

December 20,2016

Dear Parents,

On the weekend of February 24-26<sup>th</sup> , 2017 St. Joseph Cathedral Parish will hold the Luke 18 retreat weekend. We would like to invite all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students to join us in this awesome experience. This retreat is an opportunity to help the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students to see that they are not only the future of our Church but that they are the Church right now. The program welcomes the participants, called “Lukers”, into the church by helping them experience the presence and love of our God who embraces them as they are. Through games, songs, skits, personal sharing, and a series of talks given by high school students, the Lukers are encouraged to have fun, “break down their walls” and see the love of God is present in their relationships at home with the family and at school with their peers.

The Luke 18 is organized by the Parish Youth Minister, Julie Gramlich with the assistance of parents from the Cathedral Parish. Once the weekend begins a team of high school students along with a young married couple will lead the Lukers through the various activities, talks and small group discussions. This emphasis on youth ministering to youth helps the Lukers relate to the experience of living a Christian life at home and school and helps them see how they, as youth in our society, can do the same.

The Luke 18 program is designed to be a parish-based retreat, meaning that the married couple, young adults, high school students, and participants are all, ideally members of the parish holding the retreat. This set up obviously promotes a strong sense of community within the parish All those involved with the retreat stay overnight at parishioners’ homes in all-male and all-female “sleep groups”.

The weekend begins on Friday evening at 7:00pm and ends Sunday afternoon after the 11a.m. Mass. All families and friends are invited to attend this closing Mass.

The cost of the weekend is \$ 40.00 per child, which covers all meals and supplies. Please make checks payable to Cathedral of St. Joseph and send along with the registration form to Julie Gramlich in the parish office no later than **February 10th, 2017. If the registration fee will not permit you to let your child attend please contact me at 635-7991.**

Thank you,  
Julie Gramlich  
Youth Minister