

Dear Parents:

Happy Advent! As we near the end of 2011, it is already time to start gearing up for our annual Getaway Retreat. Enclosed you will find a permission form and an informational sheet (on the back side of this letter).

Just a reminder that this retreat is required for all 9th and 10th graders (in other words, they go both years). **I can honestly say that this retreat is far more than just a requirement for Confirmation. It is a real life changing event for the majority of our young people.** Every year, so many teens (especially the 9th graders who have not experienced a church retreat) go into the retreat kicking and screaming. However, by the end they love it and cannot wait to go back the following year. *For a number of reasons, more kids “find God” and “grow in their faith” on a retreat than in anything else we do.* The facilities at Sky Ranch are fantastic and this retreat (this is the 21st year of doing this) just keeps getting better each year.

If for some serious reason, your teen cannot make the retreat, please call me and we can look into retreats at other parishes. However, it is much more ideal to go on this one as they will be with their class and friends they know.

The cost of the retreat will remain at \$150 this year. The fee covers lodging, meals, transportation, t-shirt, supplies, etc. We know this is a lot of money each year (especially if you have two kids going). Unfortunately, the costs (camp, bus, etc.) are ones that are out of our control. We know that some of you may have lost jobs and so forth. If money is a factor at all, please don't let that stop you from signing up. We can always cover a few that are going through tough times (just let us know – we have one lady that scholarships a couple each year). We just want as many teens as possible (last year there were 300+) to experience God's grace and love at this retreat.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact us at (972) 398-5400. Thanks and God Bless!!!

Sincerely,

Bruce Baumann
Seton Youth Director

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Retreat Information

Our theme for this year's retreat is "***Son Worshipers***". It will be a beach theme based upon the popular movie "Soul Surfer". All of us are called to follow the Son of God. Our discussions and topics will be based on this theme. **Check-In will be at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, March 2nd with the busses leaving Seton at 6:30 p.m. sharp (teens will need to eat at home beforehand).** Most of the weekend will consist of small and large group activities centered around the theme (the entire retreat is a combination of faith and fun). We have one big recreational (free time) period on Saturday afternoon where the teens can do a number of things. They have a soda shoppe, recreations fields, basketball courts, giant zip line, high ropes courses, game rooms, mini-golf, (horseback riding and paintball– both of these options cost extra money if someone wants to do them), etc. We will also offer Reconciliation and Mass during the free time for anyone who desires that (Father John will be with us the whole weekend). The Saturday evening activities will culminate in Eucharistic Adoration. The last activity on Sunday morning will be Mass. **We expect to be back at Seton around 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon (March 4th).**

Our retreat is held at Sky Ranch. Sky Ranch is a Christian camp located near Tyler, TX. They have heated cabins with approximately 20 bunks per cabin. Of course, the girls and boys are separated into different cabins (with gender appropriate cleared adults) and each cabin has bathroom and shower facilities in them. We will be traveling to the camp via coach busses.

Just a reminder that our deadline is January 30th. *Approximately one week before the retreat, you will receive additional details (e.g. like what to bring).* If you have any questions in the meantime, please call us. Thanks!

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