

Families Forming Disciples

Our Families Forming Disciples program serves families with children in kindergarten through 5th grade. We focus on reaching the entire family so that they can grow in their faith together and with other families, forming strong and lasting relationships along the way through formation, action, and community. Here is how you can help:

Mentor Family

Each small group (which consists of 4 or 5 families) has a Mentor Family, who will host the small group sessions each month. They will arrange a meeting place, date, and time via zoom or in person to cover the monthly week 3 lesson plan. The mentor family will take attendance to send to the director for their record. Virtus training is needed by the adult acting as the leader of the Mentor group.

Life Teen Mass (5:30 Mass)

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is at the heart of Catholicism, the Eucharist being the “source and summit” of our faith. It is the most important thing we can do as Catholics.

Because the Mass is so holy, we believe that everything surrounding the Liturgy should be done with excellence so as to draw people deeper into worship. To do this is a way to honor God. This starts with the homily, the music, and even the environment of the worship space. However, there is a lot that goes into making Mass happen. At our Life Teen Mass on Sundays at 5:30, that is where this team comes in.

Volunteers who serve on this team may do a variety of things, although our hope is to have a large enough team that each person has their specific role.

- We need people to serve as greeters, making sure everyone who arrives is welcomed with a smile and has a song sheet so that they can participate. This team would also make sure bulletins are passed out at the end of Mass.
- We need a few people who can coordinate our teen volunteers who do the collection baskets and Mass counts.
- We need someone who can serve as Sacristan and help ensure our teens who are serving as lectors and EMs are checked in and ready to go.

If you are able to invest just a little more time and responsibility, please prayerfully consider one of the roles below:

Mass Coordinator

With the support of OLA’s Director of Youth Ministry and Middle School Youth Minister, this individual coordinates adult and teen volunteers for the Life Teen Mass. See below for details on those adult and teen volunteers:

Lead Greeter

This individual will coordinate our greeters, making sure everyone who arrives is welcomed with a smile and has a song sheet so that they can participate. This team would also make sure bulletins are passed out at the end of Mass.

Lead Usher (multiple needed)

This individual(s) will coordinate our teen volunteers who do the collection baskets and Mass counts, as well as take responsibility for putting the money in bags and then in the safe after Mass.

Lector/EM Coordinator

This individual will ensure that teens who are scheduled to serve as EMs and Lectors are checked in and adequately prepared to serve that evening.

Lector (6th – 12th Grade)

These teens will serve by reading either the First Reading, Second Reading, or Prayers of the Faithful during Mass. *Attendance at a training session is required.*

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (Confirmed Teens)

Teens who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation and are 16 years of age are invited to serve by giving out Communion during Mass. *Attendance at a training session is required.*

Edge with Purpose + Life Teen

At OLA, we strive to do our best to serve our Middle and High School teens through our Edge with Purpose and Life Teen programs. But we cannot do this alone. We are seeking help from adults in our parish who are willing to volunteer their time and efforts to make these programs the best they can be. We're striving to find a wide range of adults in different seasons of life and different age groups who can bring their energy, wisdom, and love of Jesus to the table.

There are multiple ways that you can serve, both at the forefront of our ministry and as support helping behind the scenes. Please note that all of these roles require that one receive VIRTUS training. Read below to learn more:

Hospitality Coordinator (Sunday Edge Only)

With the support of OLA Staff, this individual will take charge of scheduling meals and coordinating volunteers to set up, serve, and clean up food service each week.

Hospitality Team (Sunday Edge Only)

We need adults willing to help coordinate dinners at our Sunday Edge nights. This team will help serve food to our teens, sometimes even coordinating efforts to prepare food. In addition, members of our hospitality team will help clean up the leftovers and overall keep everyone well fed.

This ministry allows our Edge Core team to make necessary preparations as the Edge Night approaches or simply engage in relational ministry with our teens.

Edge Night Coordinator

This individual will assist the Middle School Youth Minister in planning and carrying out each Edge Night, including coordinating the Edge Core team to make sure they are equipped to carry out their role for the evening.

Special Events Coordinator

This individual will assist the Middle School Youth Minister in planning and carrying out special event Edge Nights including social events, service projects, and other types of occasional events that fall outside of the normal Edge format. They will also coordinate the Edge Core team to make sure they are equipped to carry out their role for the evening.

Core Team

Joining Core Team is the largest commitment an adult can make in our ministry. The ideal Core Member has a vibrant personal prayer life, an ongoing relationship with Christ, and a commitment to share God's love with the middle and high school teens in our ministry and each other. Core Members serve actively as Christ's hands and feet to our teens, but this role is often not glamorous. We ask that you be willing to share your own witness, be willing to lead small group discussions, and be open about your faith journey's ups and downs. We want people who can be energetic even when they don't feel it and are willing to be fun/silly with our teens when the situation warrants. We also ask that Core Members be willing to do it all. This will often include coming early and staying late to pitch in with set-up and clean-up or pulling a teen aside to have a difficult conversation so that the rest of the night can continue smoothly. We'd especially love to have some young adults in this role!

We need Core Members who can work with Middle Schoolers on Sundays or Tuesdays, as well as those who want to work with our High School teens on Sunday nights!

If you have any questions, email Andrew Knuckles at aknuckles@olachurch.org or Elizabeth Piper at epiper@olachurch.org.