

A TDT member is a teen who has spent time in prayer discerning an increased discipleship role in the Life Teen movement at St. Michael beyond simply attending events/nights. They are an active member of Life Teen and attend Life Nights regularly— advising peers and leading by example. TDT members desire to take the extra step to learn, grow, live, model, and serve as active discipleship in Christ. Additionally, teen disciples have a call to build and form community as a team, while personally choosing to deepen their own faith. As on-going ‘learners’ of the faith, they are not simply a ‘program helper,’ but are full members of the youth ministry movement alongside their peers, with added responsibility of modeling what faith can look like in a young person’s daily life. They will have the opportunity to help with roles such as parts of Life Nights, EDGE middle school leadership, peer mentoring, service/social event planning, and various discipleship small groups— with the possibility of other opportunities, as we see the strengths and charisms of this year’s team.

A member of the Teen Discipleship Team for 2022-2023:

- Must be a junior or senior in high school (in the fall of 2022).
- Possesses the following: a personal commitment to Jesus Christ and the Holy Catholic Church, a commitment to a continually developing personal prayer life, a desire to strengthen their own involvement and life in the Church as well as encourage the involvement of others, heeds the call to serve in the Church, with an openness to using the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their daily life, possesses a desire to learn more about their Catholic faith and to practice living and growing in heroic virtue by upholding, living, and proclaiming the teachings of the Church daily to the best of their ability.
- Is able to uphold the following practical commitments:

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| Sunday Mass/ Sacraments | Weekly participation in Sunday Mass, regular participation in the sacraments. |
| Sunday Life Nights | with regularity - present more often than not throughout the entirety of the year. |
| TDT Meetings | Usually 2nd Wednesday of the month, September-May, up to 3 unexcused meeting absences per year. |
| Life Night Setups - 2x | Two times per year, 3-4pm Sundays, schedule to be pre-assigned - can switch weeks with others when the need arises. |
| EDGE Support - 2x | Each Sunday, four TDT members have the opportunity to help with leading our middle schoolers. TDT will be pre-assigned on the schedule two times during the year. Can switch weeks with others when needed or if there’s specific reason to be at Life Night that night. May volunteer beyond two times as needed. |
| Active Involvement - 2x | Each TDT member participates in at least ANY TWO other youth ministry or parish opportunities during the course of the year in addition to the necessities above. These two things can be anything: retreats, trips, service opportunities, social opportunities, parish mission, special events, joining a parish ministry, Eucharistic Minister, etc. Most teens on TDT are usually involved by this point that most will accomplish this without even realizing it! |

- Must continue to live and upkeep the mentioned commitments listed above during their duration on the TDT.
- As the TDT is an active part of the grade 9-12 Life Teen movement at St. Michael, TDT members register and pay the yearly dues for Life Teen during the yearly registration process. There is no additional cost for the TDT itself. TDT members do receive a special rate for fall/spring retreats.
- As a reminder: Teen Discipleship Team members are free to unconditionally terminate their relationship/commitment as a TDT member at any time, verbally, or by default— not keeping up their commitments. At the same time, the ministry of Life Teen at St. Michael retains the option to ask you to step out of this ministry if it becomes clear to that you might not be called to this ministry at any point during the year.

TDT DISCIPLESHIP & GROWTH



The **Tau Cross** is the symbol of this retreat. While often associated with St. Francis of Assisi and the Franciscan order, it was adopted by early Christians as a symbol of their spiritual conviction in the salvation of mankind in the Cross. It is a sign of Christian devotion and of commitment to following the poor and crucified Christ— living a life of humility and service of others. As the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, it is also a reminder of Christ's return on the last day to save His faithful and share in new life with Him.

Koinonia Retreat

This is a weekend retreat set aside solely for the Teen Discipleship Team! This annual opportunity allows for team community, prayer, and reflection, while also taking some individual silent time to reflect on the personal calling to live the Catholic faith and the significance of being a part of the Body of Christ. *Koinonia* is the Greek word for communion. This experience will foster and equip retreatants with the necessary understanding to become skilled leaders in building community and relationships, in a spirit of sharing faith, both within the St. Michael Life Teen community, as well as with their peers as a whole. The Koinonia experience is modeled after the witness of the apostles: community life, breaking bread, prayer, discipleship to one another and the communities they serve, keeping their minds and hearts fixed upon the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Teens have the opportunity to make this retreat either in the their junior or senior year while on the TDT. If making the retreat as a junior, teens will have the ability to enter into some leadership roles if they attend the retreat again as a senior.

If accepted into the TDT for the coming year, Koinonia #6 will take place from Sunday, August 14th to Tuesday, August 16th, 2022.



A **Stone Covered Cross** is the symbol of this reflection & ceremony experience. It is a reminder that no matter where our life's travels take us, Christ, through his death and resurrection, stretches out a guiding hand of salvation— in which we place our trust, life, and decision making. He is revealed Truth, a solid foundation of stepping stones for a journey of holiness and joy.

Living Stones Reflection & Ceremony

...and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house... "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." -1 Peter 2:5-6

At the end of their senior year, a teen who has faithfully committed their high school years as active participants in Life Teen (and to the Teen Discipleship Team) will participate in a reflection experience and ceremony, which will also include Mass and fellowship time together. As senior teens prepare to enter life beyond high school, the theme of the experience focuses on a desire to be firm in faith and the call to be "built into a spiritual house" as they move out into the larger world. Teens will be challenged to continue to grow in faith and seek out ways during the future stages of their life journey to nurture a firm faith foundation in their lives, allowing Christ to function as the cornerstone of their lives.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY:

Full Name: _____

Birthdate: _____/_____/_____

Sex: M F

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: VA

Zip: _____

Parent(s) First Names: _____

Parent(s) Occupations: _____

Parent (Emergency) Contact Phone: _____

Your Cell Phone: _____

Your E-mail: _____

High School: _____ Grade (Fall '22): 11 12

INSTRUCTIONS:

First, take some time to pray and discern as to whether you feel you are called to apply for the Teen Discipleship Team at St. Michael. Then, please type or print your answers to the questions on the back of this form on a separate sheet of paper and attach to this form when finished. Be sure your answers are listed under the proper heading and are numbered correctly. It is highly recommended that you read through all of the questions first before you try to answer any of them. This will save you the tediousness of duplicate answers and themes. The purpose of these questions are to give us an opportunity to learn more about you personally and spiritually before your in-person conversation. Rest assured, all of your answers will only be read by Mike (or potentially some Core members) who will meet with you for your TDT conversation.



PERSONAL LIFE AND FAITH:

1. Briefly describe your personal spiritual journey. How have you come to know and follow Christ?
2. How has God worked through you in helping others along their spiritual journey?
3. Describe your prayer life. When and how do you pray? Are there any resources you use to pray? What are they?
4. In what areas do you struggle in your faith?

CATHOLICISM:

1. What is your favorite part about being Catholic? What challenges you about being Catholic?
2. What is one aspect of the Catholic faith that you don't truly understand and want to know more?
3. Do you have a devotion to a favorite saint or do you have a favorite sacrament? Pick one and tell us why they or it is your favorite!
4. If given the opportunity, what suggestions would you have to help the Catholic Church minister more effectively to young people?

LEADERSHIP:

1. How would you describe the mission of the TDT as you understand it? How do you think you can live that mission personally?
2. Why do you want to be on the Life Teen TDT?
3. What makes for a good and effective leader? What about a disciple?
4. What gifts/talents/charisms do you possess that you could bring to the TDT and St. Michael?

WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS, LIKES, AND PET PEEVES?

At the end of your response sheet, give us a couple sentences about who you are and what likes/dislikes you have! Go wild!

AVAILABILITY:

1. On your response sheet, please list any activities or commitments that may prohibit you from being available on either weekly Sunday nights or 2nd Wednesday nights of the month during the coming year. Please list dates and times of these commitments if you are aware of them.
2. When would you be available to meet for an in-person conversation? (Beginning June 1st)

Please list below the two most convenient days of the week to meet and a preferred time. Conversations will take place in June/July and will be conducted by either Mike or Core members. You will be contacted to set up a conversation based on your preferences, if possible.

Best Day of the Week/Time Frame #1: _____

Best Day of the Week/Time Frame #2: _____

I hereby attest that the information I have provided in this written application is true to the best of my knowledge. I submit this application faithfully with a clean conscience and a desire to live my faith more fully and actively.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this application. We will see you at your conversation!

Completed discernment applications may be dropped off at the Youth Center (green mailbox), or Parish Office, c/o Mike Horvath. They may also be emailed to mhorvath@saint-mikes.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THIS YEAR IS TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022