

SENSITIVE INFORMATION INSIDE: FOR PARENT'S EYES ONLY!

Dear Parents,

Let me first say that I am so excited that you have decided to register your child for our upcoming Antioch Retreat! Every year this retreat has a great impact on all the kids who attend, as well as those who help lead it. Let me provide you a brief description of what the retreat will look like:

The Antioch Retreat is a retreat for high school students led *by* high school students. In my mind this is one of the most powerful components of the retreat: that kids get to see their peers witnessing to their faith and excited about doing it. Over the course of the weekend participants will hear a series of talks given by juniors and seniors from the Church of the Incarnation. The team has been preparing for the retreat since the early Fall and can't wait to share the Antioch experience with the participants. Of course there will be lots more than just talks, for what would a retreat be without tons of good food, praise and worship, and times of prayer.

Another powerful part of the retreat is one that **I need your help** with. On Saturday afternoon each of the kids will receive a packet of *Palancas*. *Palanca* is a Spanish word which means *lever*. They are letters of affirmation pointing out ways your son or daughter has been a blessing to you and expressing your love for them. Typically at the end of the letter you tell them you will be praying for them and explain one thing you will do to help you remember to pray for them. For example you might write, "I will be praying for you in a special way during this retreat. In order to remind myself to pray for you I will wear my watch upside down." **Please write a letter yourself, and please ask other family members, close family friends, coaches, teachers, and mentors to do the same.** There are two options for getting the letters to me.

- Write/Print the letters and bring them with you when you drop off your child at the retreat on Friday, March 4th.
- Write a digital letter and email it to me at youth@incarnationparish.org. Attach the letter as a word file or include it in the body of the email. Please include the word palanca and your kid's full name in the subject of the email. Due by March 4th so that I can print and organize them.

Please be sure that the letters you deliver are clearly marked with your child's full name. There are many repeats of first names and I don't want your love letter to your child to go to the wrong person! **IMPORTANT: PALANCAS ARE A SURPRISE SO DON'T TELL YOUR CHILD ABOUT THEM! KEEP IT SECRET!**

We could also use some more snacks and drinks for general use throughout the retreat. Please consider bringing a bag of chips, some cookies, bottled water, or soda with you when you drop off your kid on Friday.

Below you will find a list of details about the retreat, including drop off times and pick up times, what to bring, and what not to bring. Please be sure that your child is prepared for the retreat by using this list.

Retreat Details:

- Participants arrive at 7:30pm to the Charlottesville Catholic School, (1205 Pen Park Rd, Charlottesville VA, 22901)
- Check in is at the front door. Please fill out any forms or deliver any outstanding payments at this time. **PLEASE COME INSIDE TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ALL THE REQUIRED ITEMS TURNED IN!**
- Bring:
 - Sleeping Bag and Pillow
 - Toiletries and a towel
 - Changes of clothing for Friday through Sunday (remember to check the weather and plan accordingly)
 - A Bible and Journal if you own one
 - Your instrument (guitar, violin, etc) if you'd like to play for Mass on Sunday
 - Your singing voice, an open heart, and open mind
- Do **NOT** Bring (these will be taken if they are brought):
 - iPods
 - Watches
 - Cell phones
 - Radios, televisions, and other crazy technology I don't even know about.
 - Nintendo DS, Playstation portable, or other gaming system
 - Alcohol, drugs, or Cigarettes
- **All parents and family members are invited to join us for the closing Mass** at the Church of the Incarnation at 4:30pm. Please arrive 10min early so that Mass can start on time.
- After Mass ends participants will be free to go home. Estimated time of departure is around 6:00pm.

Please direct all questions to me at youth@incarnationparish.org or call the parish office. If you have an emergency and need to contact me during the retreat please call my cell phone:

434-242-4629

Many blessings to you and your family,

Chris Short

Chris Short, Youth Minister

Church of the Incarnation, 1465 Incarnation Drive, Charlottesville VA, 22901

(e) youth@incarnationparish.org

(p) 434-973-4381 x 124

(c) 434-242-4629