

Teen Group of Christ (TGC) ~ February Update
Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Joseph's 7th and 8th Grade Youth Ministry

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In January we had over 30 teens participate in the homeless sleeping bag project. They really worked hard and the homeless shelter was truly appreciative. We hope to do a follow on event at the homeless shelter in Hartford next year. One of the neatest things about the night was watching them walk in a group over to the Saturday vigil Mass. The entire night really symbolized everything we are trying to accomplish with the TGC of providing social, service, and faith building activities for our teens.

It's hard to believe it is already February. This month we have scheduled **Mother-Daughter Bunco Night on Saturday Feb 6th** starting at 6:00 PM (please RSVP to attend by Thursday Feb 4th at StJosephChester@gmail.com, an ideal crowd would be 24 people) and **Father-Son Dodge Ball on Saturday Feb 27th** from 5-7:00 PM at the Westbrook YMCA. Consent forms for the Father-Son Dodge Ball game will be mailed out next week. Guests of TGC members will be able to download them from our website.

Looking ahead we will attend the **Diocese of Norwich Youth Explosion Sunday March 7th from 12:30 – 9:00 PM**. Consent forms are available on the website and must be returned with payment by February 20th. **We are still in need of one more chaperon for this event.** This is our first faith based event, so I suspect it may take prodding to get your teen to attend but I have no doubt they will have fun and also learn a lot.

In April we are planning three events. The first will take place on **Good Friday April 2nd** when we will have different activities taking place throughout the day; including making three life size crosses by hand, working on an art project with a local artist, attending the 3:00 PM Good Friday service as group, helping prepare for the children's Easter Egg hunt, and ending the day by having a simple cheese pizza meal and watching the Mel Gibson version of the Passion of the Christ. On **Easter Sunday** we are hoping some members of the TGC will be able to assist with the Easter Egg hunt following the 10:30 AM Mass at St. Joseph's. Finally on **Saturday April 24th we will be having a dance** to which we will invite middle school teens from the other local parishes to attend as well. We will have a meeting in early March to finish planning for all of these April events. One of our biggest needs will be for chaperons. Our chaperon to teen ratio is required to be 1:10 so it will be the determining factor in the number of teens that will be able to attend the dance. If you want to reserve a chaperoning spot now please notify Jim at StJosephchester@gmail.com.

You will soon be mailed a T-Shirt order form. This is a small fund raiser for the TGC. Each T-Shirt will cost \$10. The T-Shirt is dark blue and includes a design created by one of the teen members in the area that covers your heart. Believe it or not summer will come eventually and your teens will need a new T-Shirt since they have grown so much so why not order one of these? T-Shirts can also be purchased for family, friends, adults, and kids. We will make \$2 from each T-Shirt that we sell. Please return your T-Shirt order by February 28th. Make checks payable to St. Joseph's Church. Our thanks to Ben and Cindy Stevens for coordinating this project.

Finally, we are going to start a separate high school youth group for our older teens. We have planned a meeting for Thursday Feb 25th at 8:00 PM to work out a schedule of activities to start in the Fall of 2010. A draft schedule has been posted on the St. Joseph's website. If you have any other ideas, please send them to StJosephChester@gmail.com and plan to attend the meeting.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Tabor

TGC Coordinator, St. Joseph's Church

Joyce Leach

TCG Coordinator, Our Lady of Sorrows Church