

ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Family of Faith Programs



ST. JOHN NEUMANN
Catholic Church

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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,

Fr. Dan Dury





Grades 1-4

Family of Faith, for families with children in grades 1-4, brings St. John Neumann families together on the first Tuesday of the month at 6 pm, October-April, to worship together at Mass, learn about the life of Jesus Christ, His teachings, and our Catholic Faith. We invite you to attend! At home, parents will help their children fall in love with Jesus as they journey toward Heaven as a family.

Our regularly scheduled Tuesday daily Mass at 6 pm is a great way to start off our time together with worship for both parent(s) and children! Daily Mass is shorter (usually 25-30 minutes) and the simplicity allows children to better grasp the structure of our worship.

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

We hear the story of God's love for us in Scripture and we are strengthened by receiving our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. For those who have not received their First Communion yet, attending Mass helps them to become familiar with Mass and to look forward to receiving Jesus for the first time. If your family's schedule makes it difficult to be here by 6pm, just join us in the FFC at 6:30 pm.

"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 5 & 6

01 OUR PROGRAM

We are excited to welcome you to our Middle School Program! This program is for 5th & 6th graders and is designed to be a building block for Confirmation preparation, which will begin in 7th grade.

02 OUR GOALS

Our program is designed to meet the educational, spiritual, emotional and social needs of young adolescents. We 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.

03 WHEN WE MEET

Our Middle School program will meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, from 3:30 pm-4:45 pm, snacks included. In addition to our Sunday meetings, we encourage our middle school students and families to join in our Community Nights on the first Tuesday of each month. Community Nights are a time to worship together at Mass, grow in discipleship, and learn about our Catholic faith. Fr. Dury will lead these teachings for the middle schoolers, followed by small group time to process and discuss what is presented.



Sacramental Preparation

FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST COMMUNION

Beginning in the fall of 2023, preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion will be a 2-year process.

First Year: First grade students begin preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Seek - meets late August-December, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:00-7:15 pm, pizza provided; children participate in activities while parents meet in small groups

Root - meets January-April, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:00-7:15 pm, pizza provided; children participate in activities while parents meet in small groups; includes an at-home component

Second Year: Second grade students continue their preparation.

Mend - preparation for First Reconciliation; an at-home program with content for August-December; also includes 4 Sunday support sessions which meet from 10:05-10:55 am, September-November

Nourish - preparation for First Communion; an at-home program with content for January-April; also includes 6 Sunday support sessions which meet from 10:05-10:55 am, January-April

CONFIRMATION

Beginning in the fall of 2023, preparation for Confirmation will be a 2-year process, with 7th grade students starting their formation and 8th grade students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. All students will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 3:30-4:45 pm, as we study the Confirmation program, CHOSEN. In addition to the video series, Pathway boxes will be available to families for the at-home component of our program. The boxes will encourage participation from the entire family as their teen journeys in faith towards receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. The content focuses on the lives of the saints and on the Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy.

The 2023/2024 school year is a transition year. Those children entering 2nd and 8th grade for the 2023 school year will maintain a one-year program.



High School Youth Ministry



High School Youth Ministry meets Sunday evenings, September 10, 2023 - April 28, 2024 from 6-8 pm, following the 5 pm Mass.

High School Youth Ministry at St. John Neumann is very well-rounded! Sunday evenings will be led by Sam Struppa, our Youth Ministry and Confirmation Coordinator, and two Damascus Missionaries from the Jesus Movement Affiliate Program. Each night will include dinner, social time/games, a faith-based message, and small group time to process the evening.

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

Once a month, we will incorporate a large group event for our teens. In addition to the Sunday evening youth group, high school students are encouraged to attend our Community Nights on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 pm.



What Do We Do Next?

- ➔ Visit <https://saintjohnsunbury.org/family-faith-formation> to download & complete a registration form!
- ➔ Return completed form to Julie Bando, jbando@stjohnsunbury.org and pay the \$225 family fee online or by check.

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 be a resource for you and your family as you participate in our programs and in our parish activities. Please feel free to contact us!

Questions? Please contact us!

Grades 1-4: Christina Weber, cweber@stjohnsunbury.org

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

Middle School, Confirmation, and High School Youth Ministry: Sam Struppa, sstruppa@stjohnsunbury.org

Administrative Support for All Programs: Julie Bando, jbando@stjohnsunbury.org

We look forward to seeing you!



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