

ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Family of Faith Programs



ST. JOHN NEUMANN
Catholic Church

Welcome to Family of Faith! /p. 1

Grades 1-5 /p. 2

Middle School, Grades 6-8 /p. 4

High School /p. 6



Welcome!



A NOTE FROM FR. DAN DURY



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What a joy it was to see so many families at Mass on Tuesdays and having fun together at our Family Community Nights! I would like to thank all of you for being open to this new model of faith formation and deepening your faith experience together as a family.

Our hope is that we are able to create a path forward that is best for your family with both home and church experiences. We are not asking you to teach per se. We are asking you to witness to your own faith and to grow in faith as a family. The family must become the center of faith formation with the parish to provide support and encouragement to this end.

Statistics show that for faith to “stick”, it must be talked about and lived out with the people children love the most, their parents. Faith is meant to be a gift, a lens to see your life through, not a series of classes to “check off”. It is meant to be relevant to your everyday life. We hope that you will experience Family of Faith as such.

This upcoming year we are also very excited to be partnering with Damascus missionaries and incorporating engaging materials from Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries. I have great confidence that through this new model and new and innovative resources we will grow as disciples of Jesus Christ!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Dan Dury".

Fr. Dan Dury





Grades 1-5

We are excited to work together to invest in the root of our church--our families!

We want to support you in your intentional everyday living of your faith in your home. We also seek to continue to offer meaningful activities and experiences here on campus with your faith community.

We invite you to **attend on Tuesday evenings after the 6:00 pm Mass, at your convenience, beginning in September.** Each Tuesday will have a different focus: parent nights, community nights, support nights, and a SEEK/ROOT/WONDER experience.

"PARENTS ARE THE PRINCIPAL AND FIRST EDUCATORS OF THEIR CHILDREN." CCC 1653

Seek, Root, and Wonder are new activity kits from Faith & Family Life Ministries. These materials strive to provide experiences for families that lead them deeper into their faith.

We will be meeting with each family this summer to get to know you and to lay out the path that will support your family's needs. Please see the back cover of this brochure for more information and to link to the appointment sign-up!

"THE FAMILY, LIKE THE CHURCH, OUGHT TO BE A PLACE WHERE THE GOSPEL IS TRANSMITTED AND FROM WHICH THE GOSPEL RADIATES...THE FUTURE OF EVANGELIZATION DEPENDS IN GREAT PART ON THE CHURCH OF THE HOME."

—ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II



WHY ARE WE FOCUSING ON THE FAMILY?

Good question! We are blessed at St. John Neumann to have many families who have been with us for several years, as well as new families joining the parish every month. We are in an area of Columbus that is expected to enjoy tremendous growth for years to come – and we are very excited to welcome individuals and families to St. John Neumann! Fr. Dury and other Catholic leaders have learned from experience that simply being dropped off for PSR does not have a great enough impact on the development of a child's faith.

Our goal is to help families grow in faith **together**, with parents and children involved in fun activities and conversations that are laying a strong foundation for faith. We want to support you in your work of educating your loved ones in the Catholic faith, and we want to provide you with the tools you need in your everyday life so that faith becomes woven into the fabric of your family.

Thank you for joining us and trusting in this new approach!

Middle School, Grades 6 - 8

01 OUR PROGRAM

We are excited to welcome you to our Middle School Program! This program is for 6th - 8th graders and is designed to help students begin preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, which for most, will happen in 8th grade. We will meet once per month on Youth Ministry Night for dinner, prayer, church teaching, a dynamic message, discipleship, and small group times, all led by missionaries from Damascus Catholic Mission Campus!

02 OUR GOALS

Our program is designed to meet the educational, spiritual, emotional and social needs of young adolescents. Our program seeks to work cooperatively with families as you continue to build upon your child's faith formation and navigate this new stage of spiritual development. We strive to foster a transforming spiritual experience of Jesus through the liturgy, allowing early adolescents to experience the Word of God and the Eucharist in a deeper and more profound way. We want to create a positive experience of the Catholic Church for early adolescents, assisting middle school youth in gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation of what the Catholic Church teaches and believes. We help to incorporate the Catholic Church's vision of social justice and peace into the spiritual life of pre-adolescents.

03 WHEN WE MEET

Our Middle School program meets on the **second Sunday of every month, September - April, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm** in the Faith & Family Center. Confirmation students will attend a day-long retreat in September, and Confirmation parents should expect to attend 1-2 parent meetings throughout the school year. Please see page 5 of this brochure for more information about Confirmation.



Sacramental Preparation

FIRST RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation is usually received in second grade; registration in the Family of Faith program is needed. Preparation involves “coaching” parents to form their own children. Topics center around how Jesus invites us each to a loving relationship with Him; how we can grow in that relationship and how we can seek forgiveness when we sin. There are a total of 6 parent-child classes that meet on designated Sundays from October-December after the 9:00 am Mass.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion is usually received in second grade; registration in the Family of Faith program is needed. Preparation involves “coaching” parents to form their own children. Topics center around how Jesus invites us to each Mass; how He prepares us to receive Him in communion and how we are empowered by the Mass to go out and change the world. There are 6 parent-child classes that meet on designated Sundays from February-April after the 9:00 am Mass.

CONFIRMATION

The Confirmation program is for 8th graders or those who are older who have not yet been confirmed. We meet once per month for Youth Ministry Night, which includes dinner for 6-8th grade. These youth ministry nights will be run by Damascus Missionaries and will consist of a night of prayer, church teaching, dynamic message, discipleship, and small group time to process. There will also be quarterly meetings to focus on the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation will include an opportunity for service in and for our community, a day retreat, and an afternoon with the Confirmandi and his or her sponsor.





High School Youth Ministry

High School Youth Ministry at St. John Neumann is very well-rounded! On Sunday evenings, teens will encounter the love of Christ and His Church in a large group setting. The missionaries from Damascus are leading Sunday evenings along with some of our Core Team from St. John Neumann. Outside of Sunday evenings are many opportunities to grow in discipleship, service, and leadership. These extras are where our teens get to grow more deeply in their relationship with Christ and our community here at St. John Neumann in a small group setting.

**"YOU HAVE CREATED US
FOR YOURSELF, LORD,
AND OUR HEARTS ARE
RESTLESS UNTIL THEY
FIND THEIR REST IN
YOU." - ST. AUGUSTINE**

We invite all high school teens to join us every Sunday, September-April, from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Faith & Family Center!



What Do We Do Next?

- Return your registration form, included in this packet.
- Schedule a **Family Meeting** with one of our Family of Faith support persons!

There is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all approach for helping families grow in their faith. We want to be able to meet you and talk about your experience of faith as a *family*. We can then make a path that fits your family for this upcoming year. Meetings will be scheduled in 30 minute intervals. Please visit the Family of Faith page of our website to link to the meeting sign-up.

Questions? Please contact us!

Grades 1-5: Christina Weber, cweber.saintjohn@gmail.com

1st Reconciliation & 1st Communion: Bob Steinbauer, rsteinba@cdeducation.org

Middle School: Kerrie Ritchey, kritchey@cdeducation.org

Confirmation: Julie Bando, jbando.saintjohn@gmail.com

High School: Kate Giddens, kgiddens.saintjohn@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you!



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