

Twins' activities are as similar as their looks

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

GATES — Amy and Angela Jenkins are identical in more ways than looks.

"She (Angela) got hit in the head with a hockey puck once, and I had a headache for three days in the same spot she got hit," Amy claimed.

Unlike many siblings who would never want to admit that they get along so well, Amy is proud of the close relationship she shares with her twin sister.

"People always ask me, 'Are you each other's best friend?' I tell them, 'Of course she is,'" Amy said.

The Jenkins sisters, who turn 18 this week, have been inseparable throughout their lives. Along with a busy family life, they share many friends and activities.

Many of those activities take place at St. Helen's Church, 310 Hinckley Road, where they have both worked at the rectory. In addition, they have been active in the parish youth group.

Their most extensive duties at St. Helen's have been with the religious-education program, in which Amy and Angela have been teachers' aides for special-education students over the last four years. With the twins' help, these students have been able to participate in classes with children the same age.

"I didn't want them to feel left out," Angela explained.

Amy and Angela also taught a kindergarten religious-education program together last summer, and will teach a



Kellie McCann/Photo intern
Angela Jenkins (standing) and her identical-twin sister Amy share many activities together. The twins are parishioners at St. Helen's Church in Gates, where they both taught a kindergarten religious-education program last summer. They plan on teaching a pre-school group later this summer.

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Recently graduated from Gates-Chili High School, the Jenkins twins left behind a long list of accomplishments there as well. Both were National Honor Society members, with Angela graduating 16th in her class and Amy finishing 35th. They participated in the school newspaper, Junior Achievement — in which Amy was president — and the Service Club. They also were special-education volunteers at Gates-Chili High.

The Jenkins' volunteering duties extend into the community. Both Amy, who is a diabetic, and Angela donate time to the American Diabetes Association and Adam Walsh Foundation.

Based on their many accomplishments, it's no surprise that Amy and Angela were both chosen as Hands of Christ Award recipients earlier this year. This annual honor goes to high school seniors in the Rochester diocese who show an exceptional commitment to serving the church and community.

Much of Amy and Angela's cohesiveness stems from their family's example. Both young women regularly attend Rochester Americans hockey and Rochester Red Wing baseball games with their parents, Ron and Kathy, and brother Matthew, 12.

Kathy Jenkins added that the emphasis on unity has helped erase any serious jealousies or sibling rivalries between her twin daughters.

"I always taught them to be happy for someone's successes and not say, 'I got an A and you only got a B+; how come you didn't get higher?'" she

said.

Yet Amy and Angela don't agree on everything — for example, their planned college majors. "She likes business and I hate it," said Angela, to which Amy replied, "I cannot stand math."

Still, despite their separate interests, the twins will attend St. John Fisher College this fall. Amy had strongly considered enrolling at Rochester Institute of Technology, but in the end decided that she wasn't quite ready for the break from her sister.

"We've seen each other our whole lives. I said, 'Angela, it can't work (if we go to different colleges)," Amy said.

Keeping in line with their commitment to volunteering, Amy and Angela are already lending a hand at St. John Fisher before they even take their first class. They interviewed this week to become tour guides for high school seniors during the 1992-93 school year.

City plans camp for youths

ROCHESTER — The City of Rochester is planning a performing arts camp for youths ages 6 to 14 at the Edgerton Community Center, 41 Backus St.

Sessions will be offered Aug. 24-28 and Aug. 31-Sept. 4. The programs will take place each day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fee is \$50 per week, and students may sign up for both sessions. Registration deadline is Aug. 10. Call 716/428-6769 after 3 p.m. for information.

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