

## **St. Matthew Catholic Church Ignite Conference 2020**

**What:** St. Matthew Catholic Church - Ignite Conference

**Includes:** Conference, lodging, meals, t-shirt, and transportation

**When:** March 27-29, 2020

Youth will need to arrive to St. Matthew Catholic Church at 4pm or 5pm depending on which school you attend to check-in at the Parish Center-Gym. The conference will begin at 7pm on Friday in the Beacham Auditorium meeting space and end on Sunday at 1:00pm. We will arrive back to St. Matthew at 2:30pm.

**Where:** White Oak Conference Center

[633 Mobley Hwy, Winnsboro, SC 29180](http://www.whiteoakconferencecenter.info/)

803-635-4685

<http://www.whiteoakconferencecenter.info/>

[Click here](#) to view their meeting facilities and a map of the conference center.

*St. Matthew Catholic Church will have exclusivity of the retreat center for the weekend.*

**Who:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation (EDGE)

**Why:** St. Matthew parish desires to ignite a passion for Jesus and encourage youth to live their Catholic faith boldly in everyday life through the Holy Spirit. Our experience as a youth ministry team and current landscape of the Catholic Church reveal the need for us to reach out and engage youth through retreat experiences. Over time they have proven success, 89% of self-motivated Catholics describe an event or experience that triggered their new spiritual commitment. 80% of young people stop practicing the Catholic faith by age 23. We know that the Catholic Church is in decline and for every 1 new Catholic, 6 leave the Church. St. Matthew Catholic Church strives to fight against this reality through prayer and evangelization, we hope our young people will be free and alive in their Catholic faith. We are here to support parents in leading their teens to Christ.

**How:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth who are preparing for the sacrament of confirmation are required to attend the Ignite Conference. The conference is an opportunity for the youth to encounter Jesus Christ in a new way and deepen their personal relationship with Him. We need to encounter Jesus Christ because it is through this encounter that conversion takes place. What's conversion? It is when hearts are awakened to the presence of God in their life and desire to grow in discipleship. Through this "mountain-top" experience, our youth will have an amazing time, there will be high energy speakers, dynamic worship, skits, entertainment, small groups, fellowship, Mass and Eucharistic Adoration.

**Theme:** *"Chosen for Greatness – The Real Superheroes"*

We will take time to reflect on the extraordinary call that young people have to be SAINTS! We are CHOSEN in the sacrament of confirmation for GREATNESS! Confirmation is a gift that deepens our relationship with God, the Church, and helps us to be missionary disciples - to be saints in the world today. The weekend will focus on the following talks:

- Mask – "Identity"
- Villain – "Sin"

- Superpower – “Grace”
- Superhero – “Jesus”
- Mission – “Holy Spirit”

Through the talks and the many other experiences at the conference, the youth will connect, be challenged, deepen their faith and be inspired to be a SAINT!

### Keynote Speaker: Maggie Craig

“Maggie is an exceptional storyteller and evangelist. Combining humorous personal experiences with an impressive knowledge of the Church’s teaching and the Gospel, Maggie brings Christ’s Good News to teens in a unique way.”

— Lizzie Gormley, Life Teen Summer Camps Director



“Maggie Craig speaks words of truth to a generation thirsting for their identity. Maggie is a confident, hilarious, and Spirit-filled disciple of Christ who gains the right to be heard from any audience.”

— Mary McGeehan, Young Adult Ministry Specialist, Archdiocese of Denver

**Registration:** Each youth participant must have a complete Liability and Medical Matters Form on file with the youth ministry office. All adults attending the conference must have a completed Adult Volunteer Form and Adult Liability Form on file with our youth ministry office. These forms are available on the website. Please make sure that all forms are completely filled out before submitting them. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

### Registration Completion Deadline: Submit forms online by Tuesday, December 31, 2019

- [Participant Liability and Medical Matters Form](#) (*Online Form*)
- [Adult Volunteer Form](#) (*Online Form*)
- [Adult Liability Form for all Chaperones/Volunteers](#) (*Online Form*)

**Check-in and Departure:** Youth will need to arrive to St. Matthew Catholic Church at 4pm or 5pm to check-in at the Parish Center-Gym (Based on school dismissal). Youth will be assigned to a school bus operated by Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools. The buses will depart for the retreat center once all youth have checked in with the faith formation staff. It is important that everyone arrive on time in order for the conference to begin on schedule. We recommend carpooling from schools to the church if possible. The bus ride will be approximately 1 1/2 hours to White Oak Conference Center. We ask that everyone bring a bagged dinner for the bus ride – absolutely **NO FOOD WITH NUTS**.

**Catechists/Small Group Leaders:** The catechists for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade EDGE are asked to attend the conference to assist in leading small groups for the weekend. This is one of the best opportunities for small group leaders to connect, deepen the trust of the small group and witness the openness and growth of the youth. All chaperones attending must meet the diocesan safe environment training requirements for youth protection.

**Parent Chaperones:** We are in need of parents to assist with chaperoning for the weekend. The primary role is to maintain safety and to be present in the rooms with the youth in the lodges. This allows for the catechists to focus on their primary role which is to be a small group leader for the weekend.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** We need you! Volunteer opportunities include: parent chaperones, medical personnel, hospitality, security/safety, set-up crew, prayer ministry, stage crew, A/V crew, etc. All volunteers attending must meet the diocesan safe environment training requirements for youth protection. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity during the weekend, please complete the online [Adult Volunteer Form](#) or if you have questions, please contact Adrian Quintero at [aquintero@stmatthewcatholic.org](mailto:aquintero@stmatthewcatholic.org).

**Lodging:** Boys and girls will be assigned to separate lodges with parent chaperones at each lodge. We will assign rooms based on sessions and small groups. **Linens and towels are provided.**

**Packing List:**

- Pillow
- Pajamas
- Toiletries
- Towel
- Sneakers
- Socks
- Sweatshirt
- Hat
- Gloves
- Rain jacket & boots
- Bible
- Journal & Pen/Pencil
- Water bottle marked w/ name
- Blanket
- Comfy clothes
- Rosary
- Flashlight

Please **don't pack**:

- Cell phones\*
- Video game consoles
- Laptops
- iPads/iPods
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Weapons
- Bad attitudes

**\*Cell Phones:** We will provide contact information to you in the event that you need to contact your child. In addition, if your child absolutely needs to contact you, we will have them contact you from the conference center. Last year, we experienced some problems with cell phones and we want to avoid those issues this year.

*We reserve the right to search any bag and if any contraband or drugs are found, and we will ask that you come pick up your teen.*

**Medications:** For any medications, please have in original bottle and marked with name and dosage and place in Ziploc bag. In addition, you will receive a separate email request to complete a medical card if your child will need medication during the weekend in order to assist our Medical Team. The Medical Team will have over-the-counter drugs such as Tylenol, Advil, Benadryl, Zyrtec, etc. Please do not pack these types of medications for your child. We want all medications to be administered by our Medical Team for the safety of all participants.

**Please label all luggage/bags.** This will assist with making sure everyone gets their luggage in a timely fashion once we arrive to the conference center.

**Food Allergies:** All of the food allergies that you list on the liability/medical release form have been communicated to the kitchen staff at the conference center.

**Snacks:** We ask that every teen please bring a snack to share. *We do have a handful of teens that have peanut/tree allergies, so we ask that you please look for snacks that are nut-free.* Below you will see which type of snack we would like for you to bring:

Last Name A-G: Salty

Last Name G-P: Sweets

Last Name R-Z: Fruit (apples, grapes, oranges)

If there is anything else you would like to make us aware of about your child/anything your child needs, please let us know so we can make this a great weekend for them.

**Overnight Anxiety:** Many young people may not have spent a night or two away from home or may not have ever gone overnight a great distance from home. In the event that your child is feeling anxious and needs to contact home during the conference, then we will allow your child to contact you during a non-session time. We also invite you to join us as a parent chaperone for the weekend if that also would assist your child in being open to the weekend.