

Brenda Neumann
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Dear Parents,

On the weekend of February 14-16, 2020, St Jerome Parish will sponsor its 28th annual Luke 18 Retreat. We would like to invite all 7th & 8th graders to join us.

The Luke 18 weekend is an excellent opportunity for your child to experience God's love in new and exciting ways through games, songs, faith sharing, and a series of talks given by area high school and college students. By encouraging the 7th & 8th graders to have fun and break down their "walls", the weekend helps them see that God is present in relationships at home with their family and at school with their peers, and it encourages them to share God's love with others. The weekend offers our youth an experience of God's love on a more personal level than is usually possible in a catechetical setting.

A team of young catholic adults will lead our youth through various activities with the help of high school and college students who not only present talks, but also lead small discussion groups. With "youth ministering to youth", hopefully the 7th & 8th graders are able to relate more easily to the experience of living a Catholic Christian life at home and at school.

The Luke 18 retreat will begin at 7:00 pm on Friday, February 14, and conclude after the 4:00 mass and closing ceremony on Sunday, February 16. This retreat requires a commitment from your child for the entire weekend. They are not allowed to leave unless it is an emergency. The retreat and mass will be held at St John Neumann Catholic School in Maryville, IL. All family members are welcome and encouraged to attend the mass and closing ceremony.

The children will spend Friday and Saturday nights at parishioner's homes. Most of our sleep house families have participated in Luke 18 for many years and continue to open their homes to our youth. They all have had background checks and have completed the Protecting God's Children program through the diocese. The students will be separated into all male and all female sleep groups and accompanied by at least two of the older high school students or college students. You will receive the address and phone number of where your child will be at the sign in table on the first night of the retreat. It is important that you bring your child to the check in table to receive this information.

The cost of the weekend is \$50.00 per child, which covers all meals, supplies and t-shirt. Please make checks payable to "St Jerome Youth Ministry" and send payment along with the registration and emergency form to Brenda Neumann 308 Avalon Drive Troy, Illinois 62294, by January 31, 2020. If you would like your child to participate on the weekend, but cannot afford the fee, please contact me.

We hope your child will be able to join us on this powerful weekend of faith sharing and experience the Love of Christ through other youth. For questions please contact me at 975-5907.

Thank you,

Brenda Neumann
Youth Minister/Retreat Coordinator
St Jerome Church (bneumann@stjeromeparish.org)