

St. John Neumann Church

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Helping Parents Share the Faith with Their Child

HANDBOOK
2009-2010



PARISH ADDRESS:
16271 Pearl Road
Strongsville, OH 44136

SCHOOL ADDRESS:
12580 Pearl Road
Strongsville, OH 44136

St. John Neumann Parish School of Religion

440-238-1770

Fr. Bob Kraig
Pastor

Fr. Russ Rauscher
Associate Pastor

Miss Shannon Fiamingo
Coordinator of Religious Education

Mrs. Lori Bellisario
Assistant – Religious Education

Mrs. Nancy Fiamingo
Youth Minister

Rev. Mr. Tom Grasson
Deacon

Sr. Pat Sylvester, S.N.D.
Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Sandy Zorn
Pastoral Associate

St. John Neumann Parish Mission Statement

We, the community of St. John Neumann, are centered in the celebration of the Eucharist and follow the teachings and actions of Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We, a people with diverse needs and gifts, are a part of the Body of Christ, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, and the community of Strongsville.

We seek to:

- be a Christian family, which cares about each other and all of God's people, by promoting harmony, reconciliation, and healing among them.
- pass on our cherished faith and traditions.
- establish responsible stewardship of our time, talent, and resources.
- build the Kingdom – community of God on earth while on our mutual spiritual journey to eternal life with Jesus.

*“The body is one and has many members. But all the members, many though they are, are one body; and so it is with Christ.”
(1 Cor. 12:12)*

Weekend Mass & Reconciliation Times:

Sacrament of Reconciliation (chapel) – 4 p.m.

Saturday Vigil Mass – 5 p.m.

Sunday Masses – 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m.

*Sunday Life Teen Mass (Sept. – May) – 5 p.m.

*Life Teen Mass is open to all! It is geared to youth through the music and teen involvement.

Welcome to St. John Neumann Parish School of Religion

The St. John Neumann Parish School of Religion (PSR) is open to all registered parishioners.

As a parish, we are here to assist parents in raising their children in the Catholic Faith. The Church states, “Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators” (*Declaration on Christian Education, Vatican Council II*). Therefore, we expect that parents are forming their children in the Faith daily through example, prayer, and weekly participation at Mass.

Kindergarten & 4-year-old Program

The kindergarten and pre-school PSR program is designed to give young children a positive experience of the presence of God in their lives. The program is scheduled during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday liturgy and is structured for four and five-year-old children. Parents are invited to assist as teacher aides. If you wish to participate, please call Angie Warmuth at 238-1770.

PSR (Grades 1 – 5)

Our classes for students in grades 1 through 5 are held at our interparochial school, Ss. Joseph & John, which is located at 12580 Pearl Road. We meet every other Monday from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. September to April. Classes are broken into sessions – Session One and Session Two. Families who need to be placed in the same session with another family for carpooling purposes should notate that request on their registration form or call the parish office. Since many holidays are observed on Mondays, we ask that you keep the calendar you are given early in the year and read the parish bulletin, as it is our primary source of communication.

Edge (Grades 6 – 8)

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 attend Edge, a Catholic middle school youth ministry program. As opposed to classroom style catechesis, Edge utilizes large group and small group teaching, discussion, and activity. Edge meets every Monday evening from 6:45 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. in the LaRocca Activity Center at St. John Neumann Church September through April. Communication to parents is done weekly via email.

Special Education

Classes are available for children who are physically, emotionally, or learning challenged. Please contact the parish office regarding registration at 238-1770.

Registration

Registration for PSR and Edge classes begin in early spring and are accepted through August 1. After the August 1 deadline, a late fee is assessed. Families who move into the parish after the school year has begun may enroll their child at the parish office or calling the office at 238-1770.

Fees

The fee for the program is due at the time of registration. Those children whose families have an outstanding balance from the previous year will not be placed in a class until the fees are up to date. We are happy to work with families who are experiencing financial difficulties; however these parents need to contact us.

Catechists

While parents are the primary catechists of their children, men and women from the parish community volunteer their time and talent to assist parents in passing on the teaching of Christ, helping the children experience and recognize the presence of God in their lives. Students in the PSR program will be notified as to who their catechist is in the weeks prior to the start of PSR. Edge students are grouped with a specific catechist(s) on the first Edge night of the school year.

Attendance

Regular attendance and participation at PSR and Edge is important and expected. Attendance is taken each week. Especially since our classes are limited, we expect that religious education receive top priority. Children in PSR who miss more than 2 classes will need to complete make-up work in order to move ahead to the next PSR level the following year. Students in Edge will be expected to complete make up work after 2 missed classes per semester. This includes students who arrive late and miss the teaching portion of the night. Make-up work and assignments will be given by the child's teacher.

Behavior & Discipline

Respectful conduct for catechists and other class members is required. Misbehavior and disrespect will not be tolerated. It is also required that the grounds and building of Ss. Joseph & John School and St. John Neumann Church be respected. All students are expected to comply with classroom expectations and are not permitted to use cell phones during class time.

Class Cancellations

In the event that there is a snow day for Strongsville City Schools on a Monday, PSR and Edge are automatically cancelled as well. If there is school on a Monday but we get inclement weather during the afternoon or evening, a notice cancelling PSR and Edge will be posted on TV channel 8 and channel 3. Classes then resume according to the original schedule.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up Policy

PSR: Class begins promptly at 7 p.m. Please be sure that your child arrives early enough to be seated in his/her classroom by 7 p.m. Students are expected to bring their book and folder with them to each class. Please use the main doors only. When picking up your child, please park your car and come into the building to get your child, as the number of cars coming and going can be dangerous to the children.

Again, we ask that you use the main entrance doors when arriving and picking up. To best protect your children during PSR, the doors to the school will be locked shortly after 7 p.m. until 8:25 p.m. Please do not arrive prior to 8:25 p.m. to pick up your child.

Edge: The nights begin promptly at 6:45 p.m. Please be sure your child arrives before this time. Some group leaders may expect his/her students to bring a folder or Bible each week. Due to the danger of the parking lot with so many cars coming and going, we ask you to please park your car and come into the building to pick up your child.

Emergencies

If you have an emergency and need to get a hold of your child during PSR time, the following number will ring to the PSR Office in the school – 238-4877 x20. If there is an emergency and you need to get in touch with your child at Edge, you can call the parish office – 238-1770.

Sacramental Preparation

Reconciliation (Confession)

First Reconciliation preparation is integrated into the second grade PSR class time during the first half of the school year. Children additionally receive a workbook to work on with their parents at home to further their preparation for the sacrament.

Eucharist (Communion)

First Eucharist preparation is integrated into the second grade PSR class time during the second half of the school year. Children additionally receive a workbook to work on with their parents at home to further their preparation for the sacrament.

Holy Family Program

The Holy Family Program is specifically designed for the children preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. The program consists of three

sessions – Reconciliation, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist – and aims at deepening the child's readiness and understanding of the sacraments. At least one parent must attend all sessions with their child.

Jesus Morning

Second grade children preparing for the Sacrament of Eucharist have a morning in the spring specifically set aside for their continued preparation for their First Holy Communion. This day also provides opportunities for parent involvement.

The following is a summary of our policy for First Reconciliation and Eucharist preparation:

- A registration form must be completed, fee paid, and a copy of the candidate's baptismal certificate must be submitted or on file.
- The child must have completed two years of religious education.
- The child must have a good religious education attendance record.
- Normally, a child must be at least seven years old to receive the sacraments.
- One or both parents must participate in the Holy Family Program.
- If there is a question of readiness (understanding), parents, catechists, and a staff member will help decide if a child needs more time before receiving the sacraments.

Special Circumstances

Preparation classes are offered for children who are beyond second grade, and who have not yet received the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. These classes are in addition to regular PSR classes attended by the child. Please make us aware of your needs for special instruction at the time of registration.

Confirmation

Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation into the Church, which completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The sacrament seals or “confirms” the person in union with Christ and equips him/her to live a Christian life. A student is eligible for the Sacrament of Confirmation beginning in eighth grade. Students receive their catechesis at weekly Edge nights.

Confirmation Retreat

Three retreats are offered for Confirmation students, in which it is expected that they choose one to attend. The retreat takes place all day on a Sunday and is staffed by high school teens and parent volunteers.

Confirmation Prep Nights

Throughout the year of sacrament preparation, all Confirmation candidates are expected to attend the various Prep Nights with a parent or their sponsor.

The following is a summary of our policy for Confirmation preparation:

- A registration form must be completed, fee paid, and a copy of the candidate’s baptismal certificate must be submitted or on file.
- The child must have completed the previous years of religious education and have good attendance.
- The child must have a good religious education attendance record.
- The child must be at least in eighth grade to receive the sacrament.
- Candidate must attend a Confirmation retreat, all Prep Nights, Reconciliation, and Confirmation rehearsal.
- Candidate must complete 10 hours of community service and the Faith in Action booklet.
- All paperwork provided must be turned in to the office by the deadlines given as the year progresses.

Other Opportunities for Your Child to Grow in Faith

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

Children’s Liturgy of the Word is celebrated at the 5 p.m. vigil Mass on scheduled Saturdays during Advent and Lent.

Vacation Bible School (Grades K – 6)

VBS is a summer program held in the morning for one week for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade. Look for registration forms beginning in June. Watch the bulletin for announcements.

Edge Extras (Grades 6 – 8)

All middle school students in grades 6, 7, and 8 are invited to participate in Edge Extras which occur on a monthly basis. Edge Extras are designed to provide social and service opportunities to this age group, while growing as community. The youth are encouraged to bring their friends, regardless of school, parish, or religion.

MSM Summer Camp (Grades 7 & 8)

A week-long summer day camp is offered to middle school youth preparing to enter seventh and eighth grade. The camp is staffed by high school teens and supported by parents. Some activities during the week include a community building day at SJN, a tour and Mass at the Cathedral, a day at an amusement park, service project, a picnic/awards finale with a family prayer service, and much more!

Life Teen (Grades 9 – 12)

St. John’s is proud to have one of the most dynamic youth ministry programs in the country. Life Teen is open to all high school teens & no registration is required. Life Teen meets every Sunday evening beginning with the 5 p.m. liturgy (Life Teen Mass) during the school year. The Mass is geared to teens and their families. The catechetical and social programs

follow immediately after Mass and conclude at 8 p.m. The many activities and opportunities that run through the entire year through Life Teen are published in the parish bulletin. For further information, please contact Mrs. Nancy Fiamingo at 238-1770.