

# ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

8151 Idlewild Road  
Charlotte, NC 28227  
701-535-1197

## 2016-2017 Confirmation Packet

For Parents, Teachers, and Students in the Confirmation Process



Nurturing a Spirit-Filled Youth

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a very special part of the faith formation process for you and your child! We are excited about what we are beginning. Although Confirmation is only one step in the faith life of your child, it marks an intense time of learning about and questioning Catholicism and the place of Catholics in our world. Our aim is to provide your family a safe and faithful place for this exploration and growth.

This year your child will be growing in their faith led by a group of dedicated catechists who have volunteered their time and talent. All of them share the desire to expand your child's understanding of who we are as the Catholic Church and where they fit into that community.

In addition to regular classes, your child will also participate in retreats, service projects, and group sessions. The schedule has been arranged so that the Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation students will have opportunities to learn and experience the faith with our vibrant Youth Group. You are encouraged to drop in at any time and see what your child is learning and experiencing this year!

In compliance with the Confirmation Policies and Guidelines for the Diocese of Charlotte, a child must have a minimum of three years of religious education prior to celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation. This can be accomplished through attendance here at St. John Neumann Parish during Confirmation years.

In this packet you will find most of the information you will need for the upcoming year. It is impossible to anticipate every question and concern for such a large group of people. If you have a particular situation or question that is not addressed in this packet, please feel free to call our Faith Formation Office and we will assist you.

In Christ,

Meg VanGoethem  
Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries  
[Meg@1sjnc.org](mailto:Meg@1sjnc.org)  
701-535-1137 ext. 231

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **MASS CARDS**

All faith formation students (not just Sacramental Prep) are asked to stop in the gathering area before mass each week and grab a Mass Card from the Welcome Desk. That card is to be filled out and placed in the offertory basket during Mass at St. John Neumann.

Parents, you are instrumental in raising your children in the faith. Please be sure that your children are attended classes and Mass weekly and on Holy Days of Obligation. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith, and we encourage your participation in the Eucharist as a family.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

**Attendance** is required for all classes, retreats, and the Confirmation rehearsal.

The only **excused absences** are for illness (to the degree that a child is kept home from school) and family emergency. A child who has excessive absences will need to wait until the following school year to celebrate the sacrament.

**Scheduling conflicts** with activities such as sporting events, practices, or other extracurricular activities will NOT be considered an excused absence. The religious preparation is expected to take precedence over those types of activities.

**Student Absence Cards** are available in the Faith Formation Office, and we ask that you fill one out if you know that your child will miss a class, or after if your child is sick. This is to help us better keep track of absences in the office.

### **YOUTH GROUP PARTICIPATION**

In an effort to help our teens build a strong faith life and a community with other young Catholics, Confirmation 3/ RCIA 2 students are asked to attend 3 Youth Group events during the summer of 2017. They will receive a summer schedule in late spring and can choose from a variety of retreats, service projects, outdoor activities or regular Sunday night programs.

Parents, we especially ask for your involvement with the program and encouragement to your teens as we build a strong youth ministry program and minister to your teens as they are the foundation and future of the church! We look forward to seeing them at all of our great youth ministry events!

### **CONFIRMATION DATE**

Our Confirmation date will be in early Fall 2017. The bishop chooses this date, and as soon as we know of the date, you will be made aware.

## **SPONSOR INFORMATION**

“Sponsors should not be selected simply on the basis of being blood relations or social friends. Sponsors should be practicing Catholics for whom pastors can attest participation in the life of the Church. Parents cannot be sponsors for their own children.”

*Diocese of Charlotte, Confirmation Policies and Guidelines*

A baptized non-Catholic may serve as a Christian witness to Confirmation as long as there is also a Catholic Sponsor.

There is no official age requirement to be a person’s sponsor; however, a sponsor must be a confirmed Catholic chosen by the candidate. It is especially important that your child’s sponsor be available to walk with them throughout this process.

*It is very important to return your Confirmation Record Sheet that states your sponsor’s name by January 11, 2017. Your child will not be confirmed without a sponsor and we must have this information early in the school year in order to verify the status of their sponsor.*

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

“To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. More intense prayer should prepare one to receive the strength and graces of the Holy Spirit with docility and readiness to act.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, Article Number 1310.

All Candidates should receive the Sacrament of Confession before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. In order for the teens to be in a state of grace they must go to Confession at least once prior to the Confirmation date. A **Confession schedule** will be made at the end of the class year. If changes need to be made to the schedule, they must be made at east **2 weeks prior** to the scheduled Confession time.

# **CONFIRMATION RETREAT SCHEDULE**

## **FALL RETREATS:**

Confirmation 1 Retreat September 25 (12:00 pm-6:00 pm)

Includes Confirmation 1 and RCIP 1

Location: Parish Hall (bring a lunch and snack)

RCIT Retreat October 28-29 (7:00 pm- 3:00 pm)

Includes RCIT 1 and RCIT 2

Location: Parish Hall (please eat dinner before arriving)

## **SPRING RETREATS:**

Confirmation 2 Retreat February 12 (12:00 pm-6:00 pm)

Includes Confirmation 2 and RCIP 2

Location: Parish Hall (please bring lunch and a snack)

## **THE LABYRINTH PRAYER PATH**

(includes Confirmation 3, RCIT 2, Homeschool/ Catholic School 8<sup>th</sup>  
graders)

April 3-6, 2017

Location: SJN Parish (Labyrinth Retreat)

You will receive your scheduled time in December 2016

## CONFIRMATION SPRING RETREAT: THE LABYRINTH

Every spring the youth that are preparing for Confirmation are given a very special opportunity to reflect on their relationship with God. One purpose of the Labyrinth Retreat is to bring the youth into a deeper awareness of this relationship. Another aim of the retreat is to help the youth open their hearts and their lives to the working of the Holy Spirit. A final goal is to give them a prayer experience that is different, meaningful and interactive.

The Prayer Path, a Labyrinth developed by the Group Publishing Family, enables us to meet our goals with the youth. As opposed to a maze, a labyrinth has only one path. It winds around to a center point and then back out again. The participant walks the path guided by a booklet with meditative readings. There are twelve different points along the path, the youth stop and rest at a station. Each station has music, prayer, a hands-on activity and a journal question. The encounter with God is as deep as the youth is ready to make it. These elements make this type of experience especially suited for youth.

This retreat is for the Confirmation candidates only.

*Parents do not attend this retreat.*

The retreat takes approximately 2 hours.

\*\*\*NOTE: The retreat may take longer if your child is following a person who is deeply immersed in this experience. No one is rushed through this retreat.

The dates for this year's retreat are April 3-6, 2017

Your child's scheduled day and time will be mailed to you by December 2016

## WRITING A LETTER OF INTENT

For this part of Confirmation, we are going to ask all students of Confirmation 3 and RCIT 2 to ask a letter of intent. This can be written to either Fr. Pat, SJM as a parish, or the Catholic community, and it should be a letter detailing why the candidate wishes to be confirmed. The format of this letter should look something like this:

### **Paragraph 1:**

This paragraph should include: your name, where you go to school, and how old you are.

It should include any hobbies that you might like, or after school activities that you participate in. It could also include any future plans that you might have: a major you might wish to pursue at school, or a career that you might wish to have as an adult.

Basically, it is just to let people get to know you.

### **Paragraph 2:**

This paragraph should include a bit about your faith journey thus far. What is your relationship with God like right now? How did you come to this relationship? What is your favorite way to pray, or is it a struggle to find prayer time throughout your week? In what areas could you continue to grow in your faith, and how could you better your relationship with God and or the Catholic community?

### **Paragraph 3:**

This paragraph should include a detailed summary of why you wish to be confirmed. What does Confirmation really mean to you? How will this impact your future, and how do you plan to remain involved in the Church? What fruits do you wish to see come from your Confirmation?

# ST. JOHN NEUMANN

## CONFIRMATION PAPERWORK PACKET

### CONFIRMATION SAINT PROJECT

There will be 3 options for the Saint Project this year: a saint essay, a poster/ visual saint project, and a digital or media project.

All projects must include the following:

Your name, as well as the name of the saint you have chosen

A brief description of the life of your saint

The feast day of your saint

Why they impact your life

What causes you to want to aspire to be like this saint?

**Saint essay:** write a brief essay that includes all the information as written above. It should be about a page in length, and should tell us who your saint is, why you chose them, how they have impacted your life, and why you aspire to be like them.

**Poster/ Visual Saint Project:** Create a poster or one page visual that includes all the necessary information, as well as a picture or image that represents your saint. The poster can be any size you like, so long as all of the information fits.

**Digital or Media Saint Project:** Create a Powerpoint, Prezi, Video, or some other media type presentation that includes all of the information about your saint. There is no length requirement for the digital project, but it must include all of the information as well as a visual of your saint.

Web sites to help with Saint projects:

[www.ewtn.org](http://www.ewtn.org)

[www.christourlife.org](http://www.christourlife.org)

<http://www.saintscatholic.org>

[www.justcatholic.org](http://www.justcatholic.org)

[www.catholic-forum.com](http://www.catholic-forum.com)

[www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)

Saints Project: Due January 11, 2017

# **SERVICE OR STEWARDSHIP**

“Preach the Gospel at all times, use words if necessary.”  
~ St. Francis of Assisi

Stewardship is an integral part of the SJM Confirmation preparation. It is putting the words of Scripture and great Saints into action. Confirmation candidates should be involved in experiences that enable them to use their talents and gifts for the service of others, especially the poor, the needy, and the disadvantaged. Often, it is through interaction with God’s people that we receive many blessings. It is important to understand that service is as much a part of being a Catholic Christian as going to Mass or believing in our church’s teachings.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- There is no set number of hours for your child to complete.
- The Candidate must complete at least 2 service projects each year of Confirmation
- These projects will be due by the conclusion of the Spring semester

## **INDIVIDUAL SERVICE IDEAS**

- Volunteer for the Faith Formation department as an assistant in the office. Contact us @ 701-535-1137
- Help out at school as a tutor, media center assistant or office helper.
- Help a neighbor with handy work or light house work.
- Lead your family in daily prayer for one month. Pray for a special person’s needs during that time.
- Baby-sit for a friend, neighbor or relative without charging them a fee.
- Volunteer for the Knights of Columbus Bingo either the first or second Friday of each month.

## **GROUP SERVICE IDEAS**

(see calendar for group dates)

- Fall Gardening
- December Operation Santa’s Helper
- Valentine’s Dinner Dance
- December Operation Christmas Child (ages 13+)
- February Loaves & Fishes Project
- Volunteer with Crisis Assistance
- Volunteer with Diocese of Charlotte Food Pantry
- SJM Fellowship Days (see bulletin for dates)
  - A free lunch will be included, but YOU MUST REGISTER prior to the event!!!
  - Please contact Carol @ 701-536-6520 in Parish Office.

## Service Project Reflection Journal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Names \_\_\_\_\_

Type of service project (individual or group?)

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How did you serve others in your community?

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Why did you choose this project?

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What talents/skills did you use during this work? How did the recipient(s) of your service react to you?

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What lessons and/or blessings did you bring away from this experience?

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Would you repeat this type of stewardship (service)? Why or why not?

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Signature verifying completed service project by volunteer leader:

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## Candidate Record Sheet

Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Name (if different than student's): \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Statement of Priest

This will verify that the above sponsor is a registered member of \_\_\_\_\_ (Parish).

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City

State

Zip

And is to the best of my knowledge, initiated in the sacraments of the Church, is faithful in attending Sunday Mass, practices stewardship of God, parish, and community, and is suitable to accept the responsibility of sacramental sponsorship.

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Signature of Pastor/Associate Pastor

Date

Church Seal:

\*A pastor's (associate pastor's) signature is required on Sponsor forms to be considered valid.

**Candidate Record Sheet: Due December 6, 2015**

# Parent/ Candidate Acknowledgement Confirmation 2016-2017

This year in faith formation our policies have changed slightly. Due to previous years, we are now asking that ALL PAPERWORK is to be turned in no later than **January 11, 2017**. If the following paperwork is not turned in to the faith formation office by that date, you/ your child will not be able to continue with the Confirmation program this calendar year, and will be asked to return again in the fall to repeat the year. Our hope from enforcing this policy is that we might have adequate paperwork in time for the scheduled Confirmation date, and to save our staff the difficulty of tracking down late paperwork over the summer. By signing this document, you are acknowledging and agreeing to adhere to our new Confirmation policies. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our faith formation office directly.

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand the document above. I agree to having all paperwork turned in by the scheduled date (January 11, 2017). I understand that if my paperwork is not turned in, that I will be asked to return in the fall, and to repeat my Confirmation year. I understand that in order to ask questions, I need to take responsibility to contact the faith formation office.

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your understanding in the changing of our Confirmation policies. We in faith formation are always hoping to make the best and most efficient process for your Confirmation candidate. If you have questions please feel free to contact us at:

(704) 535- 4197 ext. 234  
or  
Meg@4sjnc.org