

**Teens Growing In
Faith (TGIF)
Youth Ministry**

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**TGIF Adult Support
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- Ann Abraham
- Bill Abraham
- Mary Lou Beers
- Terri Eubanks
- Jim Galloway
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- Karen Grife
- Ken Heiss
- Cindy Heiss
- Andy Hunger
- Donna Hunger
- Bill Manieri
- Anna Pavelecky
- Ted Perchinske
- OJ Solander
- Cathy Stirling
- Jeffrey Syrone
- Laura Vanjo

Evangelizing

TGIF In Action

“If you want peace, you must work for justice,”

Heated debate, intense conversation, Spirited retreat times and a powerful combination of personal beliefs connecting to lived experiences and to theological issues have marked the winter months of TGIF participants.

As the new year began, TGIF grabbed the torch and ran—identifying stereotypes and prejudices held in our society, debating the causes and validity of prejudicial attitudes and behaviors and challenging each other to examine personal attitudes that perpetuate negative prejudices. Along the way, significant statements from various theologians and official statements and letters of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops were examined and discussed at length as small study groups struggled to create their own statements regarding Catholic approaches to sexism, racism, homophobia, heterosexism, poverty, exclusion of disabled people and a variety of other societal prejudices.

TGIF Retreats

“Love each other as God has loved us.”

As the intense struggle to really live the gospel call to “love each other as God has loved us” challenged participants in terms of justice and peace, the TGIF Retreat Season began, with all Confirmation Candidates participating in Friday-to-Saturday retreats and a retreat for older teens taking place independently. Most arrived without any idea what a retreat might even be....and left wishing they could stay longer.

The TGIF retreats are designed as a “TIME OUT” from life: metaphorically, this means that the game of life is rolling along with all the stress and running and competition and skills at play and then the whistle blows, the players leave the field of play and stop. *That “stop” time is a retreat: a time for catching your breath, a time for hearing the voice of The Coach, a time for fine tuning so that the game can continue to improve and the team will become stronger players.*

Group activities, personal reflection time, time for sharing ideas and personal faith experiences in groups of two or three, active projects and games and simple prayer times involving everyone present fill the TGIF retreat times. All teens, even those who’ve never been to a TGIF event before, are encouraged to participate in one of the retreats each year—the time to open yourself to becoming more of God’s dream for you can change your life.

TGIF Moving Ahead

“Now Is The Time!”

As Confirmation approaches, TGIF asks the prayers and support of the whole parish. Nearly 60 high school teens will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 23, and many of them will become TGIF and parish leaders in the weeks ahead. Our Lenten sessions include many activities from Movie Night to Lunch Packing to hot-topic nights on forgiveness and reconciliation and the significance of Triduum. All high school age teens are enthusiastically invited to join us for any TGIF event for an adventure in faith!