will be signs directing you to where to enter. Students will sign in and then sit in grade specific circles with a high school Peer Minister. We will do the readings of the day and have a short reflection on them just like we do during our GAIM Time Masses. There will be snacks and

interactive games relating to the scripture topic of the day. At 11:50 am we will all move to the church and attend the 12-noon mass together. Parents and families are encouraged to attend this mass. Students will be dismissed when mass ends. Attending mass is a REQUIRED part of this session.

Schedule (you will pick two dates at the time of registration)

EDGE 1 – Sunday 10/4/26

EDGE 2 – Sunday 12/13/26

EDGE 3 – Sunday 1/31/27

EDGE 4 – Sunday 3/14/27

EDGE 5 – Sunday 4/25/27

GAIM Time Masses (Gospel Alive In Me)

GAIM Time Masses will return for the 26/27 school year. GAIM works like this: Students/families come to the 12-noon mass, and after the opening blessing we have the students come to the altar and then go to the chapel for us to "decode" the scriptures and put it on your level. Our students have requested a more personal approach to understanding the scriptures and that is what GAIM Time is all about.

GAIM Masses at the 12-Noon Mass:

Sunday 9/20
Sunday 10/18
Sunday 11/1
Sunday 11/15
Sunday 1/3
Sunday 2/21
Sunday 3/7
Sunday 4/11
Sunday 5/2

Retreat Day
On Sunday January 10 from 12-noon to 5:30 pm we will host our annual retreat day hosted by our Peer Ministry Team. This is an amazing day to meet new friends, learn from our Peer Ministers and take your faith to the next level. This is an optional retreat but highly encouraged for your child to attend.

Hallow Prayer Challenges
All students grade 5 to 8 will receive a free Hallow account. At the time of registration, you will submit an email address for your child to log into and during the year we will assign you prayer challenges and readings to do as a family at home. This is an amazing learning platform that lives on your phone or computer! You will receive emails during the year assigning you the challenges.

Service for Middle School
All grades 5 to 8 are encouraged to serve the community and be the living Gospel to others.
All students should serve a minimum of 6 hours during the year.

Important links:
www.Sainthelen.org
https://sainthelen.org/religious-education/grade-5-through-8/

Any questions. or concerns, please email me or call/text at 908-265-2169.
Michael Fusco
DRE Grades 5-10