



St John Neumann's Goal for Faith Formation

2018/2019

St. Paul speaks to us, the Church, when he says, "encourage one another and build up each other. Be at peace among yourselves. Always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1Thess 5:11, 13b, 15-18)

Here at St. John Neumann, we strive to work hand in hand with parents in the formation of faith within the family. The Faith Formation team, along with volunteers, provides a meaningful encounter with Jesus Christ and an immersive prayer experience for those who participate within the various programs. The main focus of our formation is the Eucharist; which is "the source and summit of our Christian life" (CCC 1324). All our programs will stem from the Liturgy which extends into the home. With a better understanding of Liturgy we can participate more fully in the prayers and worship of the Mass. In Liturgy, we take part in salvation history and are spiritually fed to live out our call of discipleship which means to witness to our faith. Our witness to Christ in the home strengthens marriages and enables parents to be Christ to their children.

The *Bringing God Home*

Program is for families with children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. This is a 'Whole Family Catechesis' program. The families will meet at St. John Neumann twice a month where we can encourage one another as we encounter Jesus together. In the alternating weeks, the family will complete the weekly lesson in the home, at a time convenient for the



family. Home lessons provide a great opportunity to bring conversations about God into the family. This provides a way for siblings to be formed in faith together and for older siblings to participate. Since the lessons center on the Sunday Liturgy, the children are also learning to use and read from the Holy Bible as they learn about that week's Gospel story. The *Gospel Weekly* lessons, put out by *Pflaum Publishing*, better prepares the whole family for the upcoming Sunday Liturgy. Families who participate together are also more aware and can participate more fully in the life of Christ through the Liturgical Cycle or Church Year. Entering into the Church Seasons, Holy Days and celebrations not only strengthens the family, it also unifies the entire Catholic Church worldwide.

The *Edge* and *Life Teen*

Programs takes a more in depth look at the mysteries of the Liturgy along with the Sacramental and Christian Moral life. The Faith Formation team work together with several adult volunteers to bring an encounter of Jesus Christ to the participants through practical ways of increasing faith. Through their growing belief in Jesus participants learn to live a life of hope and love. These programs give students

an opportunity to share in small groups and participate in large group learning and activities in a nontraditional setting. The students are led in varying prayer experiences that help them come together in community and strengthen their own private prayer life. **Edge** focuses on our Middle School students in grades 6-8 and **Life Teen** is geared for all High School students through 12th grade. Family Letters are emailed to all parents as a tool for faith conversations within the home. Parents are highly encouraged to volunteer within the programs.



Pre-K Children's Church takes place during the Sunday 10am Mass. This program relies on several volunteers on a rotating schedule to lead the young children in the *Liturgy of the Word*. Youth volunteers are encouraged to assist with the leader. The hearing of Scripture is followed by a time of sharing, a simple craft that focuses on the Gospel and Prayers of the Faithful. The children learn the responses and actions that take place at Mass as they, too, follow the order of Mass.

On-Going Faith Formation is provided in one-time or recurring programs. The various programs include Scripture Study, men's and women's Faith Sharing groups, Catechism

classes, an Advent Retreat and topic-based Video Programs that include large and small group sharing. These opportunities to grow in faith are offered for adults, teens and sometimes the whole family. On-Going faith formation provides the tools to build upon the foundation of faith that was laid in childhood and to dive deeper into a growing understanding and relationship with God. Join the Apostles who said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" (Luke 17:5)



All the programs at St. John Neumann rely on volunteerism. The generosity of time and sharing of talents of the church community members is what makes the programs possible. We look forward to adding to our already committed team of volunteers so that we may best serve all the families of St. John Neumann.

