

*Good and loving Creator
you are the author of all that is
good and holy.*

*We ask you to send your Holy Spirit
Upon our middle school youth and
bless them with your patience,
inspire them with your joy, and
nurture them with your compassion.*

*In their journey to follow Jesus, encourage
them with holiness and peace. In times
of confusion and uncertainty, guide them
with your wisdom and truth.*

*May they always look to you for
strength and guidance. We also ask you to
send your blessing upon our EDGE
Ministry, allow this Program to always be
a source of inspiration, acceptance, and
love.*

*May all those who minister in EDGE
walk always in the light of Christ and
bring our young people ever closer to
your Son Jesus.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord
Amen*



EDGE
MINISTRY
GRADES 6-8

EDGE MINISTRY

Parent Handbook 2024-25
(revised 6/27/24)

“The goal of EDGE is to provide a safe and fun place for youth to find a solid Catholic community, get answers to their questions, and, most importantly, to experience Jesus in a profound and personal way.”

WHEN: Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:30 PM

St. Gabriel Parish

9925 Johnnycake Ridge Rd., Concord, OH 44060

Religious Education Office: 440-354-7551

Parish Office: 440-352-8282

Parish Website: www.st-gabriel.org

WELCOME TO EDGE
MINISTRY
FOR GRADES 6, 7 AND 8.

*We're very excited about the 2024-2025 EDGE
Ministry program which will take place
Wednesday evenings from 6-7:30pm*

Edge is a Catholic middle school youth ministry program for students in grades 6-8. It provides a safe fun place for youth to find solid Catholic community, to get answers to their questions about faith, and, most importantly, to experience Jesus in a profound and personal way. Edge resources speak to the physical, psychological, cognitive, relational, and spiritual maturation of middle school youth. Edge will take place on Wednesday evenings from 6-7:30pm in Brady Hall (School Building). It will be a three-year curriculum cycle. Registration for Edge is open to **all** students in grades 6-8, even those outside of PSR. **All are Welcome.** Evenings will be led by a team of adult core members and high school teen core members. Our sessions will begin with a large group game and teaching followed by small group discussion. Through this new engaging and active model, we hope to build community within our middle school students and prepare them for the Sacrament of Confirmation which takes place in 9th grade.

~Samantha Coffman

ARRIVAL PROCEDURE

Parents must drop off students in front of the school at the 2nd set of doors closest to the playground; this is called the Brady Hall door entrance. Please follow the unloading directions of our traffic volunteers. Do NOT drop off at the front school entrance closest to Rte. 84. For the safety of the children, please do not unload or move your vehicle until directed by the traffic controllers. Please move down the line as far as possible to leave room for cars behind you and do **NOT** drop off at front school entrance. Students must exit their vehicle onto sidewalk. All students are to proceed directly to Brady Hall. Volunteers will be available to help children once inside the building. A map of this procedure has been included in your orientation packet.

DISMISSAL POLICY

All grades will dismiss from Brady Hall. Parents must park and enter the building either through the Brady Hall doors or the Main Entrance of the school.

**DOORS TO THE SCHOOL WILL BE UNLOCKED AT 7:25.
PLEASE WAIT IN YOUR VEHICLE UNTIL THIS TIME.**

Please stand outside the Brady Hall door and wait for us to be finished. Please find your student's small group leader, give the name of the child(ren) you are picking up, and initial a dismissal sheet to record the identity of the adult picking up after each session.

Please remember that no child will be released to an adult not on the pickup list unless a note or call has come to the office indicating the change. If the adult leader is unfamiliar with the adult or it is the first time someone is picking up the child, they will be asked to show a photo ID.

If you arrive after 7:40, please go to the Religious Education Office where your child will be waiting with supervision.



**EDGE MINISTRY GRADES 6-8
COORDINATING STAFF**

Samantha Coffman
Campus Minister
EDGE Coordinator

Regina Skrtic
PCL & Director of PSR
Grades 1-8

Ricci Vuyancih
Administrative Coordinator

EDGE '24-'25 CALENDAR

	FALL SEMESTER
SEPT 11	PARENT/STUDENT INFORMATIONAL MEETING 7PM BRADY HALL
SEPT 18	KICK OFF 6-7:30PM "BEACH BASH"
SEPT 25	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "FAITH, RESPONDING TO GOD"
OCT 2	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "GOD THE FATHER"
OCT 9	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "CREATION"
OCT 16	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM MASS IN CHURCH
OCT 23	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "MADE IN HIS IMAGE"
OCT 30	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "THE FALL"
NOV 6	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "REDEMPTION"
NOV 13	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "RELENTLESS FATHER"
NOV 20	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM - "EUCHARIST PT 1" (ADORATION)
NOV 27	NO EDGE
DEC 4	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "ADVENT - THE SECOND COMING"
DEC 11	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM ADVENT VOLUNTEER PROJECT
DEC 18	CHRISTMAS PARTY 6-7:30PM

	SPRING SEMESTER
JAN 8	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "LIVE FREE"
JAN 15	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM MASS IN CHURCH
JAN 22	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM TAILGATES AND TOUCHDOWNS SERVICE NIGHT & SOCIAL
JAN 29	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "BE CHOSEN" & RECONCILIATION PREP
FEB 5	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM RECONCILIATION
FEB 12	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "BE NAMED"
FEB 19	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "ABIDE"
FEB 26	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "BE ROOTED"
MARCH 5	ASH WED MASS 7PM IN CHURCH
MARCH 12	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "PROTECT LIFE"
MARCH 19 & 26	NO EDGE
APRIL 2	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "EUCHARIST" PART 2 IN CHURCH
APRIL 9	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "STEALING & ADULTERY" & HOLY WEEK PREP
APRIL 16	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN CHURCH
APRIL 23	EDGE NIGHT 6-7:30PM "LYING"
APRIL 30	END OF THE YEAR PARTY 6-7:30
MAY 7	MAY CROWNING & 8 TH GRADE GRADUATION 6-7:30PM IN CHURCH

Empowering God's Children®

The Diocese of Cleveland remains committed to protecting children and young people who are entrusted to our care. Beginning the 2024 – 2025 Academic and Ministry Year, the Diocese of Cleveland is requiring use of *Empowering God's Children®* in all parish faith formation programs and Catholic Schools. This program will replace Praesidium's Called to Protect. "Empowering God's Children," is a safety prevention program provided by Virtus and designed specifically for youth grades K-12. As caring adults, we have the great responsibility of ensuring the safety of children and youth. The prevention of child sexual abuse requires more than adult awareness, education, and training about the nature and scope of the problem. We must also give children and youth the tools they need to help us keep them safe by educating them regarding boundaries, safe and unsafe behaviors and healthy relationships.

Anna Lee, our St. Gabriel Safety Coordinator will provide all necessary training and instruction of this NEW program to our catechists. Families will be receive a program overview and a Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide for review. Program lessons will be presented to our youth in the Winter/Spring of 2025 during regular class times. Prior to this date a detailed letter and opt-out form will be sent out.

Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting Policy

If you know, believe or suspect that a child under eighteen years of age or a person under twenty-one years of age with a developmental disability or physical impairment has suffered or faces a threat of suffering any physical or mental wound injury, disability, or conditions of a nature that indicates abuse** or neglect of the child you SHALL

1) Immediately report your suspicion to Lake County Department of Job & Family Services @ 440-350-4000 or 440-918-4000 and/or the local municipal police department and/or Lake County Sheriff's Department at 440-350-5620. If a child's welfare or safety is in imminent danger call 911

2) Immediately notify your Principal or Program Coordinator that a report has been made, or jointly make that call together.

3) After reporting your suspicion to civil authorities, report your suspicion to the diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator at response services@dioceseofcleveland.org or 216-334-2999 if the suspected abuser is a priest, deacon, religious, seminarian, representative, employee or volunteer of the diocese or of any parish or diocesan entity.

**examples include, but not limited to, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse

Confidentiality : The details of suspected and /or reported abuse are to be kept strictly confidential to the extent reasonably possible and should only be shared as necessary to comply with one's reporting obligations and the Policy.(reviewed and approved by Kevin T. Burke, General Counsel for the Diocese of Cleveland—Mar 15, 2021)

ATTIRE

Appropriate church attire is encouraged. What your child wears to their school during the day is appropriate. Please be mindful that the purpose of each session is to grow in faith both individually and as a group. Clothes or accessories that may be distracting to that purpose should not be worn. Unacceptable attire includes shoes with wheels, clothes with inappropriate writing/logos, or anything that shows the midriff.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

A verbal warning from the adult leader will be given to the youth who is exhibiting disruptive behavior. If the conduct continues, the youth will be timed out of the group and would discuss the situation with Samantha Coffman and Regina Skrtic. If the inappropriate behavior persists, the youth's parents will be called and the parents will be asked to pick up their child for the remainder of the session. A conference will be held with the parents to discuss the issue before returning to the program.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

We ask that students NOT bring games, Ipods, cell phones or any electronic devices to EDGE as it will interfere with the activities taking place. Items that disrupt the session will be taken and returned to the parent.

CARPOOLING

If you intend to carpool with another family or your children are to be picked up by someone other than the parent/legal guardian, **you MUST complete the Authorized Persons for Student Release Form.** (included in on-line registration) No one other than the parent/guardian may take children home unless this form has been submitted.

EARLY RELEASE

Please have your son/daughter present a note to their adult leader at the beginning of the session should they need to leave early. The adult picking up will meet the child at the Religious Education Office for sign out.

EMAIL

With all of our communication being done via email, we ask that you please make sure we have your current email address on file and that you check it regularly. A weekly notice will go out to families towards the end of the week along with other notices that may need to be shared. Please call Ricci Vuyancih in the Religious Education Office at 354-7551 or email her directly at: rvuyancih@st-gabriel.org if you are not receiving them.

SNOW DAYS

Coordinators will confer on EDGE days as to whether or not the session needs to be cancelled. Closings will be announced on the radio (AM radio WBKC 1460, WTAM 1100), television (WEWS Channel 5, WKYC Channel 3), and the parish website (www.st-gabriel.org). We will also be sending an email notifying everyone that our session is cancelled.

Please keep the Religious Education Office updated on your emergency contact numbers along with email addresses to assure us being able to reach you if needed. Should a significant accident / injury or damage to property occur, an incident report will be filled out by the catechist and all parties involved will sign a copy.