NCYC

SCHEDULE & BREAKOUT SESSION GUIDE

November 20-21, 2026 | Long Beach, CA

SCHEDULE

* Times are subject to change, generally within 15 to 30 minutes of the stated time.

LBECC = Long Beach Entertainment and Convention Center

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Start Time	End Time	Activity	Location
8:00 AM	6:00 PM	Check-In: Exhibit Personnel Only	Room 101
8:30 AM	4:30 PM	Exhibitor Set-Up	Halls BC
3:00 PM	9:00 PM	Check-In: Group Leaders, Speakers, and Guests	Room 101
5:00 PM	10:00 PM	Convention Center Open to Participants	LBCC
6:00 PM	9:00 PM	Interactive Exhibit Hall Open	Halls BC
	10:15 PM	Convention Center Closes to Participants	LBCC

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Start Time	End Time	Activity	Location
7:00 AM	8:00 PM	Check-In: All Categories	Room 101
7:30 AM		Convention Center Open to Participants	LBCC
8:00 AM		General Session Doors Open to Participants	Hall A
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Entertainment	Hall A
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	Prayer and General Session	Hall A
	11:30 AM	General Session Doors Close to Participants	Hall A
11:00 AM	5:30 PM	Interactive Exhibit Hall Open	Halls BC
11:00 AM	5:00 PM	Relics Chapel Open	Grand Ballroom Swing Space
11:00 AM	5:00 PM	Adoration Chapel Open	Room 204
11:45 Am	12:45 PM	Breakout Sessions Round 1	Grand Ballroom, Room: 103, 104, 201,202
1:45 PM	2:45 PM	Breakout Sessions Round 2	Grand Ballroom, Room: 103, 104, 201,202
3:45 PM	4:45 PM	Breakout Session Round 3	Grand Ballroom, Room: 103, 104, 201, 202
5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Daily Mass	Grand Ballroom
7:00 PM		General Session Doors Open to Participants	Hall A

7:30 PM	8:00 PM	Entertainment	Hall A
8:00 PM	10:00 PM	General Session	Hall A
	10:00 PM	General Session Doors Close to Participants	Hall A
	10:15 PM	Convention Center Closes to Participants	LBCC

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Start Time	End Time	Activity	Location
7:00 AM	8:00 PM	Check-In: All Categories	Room 101
7:30 AM		Convention Center Open to Participants	LBCC
8:00 AM		General Session Doors Open to Participants	Hall A
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Entertainment	Hall A
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	Prayer and General Session	Hall A
	11:30 AM	General Session Doors Close to Participants	Hall A
11:00 AM	5:30 PM	Interactive Exhibit Hall Open	Halls BC
11:00 AM	5:00 PM	Relics Chapel Open	Grand Ballroom Swing Space
11:00 AM	5:00 PM	Adoration Chapel Open	Room 204
11:45 Am	12:45 PM	Breakout Sessions Round 4	Grand Ballroom, Room: 103, 104, 201,202
1:45 PM	2:45 PM	Breakout Sessions Round 5	Grand Ballroom, Room: 103, 104, 201,202
3:45 PM	4:45 PM	Breakout Session Round 6	Grand Ballroom, Room: 103, 104, 201, 202
7:00 PM		General Session Doors Open to Participants	Hall A
7:30 PM	8:00 PM	Entertainment	Hall A
8:00 PM	10:00 PM	General Session	Hall A
	10:00 PM	General Session Doors Close to Participants	Hall A
	10:15 PM	Convention Center Closes to Participants	LBCC

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout sessions repeat on Friday and Saturday, giving participants multiple opportunities to attend. This allows participants the chance to experience more of what interests them without having to choose between sessions. If they enjoy a particular session, they'll be able to share their recommendations with others who can attend the next day.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SPEAKERS, VISIT: NCYC.US/PROGRAM/SPEAKERS-ARTISTS

ROUND 1 & 4 - 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM

Session Title: **Blessed are the Real**
Speaker: **Aires Patulot**
Music: **Chris Estrella & Band**
Location: Grand Ballroom B
Session Description: In a world that rewards image, curation, and the pressure to have it all together, Jesus offers a radical and upside-down invitation to live in the light of the truth. This session explores the exhaustion of the masks we wear and the freedom found in taking them off. Through a blend of relatable storytelling, spiritual reflection, and a few unexpected throwback surprises, Aires Patulot invites participants to examine the weight of trying to be everything to everyone. Students will discover that vulnerability is not a weakness to be hidden but the very door through which deeper connection and joy enter. This workshop helps youth see that the path to holiness is not about becoming someone else. Instead, it is about the courage to become who God already knows and loves.

Session Title: **Before You Hit Send: Following Jesus in Online Conflict**
Speaker: **Chenele Shaw**
Music: **Nick & Nikki Garza**
Location: 104BC
Session Description: We live in a world where disagreement often turns into division, especially online. As Christians, we are called to speak the truth but never apart from love. This session will explore what the Church means by fraternal correction and how young people can navigate difficult conversations with wisdom, humility, and courage. Through Scripture, practical examples, and real-life scenarios from social media and everyday life, participants will learn how to stand firm in their convictions without attacking others or sacrificing charity. Rather than asking, "How do I win the argument?" we'll ask the better question: "How do I help someone encounter Christ?" Participants will leave with practical tools for responding rather than reacting, engaging in difficult conversations with respect, and becoming digital witnesses who reflect both truth and love.

Session Title: **Navigating Faith & Sexual Orientation: Guidance for Walking with People**
Speaker: **Dr. Julia Sadusky & Bishop Larry Silva**
Location: 104A
Session Description: Questions around faith and exploration of sexual orientation are present in young Catholics in the Church today. Many of us are seeking ways to walk with those we love and draw from the wisdom of our Catholic faith as we do so. This breakout will incorporate theological insights with psychological guidance as we learn together to better accompany those we love with LGB experiences.

Session Title: **Real Ones: Finding Friends Who Get You to Heaven**
Speaker: **Braden Johnson**
Location: Room 103
Session Description: In a world full of group chats, social media, and packed schedules, it's still possible to feel lonely and unknown. We all want friendships that are real, lasting, and meaningful, but not every friendship helps us become the person God created us to be. This session takes an honest look at the friendships shaping our lives and challenges us to seek the kind of Christ-centered community we're truly made for. Together, we'll explore what authentic friendship looks like, how to recognize relationships that help us grow, and how to build a community that encourages us, strengthens our faith, and helps us get to heaven.

Session Title: **Trail of Grace: Exploring Prayer on the Path with Jesus**
Speaker: **Michael Donaldson**
Location: Room 102
Session Description: In this dynamic, Scripture rooted workshop, NET Missionaries invite participants into the heart of what prayer truly is: a relationship with Jesus who longs to walk beside us. Prayer isn't just words we say—it's a friendship we grow. Jesus is not distant or abstract; He is a living guide who calls each of us by name, invites us into conversation, and desires to be part of every corner of our lives. Throughout the session, missionaries will share practical ways to pray, drawing from the Gospels to show how Jesus Himself models intimacy with the Father. Participants will explore how to speak to Jesus honestly, how to listen for His voice, and how to surrender the parts of life He gently asks us to entrust to Him. Together, we'll look at Scripture passages that reveal Jesus' desire for closeness, His invitation to "come and see," His promise to remain with us, and His call to follow Him step by step.

Session Title: **Offer It Up: Making Everyday Life a Prayer**
Speaker: **Natalie Garza**
Location: Room 201
Session Description: Every moment of our life matters. Often, we live waiting for big moments, but how can we encounter God in the minute details of life? In this session, you will discover how your everyday experiences, from your greatest joys to your biggest challenges, can become opportunities to encounter Christ. You will leave with simple, practical ways to recognize God's presence, deepen your relationship with Him, and make every day an opportunity to grow in faith.

Session Title: **Jesus Loves You Just Because You Exist**
Speaker: **Eliza Monts**
Location: Room 202
Session Description: Many of us know that Jesus loves us, but far fewer truly understand why. We can recount many of Jesus' teachings and the stories of Jesus' passion and resurrection yet still wonder if God's love depends on our performance, our mistakes, or whether we are "good enough." But this isn't the Gospel–Jesus does not love us because we've earned it, He loves us just because we exist as His creation. In this session we will dig into the life-changing truth that salvation is a gift freely given, not something we achieve on our own. Through Scripture, reflection, the lives of the saints, and practical tips for better receiving and share God's love, you will discover how embracing your identity as a beloved sons or daughter of God can transform the way you live, love, and pursue sainthood.

Session Title: **Equipping Families to Accompany Teens (Adult Session)**
Speaker: **Shannon Wimp Schmidt & Vanesa Zuleta Goldberg**
Location: Room 204
Session Description: Families are the primary place where teens can be known, seen, and loved as they grow in faith. But many adults feel unqualified to accompany young people on their faith journey. In this session, we will look at how Simple Mentoring Keys can help families walk with young people toward a lifelong faith and discuss opportunities for parish leaders to support and equip families for accompaniment.

ROUND 2 & 5 - 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

Session Title: **Walking with Each Other in Faith**
Speaker: **Rhyan Ramirez**
Music: **Vale Monts & Josh Blakesley**
Location: Grand Ballroom B
Session Description: What if the greatest gift you could give someone wasn't your advice, your words, or your ability to fix their problems? This session invites you to discover the power of simply being present. Through meaningful conversation and shared experiences, you will explore how authentic community is built when people are willing to listen, be known, and walk alongside one another. You do not need to have all the answers to make a difference. You simply need the willingness to show up. You will leave with practical ways to bring the gift of real presence into your everyday relationships.

Session Title: **Mercy, Honesty, and Starting Over**
Speaker: **Steve Angrisano**
Music: **Steve Angrisano**
Location: 104BC
Session Description Most of us know we should go to confession. But what if we're looking at it all wrong? Reconciliation isn't about earning God's love; it's about receiving it. Every one of us has chapters we'd rather rewrite. The beautiful news of the Gospel is that God gives us the chance to start over again and again. In this engaging session filled with music, laughter, and powerful stories, Steve Angrisano explores how the Sacrament of Reconciliation brings healing, freedom, and a fresh start that can change your life.

Session Title: **God Sees So Much More**
Speaker: **Cathy & Leah Becker**
Location: Room 104A
Session Description: Your anxiety, depression, learning difference, or diagnosis doesn't define you. Neither do your talents, grades, popularity, or secrets. God sees so much more in you, and for you. Sometimes, we just need help seeing ourselves the way He does. Leah and her mom, Cathy, will share their journey through anxiety, a dyslexia diagnosis, and other family changes, and how they learned to see themselves—and each other—through God's eyes. Along the way, they discovered helpful coping strategies, found strength in their parish community, and built stronger relationships with one another and with God through prayer and the sacraments. They'll share practical tools and hard-won wisdom so you can discover hope, healing, and the truth of whose you really are.

Session Title: **No Filters Needed**
Speaker: **Anamaria Trujillo**
Location: Room 103
Session Description: Through personal experiences of rejection, conversion, and serving immigrant families, Anamaria discovered that lasting joy is not found in popularity, achievement, or the approval of others, but in God's unconditional love. In this session, you will reflect on your own search for belonging and learn how encountering Christ can transform the way you see yourself and others. You will leave encouraged to embrace your identity in God and to live that love through compassion, service, and authentic relationships.

Session Title: **Stop Waiting, Start Something**
Speaker: **St. Dominic Savio Young Adults**
Location: Room 102
Session Description: What if you didn't have to wait to make a difference? Too often, we think we need permission, experience, or the "right moment" to act. But what if God is already calling you to start something now? This session invites you to see your faith as something active, creative, and lived out in real ways. Through stories, practical ideas, and interactive moments, you'll explore how your passions, talents, and experiences can become the starting point for something meaningful. You don't need to have everything figured out. You just need a willingness to begin.

Session Title: **Finding Jesus Christ in the Experience of Migration**
Speakers: **Bishop Mark J. Seitz**
Location: Room 201
Session Description: What if the journey of migration isn't just a human story but a place where we can encounter Jesus Himself? In this powerful session, we'll explore how the struggles, hopes, and courage of migrants reveal something deeply true about who Christ is and how He moves in the world today. Through real-life stories, Scripture, and the Church's teaching, you'll be invited to see migration not as a distant issue, but as a sacred opportunity to recognize Christ at the margins. Come ready to reflect, be challenged, and discover how faith calls us to respond with compassion, courage, and hope.

Session Title: **It Used to Be Drama and Now It's Trauma**
Speaker: **Fr. Allen Hoffa**
Location: Room 202
Session Description: The new drug, the most prevalent drug in 2026, is pornography. It is damaging the lives of men and women of every age, race, and vocation. The average age of first exposure is 8-9 years old. Young people are often traumatized by this experience and since parents and parish leaders often lack the proper understanding for themselves, they are unable to speak about the topic in a way the is intentional, pastoral, and focused on being against the bad and about the good. This talk focuses on giving facts and presenting a three-part approach that focuses on God and the Sacraments, science and proven truth, and the importance of accountability and relationships. For 16 years Fr. Hoffa has been a high school and college chaplain, Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry, youth conference speaker, worship leader, and has worked in the field of pornography for 10 years.

Session Title: **Belonging Beyond Confirmation (Adult Session)**
Speakers: **Chris Wesley, Matthew Wesley, Noah Stein**
Location: Room 204
Session Description: Drawing from personal experience, peer surveys, and real stories, Noah and Matthew offer a candid, teen-led perspective on what sustains youth engagement beyond Confirmation. They will examine why some youth remain connected to youth ministry while others disengage. The session is designed primarily for youth ministers and adult leaders, while remaining relevant for teen leaders seeking to strengthen their communities.

ROUND 3 & 6 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 PM

Session Title: **Still Standing: Keeping Your Faith When Things Get Hard**
Speaker: **Cynthia Psencik**
Music: **Chris Estrella & Band**
Location: Grand Ballroom B
Session Description: Following Jesus in today's world takes courage, and staying rooted in your Catholic faith isn't always easy. Whether at school, online, with friends, or at home, you'll encounter challenges to living as a disciple of Christ. In this session, we'll discuss those pressures, explore how Jesus and the saints model perseverance, and discover how prayer, the sacraments, and authentic community can give you the strength to remain close to Christ.

Session Title: **Hope When Life Hurts**
Speaker: **Santonio Hill**
Music: **Nick & Nikki Garza**
Location: Room 104 BC
Session Description: In a world filled with pressure, disappointment, anxiety, heartbreak, and confusion, it can be tempting to give up on what is good. When life hurts, many people numb themselves, isolate, chase distractions, or begin to believe the lie that goodness is no longer worth pursuing. But what if pain does not have to make you bitter? What if suffering could actually shape you into someone stronger, deeper, and more loving?

Speaker: **Sr. Judy Blizzard & Sr. Marilyn Minter**
Session Title: **Resisting Numbness: Faith, Discernment & Peacebuilding**
Location: Room 104 A
Session Description: When violence, division, and suffering seem constant, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed, discouraged, or numb. Drawing from their ministry in Haiti amid gang violence and social unrest, Sister Judy and Sister Marilyn share stories of faith, resilience, and hope in the face of profound challenges. Through reflection, conversation, and the practice of discernment, you will explore how to recognize God's presence in difficult circumstances, respond to suffering with compassion, and become an instrument of peace. This session offers practical ways to deepen faith, resist indifference, and bring hope to your school, parish, family, and community. **Sponsored by the Felician Sisters**

Session Title: **Fiat and Fire**
Speaker: **Fr. Rick Martignetti, OFM**
Location: Room 102
Session Description: What does it mean to say “yes” to God? In this inspiring and practical talk, we will explore how Mary’s humble response and St. Francis’s bold surrender offer a model for discovering your own calling. Through real-life stories and simple tools for discernment, you will learn how to hear God’s voice, trust His plan, and live with courage and purpose. Whether you feel uncertain or curious about your path, this session invites you to say “yes” to something greater and to live your faith with joy and boldness. **Sponsored by Marian University**

Session Title: **Built to be Bold**
Speaker: **Joe Melendrez**
Location: Room 103
Session Description: Jesus never called His followers to stay silent; He called them to "go and make disciples." In a world where it can feel easy to blend in, stay comfortable, or keep faith private, this session will challenge you to live boldly for Christ and share Him authentically in everyday life. Through Scripture, storytelling, music, practical examples, and interactive moments, you will discover that evangelization is not about being perfect or having all the answers. It is about personally knowing Jesus, loving others deeply, and courageously saying yes to the mission He has given His people. You will leave inspired and equipped to live as a missionary disciple in your school, friendships, sports teams, home, online spaces, and community, bringing the hope and love of Christ wherever you go.

Session Title: **Never Been Kissed: The Love Story I Didn't See Coming**
Speaker: **Nellani Tabada**
Location: Room 201
Session Description: This was not how I imagined my story would go. I grew up expecting life to feel like a teen rom-com—the girl gets noticed, chosen, and finally has her moment. Instead, I found myself waiting, comparing, and wondering: What's wrong with me? Why hasn't it happened yet? What began as a simple insecurity uncovered something much deeper: the desire to be seen, chosen, and loved. In a culture that often measures worth by relationships, attention, and validation, it's easy to believe the lie that if we are not chosen by someone else, we are somehow not enough. In this honest, relatable, and creatively presented session, Nellani J.P. Tabada shares her story through the lens of a teen rom com while inviting participants to encounter a deeper truth: our identity is not rooted in popularity, relationships, or romance, but in a God who already knows us, sees us, and loves us completely. Because maybe the love, we've been waiting for… has been there all along.

Session Title: **Ministry in the Age of AI (Adult Session)**
Speaker: **Edmundo Reyes & Edmund Mitchell**
Location: Room 202
Session Description: Artificial intelligence is already shaping how young people search, learn, and ask life's deepest questions. Instead of reacting with fear, what if youth ministers saw this moment as an invitation? This session offers a clear, non-technical understanding of AI and explores what its popularity reveals about the human heart. Why do young people feel heard by machines? What does that teach us about listening, accompaniment, and presence in ministry? Together we will reflect on how AI exposes a

hunger to be known and how youth ministers can respond by becoming more attentive, relational, and intentional in forming disciples.

Session Title: **Stop Venting, Start Thinking (Adult Session)**
Speaker: **Cecilia Flores**
Location: Room 204
Session Description: When violence, division, and suffering seem constant, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed, discouraged, or numb. Drawing from their ministry in Haiti amid gang violence and social unrest, Sister Judy and Sister Marilyn share stories of faith, resilience, and hope in the face of profound challenges. Through reflection, conversation, and the practice of discernment, you will explore how to recognize God's presence in difficult circumstances, respond to suffering with compassion, and become an instrument of peace. This session offers practical ways to deepen faith, resist indifference, and bring hope to your school, parish, family, and community.