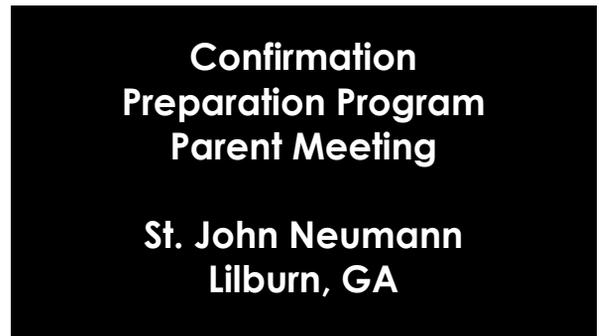




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2

General Information

- We cannot answer questions that we never hear! Please do not ever hesitate to contact us.
- Please also verify with our offices anything that you hear secondhand! It does not benefit any of us when we move forward with inaccurate information.

3

General Information

- Our program has some of the lightest expectations of those in the area. That said, we take completion of all expectations and attendance at all events very seriously. We can, have, and will continue to ask families to postpone Confirmation if we feel that they are not making it a priority.
- Therefore, sports and other activities are secondary to this preparation program.
- Please do not procrastinate!

4

The Beginning, not the End!

- Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation!
- They're only just finishing the beginning of their faith journey!
- I invite all teens and their families to join us at the 5pm Sunday Youth Mass, and at our Sunday and Wednesday Programs to continue learning about their faith and to put it into action!
- By registering your teens for our Confirmation preparation program, you as parents are committing to ongoing faith formation and Mass attendance, both before and after Confirmation.

5

Registration Process

1. Fill out the White RE and Green Confirmation Registration forms, indicating which Confirmation Summer Program option in which you want to enroll your teen, and enroll in the Life Teen program (Submit no later than the Thursday (May 30/June 20) before your chosen option but AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.) NOTE ALSO: an option will close automatically if it reaches 54 participants!

6

Registration Process

2. Provide Baptism and First Communion Certificates with RE and Confirmation registration forms.
 - This does not apply if your teen received these Sacraments at St. John Neumann

7

Registration Process

3. Pay Registration Fee (Covers Life Teen and Confirmation):
 - 1 student: \$65
 - 2 students: \$115
 - 3 students: \$140
 - (These prices increase \$20 after June 30th, but at that point, registration for Confirmation will be closed)
 - (Note also that teens are expected to attend a retreat, which will cost approximately \$135 additional.)
 - If you pay online, you must print and attach a copy of your payment verification.

8

Registration Process

4. If you are not a registered St. John Neumann Parishioner, you must get a signed letter from your pastor stating that you have approval for your teen to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. John Neumann.
 - If this applies to you, we will provide a form letter for their signature.
 - If they do not provide approval, then your teen cannot receive the Sacrament of Confirmation here.
 - If you are not registered anywhere, then we encourage you to register at SJN.

9

Archdiocesan Expectations for Youth Confirmation

1. Students should be entering at least the 10th grade in the academic year they receive the Sacrament.
2. Students should have at least 2 years of prior Religious Education – from the 6th grade onward (or 1, if they attend all Life Teen Sunday events during the academic year they receive the Sacrament)
3. Students should enroll in a standalone Confirmation program, accomplished in a fashion subject to the individual parish – this is our Confirmation Prep Program, especially the summer courses.

10

Prior Religious Education

The two years of foundational Religious Education can be obtained through the following programs:

EDGE (Grades 6-8)
 Life Teen (Grades 9-11)
 Catholic School (Grades 6-11)
 Approved Home School (Grades 6-11)

11

Prior Religious Education

You will indicate which parish/school and year(s) your teen received the pre-requisite on the RE registration form.

EDGE (Grades 6-8)
 Life Teen (Grades 9-11)
 Catholic School (Grades 6-11)
 Approved Home School (Grades 6-11)

12

The Confirmation Program

- The Archdiocese asks all parishes to facilitate a standalone Confirmation Program for youth, which all Confirmation Candidates must attend, even if they still regularly attend religious education programs (i.e. Life Teen; Religion Classes at School).
- In accordance with this requirement, St. John Neumann has a separate Confirmation Program, which takes place mostly during the summer.

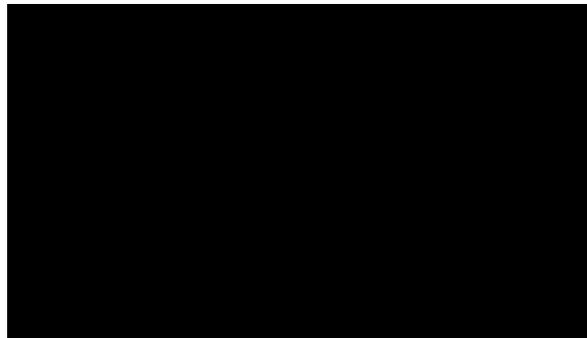
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The Confirmation Program

Methods/Goals: Our Confirmation Program seeks to prepare candidates for the reception of the Gifts of and empowerment by the Holy Spirit. The Church expects that they have a "proper disposition" and be "properly prepared." To achieve this we have 3 main goals:

1. Summer Classes – preparation of the mind.
2. Five (5) Service Hours – participation of the heart.
3. A Retreat – transformation of the spirit.

14



15

The Confirmation Program

Expectations for the Standalone Confirmation Program are divided into 3 main categories:

- A. Sacraments and Forms
- B. Personal Development
- C. Events

16

The Confirmation Program

A. Sacraments and Forms

17

The Confirmation Program

A. Sacraments and Forms

- RE/Sacrament Registration Form
(Due by May 30 or June 20, but ASAP)
 - Please complete all portions of the White RE form and Green Confirmation form so that we can verify prior religious education, and the places and dates of previous Sacraments.

18

The Confirmation Program

A. Sacraments and Forms

- **Baptism and First Communion Certificates** Submit no later than Wednesday (May 30/June 20) before your chosen option but **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**.
 - You will not need to bring us copies if and only if the Sacraments were received at St. John Neumann. If your teen received these Sacraments at St. John Neumann, simply let us know when on the Registration form so that we can verify our records.

19

The Confirmation Program

A. Sacraments and Forms

- (If non-SJN Parishioners!) Signed and Sealed Pastor Letter approving Confirmation Preparation at St. John Neumann.
 - This will be provided in a separate form. It is required if you are not registered at St. John Neumann.

20

The Confirmation Program

A. Sacraments and Forms

- **Sponsor Eligibility Form (Due July 28, but ASAP)**
 - A Bilingual form has been provided this evening.
 - Read the form carefully, and make sure you complete every portion.
 - Sponsors must fill this out and get the Signature of *their* Pastor and the Seal of *their* Parish.
 - If you have difficulty finding a sponsor, let us know **WELL BEFORE** the July 28 deadline.

21

The Confirmation Program

A. Sacraments and Forms

- **Reception of Reconciliation**
 - All candidates must receive Reconciliation within roughly a month of their Confirmation
 - Major Opportunities Prior to Confirmation: Advent Penance Service; Confirmation Retreat; Saturdays at St. John Neumann (8:00-8:45am; 3:30-4:30pm)

22

The Confirmation Program

A. Sacraments and Forms

- **Regular Mass Attendance**
 - All Catholics should attend the celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays, or at the Saturday Vigil.
 - SJN Mass Schedule: Saturday 5pm; Sunday 8:30am, 11am, 1pm (Spanish), 5pm.
 - Families are encouraged to attend Mass together, and specifically to attend the 5pm Sunday Youth Mass to join in community with all the families of High School youth at SJN.

23

The Confirmation Program

A. Sacraments and Forms

- **Regular Mass Attendance**
 - As Parents/Guardians, you are expected to model the faith to your teens and to ensure that they are participating in the faith – especially at Mass.
 - If we discover that a teen is not regularly attending Mass, or it is clear that their participation is not active, parents/guardians will be asked to meet with Fr. Sunny, and Confirmation may be postponed a year at his discretion as the pastor.

24

The Confirmation Program

A. Sacraments and Forms

- **Recap**
 - RE/Sacrament Registration Form
 - Baptism and First Communion Certificates (Due Before Summer Program, but ASAP)
 - (If non-SJN Parishioners) Pastor Approval Letter
 - Complete Sponsor Form (Due by July 28, but ASAP)
 - Reception of Reconciliation close to Confirmation
 - Regular Mass Attendance

25

The Confirmation Program

B. Personal Development

26

The Confirmation Program

B. Personal Development

- **Two Years of prior Religious Education.**
 - We covered this at length earlier!
 - If your teen only has one year, plan for them to attend Life Teen events in the coming year to complete the second year. Attendance records will be kept.

27

The Confirmation Program

B. Personal Development

- **A Minimum of 5 Service Hours with Reflection**
 - March 20, 2019-December 20, 2019 (Due 12/20/19, but ASAP)
 - These forms have been provided to you and must be completed fully for credit – supervisor signatures/contact information!
 - A list of upcoming sample opportunities has been provided.
 - Students who complete service hours for other programs (Catholic School, Scouts, Etc.) can submit these toward their Service Hours for Confirmation.
 - Serving at Mass, assisting with sporting events, chores, and/or helping family members does not count as service hours.

28

The Confirmation Program

B. Personal Development

- **Regular Communication with Sponsor**
 - A bilingual handbook will be given out at the Sponsor meeting on July 28 for Candidates and Sponsors to work on during the Fall Semester.
 - It will also be available for download from our website beginning July 28.

29

The Confirmation Program

B. Personal Development

- **Saint Report, Due July 28 but ASAP**
 - A form has been provided this evening with instructions.
 - Teens are not expected to write a full-length research paper but reports that are deemed too short or lacking real thought will be returned with the expectation that Candidates re-write their report.
 - ***Reports will be compared to major websites. Plagiarism may result in postponement of Confirmation.

30

The Confirmation Program

B. Personal Development

- **Recap**
 - Prior Religious Education
 - At least 5 Service Hours (Due December 20, but ASAP)
 - Regular Communication with Sponsor
 - Saint Report (Due July 28, but ASAP)

31

The Confirmation Program

C. Events

32

The Confirmation Program

C. Events

- **Arts/Athletic practices ARE NOT valid excuses for missing these events. Please Let your director/coach know about these dates ASAP.**
 - Meets/Games/Concerts are the only exceptions, but must be approved at least two weeks in advance.
 - Failure to prioritize Confirmation Preparation over school activities will result in postponement of Confirmation.

33

The Confirmation Program

C. Events

- **Parent Meeting, March 20**
 - If you are reading this in Reynolds Hall right now, we are off to a good start!
 - If you are reading this at home and haven't called Jason or Ariana yet, we are off to a bad start...**
 - Reminder: we want to ensure that you have accurate information, and we cannot do that if you rely on secondhand sources! Please call one of us!

34

The Confirmation Program

C. Events

- **Summer Confirmation Program (Pick One)**
 - **June 1-3 (Saturday-Monday)**
Sat. 10am-3pm; Sun 1-6pm; Mon 10am-3pm
 - **June 22-24 (Saturday-Monday)**
Sat. 10am-3pm; Sun 1-6pm; Mon 10am-3pm
- **NOTE: each option will close automatically when they reach 54 participants!**
 - So register ASAP if you know you have a conflict for one of the dates.

35

The Confirmation Program

C. Events

- **Summer Confirmation Program (Pick One)**
 - Attendance is expected.
 - Special Exceptions must be approved by Fr. Sunny and must be made before the beginning of the June 1-3 Option.
 - Please spread the word amongst any parents who are absent this evening! We have done everything we can to communicate, but some people will slip through the cracks, and no exceptions will be made after June 1!
 - Students with band or football obligations later in the summer may want to get their forms in very quickly! We already know that Brookwood's band camp is at the same time as Option B!

36

The Confirmation Program

C. Events

- **Presentation Mass, Sunday July 28 at 5pm**
 - A special mass in recognition of our Candidates and their Sponsors.
 - Sponsors are invited to attend. Parents can stand in as proxies, if necessary.

37

The Confirmation Program

C. Events

- **Sponsor Meeting, July 28 after Presentation Mass**
 - Sponsors should plan to attend, if possible - though parents can stand in as proxies to get the information for the Sponsors.
 - Bilingual Sponsor Handbooks will be made available at this meeting and put online afterward. They provide materials for working with Candidates as they prepare, as well as suggestions for taking things a bit deeper.

38

The Confirmation Program

C. Events

- **Confirmation "Legacy" Class**
 - Wednesday, September 18, 6:30-8:00pm, Reynolds Hall
 - A follow-up with Candidates on their progress
 - Candidates share about their saints and sponsors
 - **Reminder: Arts/Athletic practices ARE NOT valid excuses.** Let your director/coach know about these dates ASAP.
 - Parents and Sponsors DO NOT attend!

39

The Confirmation Program

C. Events

- **A Retreat**
 - Fall Retreat, Sept. 20-22 @ GA-FFA Camp in Conyers, GA
 - A General Retreat Open to all SJN Life Teen
 - Winter Retreat, Jan. 17-19 @ Camp Covecrest in Tiger, GA
 - A Retreat Specifically about Confirmation, open only to Confirmation Candidates.
 - At least one of these is required to complete the program
 - **Cost: Approximately \$135/candidate**
 - Covers housing, food, transportation, T-shirt, and supplies
 - This fee is in addition to regular Registration Fees

40

The Confirmation Program

C. Events

- **Confirmation Rehearsal – Date To Be Determined***
 - Friday before Confirmation Mass @ 6:30 in SJN Sanctuary
- **Confirmation Mass – Date & Time To Be Determined***
 - Saturday or Sunday after Lent (no longer January)

*We will provide these dates to you once the Archdiocese verifies a date with us, which should be in early July.

41

The Confirmation Program

C. Events

- **Recap**
 - Summer Program – June 1-3; or June 22-24
 - Presentation Mass – July 28 at 5pm Mass
 - Sponsor Meeting – July 28 after 5pm Mass
 - Confirmation "Legacy" Class – September 18, 6:30pm
 - Confirmation Retreat – January 17-29
 - Confirmation Rehearsal – TBD Friday
 - Confirmation Mass – TBD Saturday or Sunday

42



43

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If my child received Baptism or First Communion at St. John Neumann, do I need to bring in any documents?

A: No, but please indicate on your RE & Confirmation Registration forms when they received these Sacraments at St. John Neumann so that we can confirm in our records.

44

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are my options if I cannot get my teen to the beginning of the summer program, or cannot pick them up at the end of the day?

A1: Your teen is more than welcome to come early or stay late, if necessary, and hang out in the Teen Room at St. John Neumann.

45

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are my options if I cannot get my teen to the beginning of the summer program, or cannot pick them up at the end of the day?

A2: We strongly encourage families to arrange carpools to transport their children.

46

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How/When/Where can my child complete their service hours?

A: There are a number of opportunities both at and outside of St. John Neumann. Please consult the list of suggestions in your packet of forms, but feel free to seek out your own opportunities. If you are concerned that something will not be considered service, then please contact us to verify, but do take note of the list of things that we have already excluded.

47

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What happens if we have a conflict for an event?

A1: We strongly encourage each of our families to treat Confirmation preparation as the top priority in their teen's life for the coming academic year. This once-and-forever Sacrament is the most important thing going on. That said, we offer alternatives for some, but not all, of our events, and understand that emergencies may arise. However, we are unlikely to consider recitals, concerts, games, meets, etc. as emergencies without significant advance notice.

48

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What happens if we have a conflict for an event?

A2: If the alternatives that we offer also conflict with other events, families are still expected to fulfill the missed programming. For example, if a Candidate does not or cannot attend either of our retreats, they will have to find and attend a retreat elsewhere. If your alternative also is not attended, for whatever reason, the Candidate will still be expected to attend a retreat, and Confirmation will be postponed until one is attended.

49

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: We have a conflict for a portion of one of the summer programs – can we make-up that portion during the other summer program?

A1: First, be sure to inform us of these conflicts as soon as possible.

50

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: We have a conflict for a portion of one of the summer programs – can we make-up that portion during the other summer program?

A2: Second, we do not allow Candidates to split their participation across the summer programs, as this disrupts small groups. That said, we do offer make-ups in early August to cover any missed portions of the programming, *as long as you received pre-approval by speaking to us beforehand.*

51

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: We have a conflict for a portion of one of the summer programs – can we make-up that portion during the other summer program?

A3: Emergency circumstances will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

52

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I have a friend who would like to register their teen – what can I do to get them registered?

A: You cannot register on someone else's behalf. Please point them in our direction. We want to answer their questions and offer them guidance firsthand. They can reach us via e-mail or by phone.

jason.gambon@sjnlilburn.com

770-923-6633 ext. 133

Para Español – Ariana.Dominguez@sjnlilburn.com

770-923-6633 ext. 118

53

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What happens if someone misses the Registration deadline?

A: These situations are addressed on a case-by-case basis. More than likely, Confirmation will be postponed.

54

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does it mean when Confirmation is "postponed"?

A: It means that your teen will not be Confirmed this year, and will have to re-enroll in the preparation process from start to finish next year. This is effectively removal from the Confirmation program.

55

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can you remove someone from the program and bar them from receiving a Sacrament?

A: "Not yet" is not the same as "Never." We simply want to ensure that Candidates have the proper disposition and preparation – and if they prove to us that they do not (after many opportunities to improve), we will ask them to pursue the Sacrament again at another time.

56

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If I am interested in helping with the Summer Confirmation Program or Life Teen in general, what steps should I take?

A: First, you are awesome and we would love to have you! Second, please speak with me to discuss the responsibilities for Adult Volunteers. Third, you will need to complete a relatively brief training program for the Archdiocese called VIRTUS, if you have not already done so.

57

58

To Reiterate: The Beginning, not the End!

- Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation!
- They're only just finishing the beginning of their faith journey!
- I invite all teens and their families to join us at the 5pm Sunday Mass if they want an English-speaking Mass, and to join us at our Sunday and Wednesday Programs to continue learning about their faith and how to put it into action!

59

To Reiterate: The Beginning, not the End!

This is the portion of the meeting where I lay down a little bit of Catholic guilt, but I do so because I don't want you or your teens to simply go through the motions this year...

I want them (and you!) to encounter and fall deeper in love with Jesus over the next year through community and intentional participation.

60

To Reiterate: The Beginning, not the End!

The Church expects Candidates to have a "proper disposition" and to be "properly prepared."

Our program can only ensure the "proper preparation."

61

To Reiterate: The Beginning, not the End!

The Church expects Candidates to have a "proper disposition" and to be "properly prepared."

We cannot force the "proper disposition," so sometimes, as parents and as catechists, we have to acknowledge that Confirmation just may not be right for a teen at *this point in their life.*

62

To Reiterate: The Beginning, not the End!

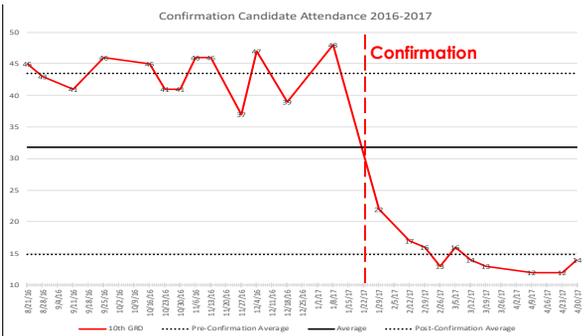
- You have to let your teen choose whether or not they want to be Confirmed.
 - We made our program simpler/easier a few years ago so that teens wouldn't be forced to jump through as many hoops to receive the Sacrament.
 - We have found that this has led to an overall higher "retention" of Confirmation Candidates, but there are still many who are forced into this, go through the motions, and meanwhile grow more and more resentful of the faith because of the requirements forced upon them.
 - We have no control over these requirements other than to make them easier to accomplish.

63

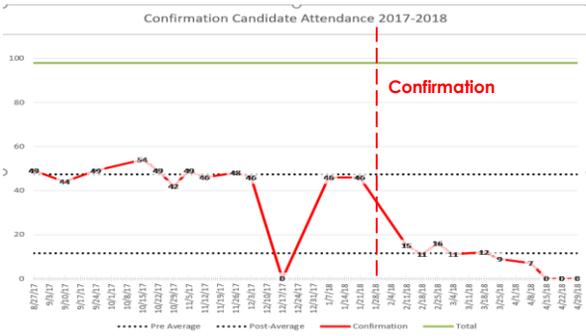
To Reiterate: The Beginning, not the End!

- You have to let your teen choose whether or not they want to be Confirmed.
 - I had peers and know teens who walk away from the faith for good precisely because they had religious education, and specifically Confirmation, forced on them in High School.
 - By all means, encourage participation, and *initially* insist on it. But Confirmation should not be forced upon anyone – it is, by definition, about choosing to Confirm one's belief in our faith.
 - Confirmation should not be treated as a mere rite of passage.
 - I want to share some numbers with you...

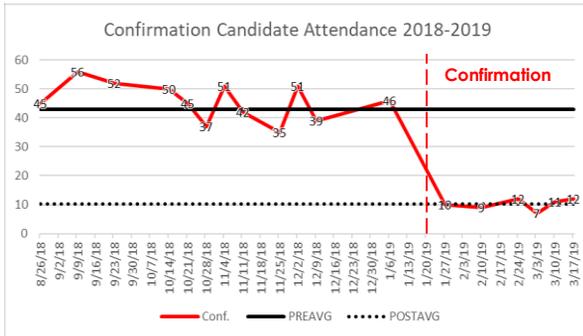
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65



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67

To Reiterate: The Beginning, not the End!

We had these problems even before the change, but:

- Each year since we made the program simpler, we invite and encourage our Confirmation Teens to be a part of Life Teen on Sundays and Wednesdays.
- Each year, we have many teens who never participate on a Sunday or Wednesday because they got their 2 years earlier.
- Each year, the majority of the Confirmation teens who do come on Sunday never come back after Confirmation.
- Please do not turn Religious Education and Confirmation Prep into "boxes to check off."

68

To Reiterate: The Beginning, not the End!

- We need you to encourage, but never force.
- We need you to speak of our programs not as obligations, but as opportunities.
- We need you to get your teens to Mass to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist.
- We cannot help you form lifelong Disciples of Jesus without your support and a positive view of what we are doing here...

69



70