



## Teen Encounter Information Packet

Saint Basil Salvatorian Center  
30 East Street  
Methuen, Massachusetts 01844

978-683-2959

[www.teenencounter.org](http://www.teenencounter.org)

## Chaperone Ministry / CORI Check Information

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Since this is an overnight event, the Teen Encounter program has developed the Chaperone Ministry. Each night the building is well chaperoned by adults who are involved in the Chaperone Ministry. All chaperones have an extensive knowledge of the facility and are certified through the Massachusetts CORI program. Participants in the Chaperone Ministry are trained through the *Protecting God's Children* program and are also members of the Saint Basil Cursillio Community.

## In the event of an emergency

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Parents are often relieved to know that Saint Basil's Salvatorian Center is located less than one mile away from Holy Family Hospital. (0.6 Miles away to be exact.)

Caritas Holy Family Hospital  
70 East street  
Methuen, MA 01844  
Ph# 1.978.687.0151

## Introduction

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Thank you for requesting information about our ministry. This packet will give you a brief outline about the Teen Encounter program.

The Teen Encounter program has been around for over 30 years. We've been blessed with teens from all over New England that have been involved in our ministry. Many Teen Encounter candidates go on to become leaders in their own parishes.

The Teen Encounter weekends provide many different ways for teens to get involved. Service Team is one of these ways. The Service Team works behind the scenes of the weekend to keep things running smoothly. After Teens make a Teen Encounter, they are welcome to come back for any weekend to serve on Service Team. Teens who sign up for Service Team help serve meals, wash dishes, set up and break down materials for all meals, and create palanca.

Teen Encounter also runs a monthly Leadership School where teens receive training to become leaders in their Christian community. Teens who attend Leadership School often serve as team members of future retreats. Leadership School the first Thursday of every month at 7:00pm in the Chapel hall.

Another important part of Teen Encounter is the Music Ministry. The Music Ministry provides Teen Encounter weekends and prayer meetings with music. Music Ministry is composed of one Adult Advisor and 3 to 4 members from the community who lead us in song and worship.

If you have any questions, or would like to know more information than this packet provides, feel free to visit our website at: "[www.teenencounter.org](http://www.teenencounter.org)" or contact Fr. Larry Tumminelli at 978-683-2471.

## What is a Teen Encounter?

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Teen Encounter is a retreat for teens, high-school age and older, where teens encounter themselves-others - and Jesus Christ.

Teen Encounter is an opportunity to find one's true self, meet new people, expand horizons, develop friendships on a deeper level, and discover the truth in Jesus, our Savior.

Teen Encounter is a Catholic Christian experience based on what it means to be Christian, especially a teenage Catholic Christian living in a world that is often in darkness and ignorant of Jesus, the true light of the world.

Teen Encounter is a dynamic living experience with a variety of Christian learning activities in sharings, teachings, discussion, songs, games, prayer, worship, healing, and Sacraments.

Teen Encounter is YOUTH ministering to YOUTH. Many talks are given by teenagers themselves on everyday Christianity in the home, community, parish, and the world.

Teen Encounter runs the whole weekend, Friday evening through Sunday evening. The cost is \$75.00. Financial help can be arranged when money is a problem.

Teen Encounter is under the spiritual direction of a Catholic priest and Catholic adult leadership.

Teen Encounter has to be experienced! Trust the person who recommends the weekend, be open, and risk encountering Jesus, others, and yourself in a more profound way.

## Weekend Format

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The Teen Encounter weekend is a three day event, beginning on Friday evening around 7:00. Teen Encounter is run by a team of teenagers under the supervision of a Spiritual Director and adult advisors. The team prepares for 6 weeks prior to the weekend in order to grow together as a team and prepare talks to be shared on the weekend. These talks cover a variety of subjects such as Christian Ideal, The People of God, Faith, Discipleship, and Involvement. The Spiritual Director discusses Divine life, Morality, Sacraments and what it means to live as a member of the Catholic Church in today's society.

The weekend ends with a closing ceremony on Sunday evening around 4:30. Parents, family, and friends are encouraged to attend the closing ceremony.

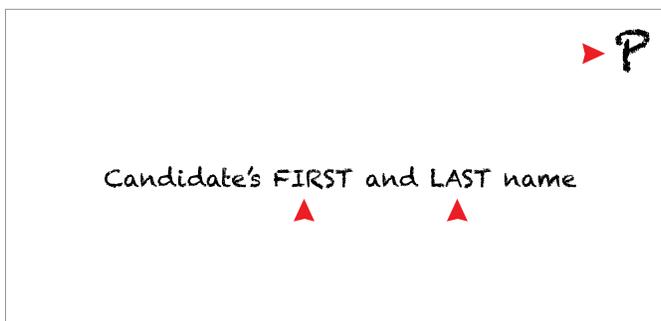
## Guidelines

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The retreat begins on Friday evening with check-in at 7:30 and ends Sunday evening around 6:30. Due to the nature of this retreat, teens must be present for the entire weekend from opening activities on Friday night to closing activities on Sunday. Commuting is not allowed.

We strongly encourage parents to attend the Parent Explanation Meeting on Friday Evening at 8:15. This is a great opportunity to meet the staff, discuss the dynamics of the weekend, and to address any questions or concerns.

Each Teen Encounter candidate will receive a "Parent Letter" that will be given to them at some point on the retreat. Your parent letter should be submitted at registration time on Friday night of the weekend. Your parent letter should be addressed to your child and we ask that you write them a love letter. This is a chance for you to write an open letter to your child. Let your child know how you feel about them. These letters are given to them and will not be read by anyone else. We do ask that you please put your child's FIRST AND LAST name on the envelope. We often have candidates on the weekend with the same first names. We also ask that you write the letter "P" in the upper right hand corner of the envelope, so that we know which letter is yours. You may submit multiple letters from family members, but Your letter should be clearly marked with a "P." (see example:)



The retreat cost of \$75.00 covers lodging for two nights, supplies, and five complete meals starting on Saturday morning. Please be sure that teens have had supper before arriving on Friday night.

Dress of the weekend should be proper for the season and appropriate for a Christian gathering. Drugs and alcohol are not permitted. Smoking is not allowed on the weekend. Cell phones and pagers are not allowed. A telephone is available for emergency calls as needed. Any teen who fails to comply with the rules of the house (especially substance abuse of any kind) will be sent home from the weekend.

Participants should bring a sleeping bag or sheets and a pillow case, towels and soap/shampoo.

It would be greatly appreciated if teens could bring fruit and one snack to share with the other candidates on the weekend (e.g. peaches, grapes, bananas, cookies or chips).

On Sunday, both parents/guardians, other family members, and friends should arrive at the Center before 4:30 pm for the closing ceremony.

The Salvatorian Center is a drug, alcohol, and tobacco free facility.

## Directions

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Saint Basil Salvatorian Center

30 East Street / Methuen, Massachusetts 01844 / 978-683-2959

### FROM BOSTON

- Take Route 93 North to Exit 47 (Pelham St.) Stay on exit ramp to Exit 48 (Route 213 East).
- Take the first exit off of Route 213 onto Route 28. Follow signs to Methuen. you are now on Route 28 South.
- You will go down a couple of hills. At the bottom of the second hill, take a left onto Osgood Street. (Dick's TV and Post Office are on the right)
- Osgood Street merges onto Lawrence Street. Continue about 1/4 - 1/2 mile to East Street. (You'll see a playground/ball park on you right and presentation of Mary Academy on your left.)
- Take a Left onto East Street and follow up the hill for about 1/4 mile. You will see a sign for Saint Basil's Seminary, and the Salvatorian Center on your left. (If you reach Holy Family Hospital, you've gone too far.)
- Saint Basil's has a long driveway. The first building is the Seminary and Chapel. The second building is the Salvatorian Center.

### NORTH OR SOUTH ON ROUTE 495

- From Route 495 North or South, take Exit 40B to Route 93 North and follow the directions above. OR...
- From Route 495 North or South, take Exit 46 (Route 110, Merrimack Street) and turn right at the end of the ramp.
- After about 1/2 mile, turn Right at the fire station and follow the signs toward the hospital.
- Follow this road straight. (Note: There's a trick intersection on this road. The road bears slightly to the left at the intersection. Keep following the signs toward the Hospital.)
- When you come to Holy Family Hospital keep going straight for about 1/4 mile and you will see a sign for Saint Basil's Seminary, and the Salvatorian Center on your right.
- Saint Basil's has a long driveway. The first building is the Seminary and Chapel. The second building is the Salvatorian Center.