

FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

Pre-K through 8th Grade Religious Education: Weekly classes are offered for parishioners of St. John Neumann Church throughout the academic year for children in pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. The curriculum is based on the major themes of the Catholic faith, balanced in the areas of Scripture, Prayer and Worship, Catholic Doctrine, Christian Living, Faith-in-Action, and Fellowship. Participation in at least one session of Generations of Faith is expected. Parents are required to register their children using the enclosed Religious Education PK-8 Registration Form. (*See Registration Instructions*)

High School Youth Ministry - AGAPE: St. John Neumann has a comprehensive Youth Ministry program that incorporates Prayer and Worship, Christian Formation, Fellowship and Outreach. Our goal is to provide high school youth with a community where they will enjoy growing in both their faith and their friendships. In addition to the weekly Sunday Nights AGAPE program (6:15 – 8:00pm), activities are offered including Search retreats, Winter Lock-In, social events (Kings Dominion) and service projects (Mini-Work Camps and Faith-in-Action projects). Participation in at least one Generations of Faith session is expected. Teens should be registered using the green Youth Ministry Grades 9-12 (AGAPE) Registration Form. (*See Registration Instructions*)

ARE (Adapted Religious Education): ARE is a program available to elementary, junior and senior high students with developmental disabilities using experiential and symbolic learning to engage the students in their faith. There are twenty 90-minute sessions scheduled on Sunday mornings throughout the year. Please contact George Dellagiardino via email (della1234@comcast.net) for more information.

Home School: Parents of children in **grades 3 through 6** who are interested in praying and learning together as a family have the option to Home School their children for Religious Education. Home School is not available for PK, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 7th and 8th grades. Home School parents register using the enclosed Religious Education PK-8 Registration Form and attend an orientation meeting in the fall to receive instructions and pick up materials. All Religious Education registration dates and deadlines also apply to Home School. Participation in all sessions of Generations of Faith is expected. (*See Registration Instructions*)

Generations of Faith: GOF brings generations together, recognizing that lifelong, intergenerational faith formation is for the whole parish community. Two sessions will be offered – (1) Nov 30 & Dec 1, 2010 and (2) Apr 5 & 6, 2011. Participation is expected of all families registered in parish religious education programs.

Children's Catechumenate: Children who are unbaptized, or who are baptized and uncatechized, and are age eight and older are viable candidates for the children's catechumenate process. Families interested in the Children's Catechumenate should contact Mary Lyons (703-860-2815, or mlyons@saintjn.org).

Sacraments Program - First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation: St. John Neumann's Sacraments Program engages families and the overall church community. These sacraments require in-home, family-centered preparation, which is guided and supported by the Christian Formation staff. **Registration for the Sacraments Program is a separate process** -- materials and information are mailed during the school year to parents of second graders, and eighth graders, who have met the educational requirements and are enrolled in (and attending) religious education classes. See the parish website for sacrament eligibility requirements www.saintjn.org, click on "Sacraments" from the list in the left margin.

Formation in Christian Chastity: In 2005 the Bishops of the United States (USCCB) issued the revised *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. The *Charter* includes guidelines for dioceses and parishes to increase the safety of children. It requires attendance at a VIRTUS seminar ("Protecting God's Children") and a background check of parish volunteers having regular ongoing interaction with minors. Additionally, the *Charter* directs all dioceses and parishes to implement safe-environment programs to be presented to all children enrolled in a parish school or religious education program. The Diocese of Arlington "Formation in Christian Chastity" outline is found at http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/childprotect/christ_chastity.php. As parents, you may choose to have your child(ren) **opt out** of classroom Christian Chastity instruction. To do so, sign the registration form OPT OUT SIGNATURE. This appears at the bottom of both the PK-8 and/or AGAPE Registration forms. Please contact Mary Lyons (703-390-2340, mlyons@saintjn.org) if you have questions.