

SJN High School Christian Formation
An Integral Component of Neu Waves Youth Ministry
Grades 11-12
Overview 2017 - 2018

rev. 070717

Dear Students, Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

We would like to share with you the many exciting plans for the 11th-12th grade catechesis program this year. May the Holy Spirit guide all our steps as we travel new paths in our journey towards Finding God.

Contact Information

Catechists Grade 11-12: Deacon Jim jimtubbs25@gmail.com
Tom Rando thomas.rando@gmail.com

Website: www.sjnpowhatan.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sjnconf

The "Capstone" Years – Grade 11-12

Neu Waves meetings will be weekly at St. John Neumann on Sunday evenings. On Neu Waves catechesis nights, Grades 11-12 will meet as a separate unit this year.

While Sunday evening will be the norm, the Youth Ministry Team is planning for many special social and outreach activities, so dates, times and places may change. It will be important to check for updated information on the SJN website by clicking the *Christian Formation* tab on the homepage and then clicking *CF Calendar*. We will also send email updates and post information on the SJN Facebook page.

Why this Location and Time ?

This meeting time was discerned as best in light of the many commitments of our youth and families outside of parish life during the week. As in other parishes in the area, limited space requires that middle and high school students will meet at a different time than elementary students.

Why Christian Formation instead of Religious Education?

Religious Education is only part of Christian Formation, especially for teens. We understand that youth have different needs and like to choose how to be involved. We know that youth have hectic schedules and that young people benefit by having the opportunity to relate to a variety of adults.

We will meet the needs of your youth through formation in eight key areas: Catechesis, Prayer and Worship, Evangelization, Leadership Development, Justice, Service, Pastoral Care and Advocacy. We will work with them in Mission and Outreach activities and join with them in just plain Fun. The content is limited only by the imagination of our youth and the willingness of parents to help. We seek your input and participation.

Volunteers?

All parents are asked to volunteer in some way. The Church teaches that parents are the primary teachers of their children. Volunteering to support the program is the least we can do for those giving their time and talent as catechists and youth ministers. Needs will vary from week to week. Please let us know of any special skills or talents you are willing to share. We will not be bashful about telling you what help we need. **We especially need chaperones & drivers to help with the outreach and social components.**

Are we changing the Catechesis component of the program?

YES While remaining in compliance with the diocesan directives to follow the *Adaptation of Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age* provided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, we have decided that for the 11th and 12th grades, we will use a two year adaptation of the Catholic High School curriculum *CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS: A SENIOR CAPSTONE YEAR IN THEOLOGY*. We will continue to use *Journey to Emmaus* in 9th and 10th grade

This course will solidify the foundation of Catholic theology and belief through a two year course in Catholic apologetics. Students will be able to defend the teaching and belief of the Catholic faith in the areas of Theology of God, the Authority of the Catholic Church, the Sacraments of the Church, and the selected Moral teachings of the Church. Particular emphasis on the dangers of relativism will be faced, while building a strong and competent understanding of a full life within the Catholic Church.

What next?

Make sure you are registered in the parish and fill out a youth registration form with your high school youth.

I have more questions. Contact one of the catechists (contact info above) or get in touch with Deacon Ed Schmidt, Director of Christian Formation, by calling SJN and asking for him or leaving a message in his voicemail if he is not there, or email deacon.ed.sjn@gmail.com