Dear Parents and Teens,

It’s time again for our annual Luke 18 Retreat October 13-15, 2023! All high school teens are welcome to apply for the Luke 18 Team whether or not they have participated in a Luke 18 Retreat in the past.

Serving on a Luke 18 team is a privilege, and should be taken seriously. Teens are expected to be in attendance at all planning meetings and must be present for the whole retreat weekend. The teens that are selected to serve as disciples on the Luke 18 team are those who we know to be disciples in their faith already, hence they are called disciples during the weekend. Our goal with this retreat is to nourish and develop our teens’ relationship with Christ and empower them to continue on their faith journey. With regard to service hours: many high schools now require service hours as part of their curriculum, which is a good thing. I have and will continue to sign off on service hours for Luke 18 for those teens that are consistently involved in our youth ministry efforts here at Holy. I will not however sign off on service hours for those teens that simply want to show up for the retreat weekend as a way to clock in their hours and move on. Certainly all teens are welcome to apply and most will be able to participate but obtaining service hours should not be the sole reason. Our goal is to bring all young people into a relationship with Christ and to build up the parish community of Holy Redeemer.

We will not be having sleep houses this year, all team members and Lukers will sleep at their own homes.

Teens will serve in various roles during the weekend and will help prepare for the retreat in many different ways. Although some teens may feel called to serve in a particular area or to share a part of their faith journey, we ask the teens to put their desires aside for the weekend in order to serve Christ and the younger teens.

There is an application form attached to this email, I ask that teens and parents read and complete the form and return it to me prior to our first meeting on Sunday September 10th.

Should you have any questions or individual concerns please contact me via [youth@holyr.org](mailto:youth@holyr.org) or 314-962-0038.

Blessings,