



St. John Neumann Church

Dear Parents and Confirmation Candidate,

Today we begin **Lent** - Ash Wednesday – a time of change, growth and awakening to God’s story in us! There also is a holy joy in Lent for we know Easter is coming. The Lord is Risen and is with us still.

The Church is joyful for another reason – YOU. This year, you are invited to take another step in faith. It has been years since your baptism and first communion and you have indeed changed and grown. Consider now the Sacrament of Confirmation. Are you ready to make this personal decision to follow the Lord with the strength and power of the Holy Spirit? If you think you might be, read on.

The parish wants to help you prepare for this awesome step, so we ask you to participate in:

1. An information meeting for **all parents and candidates on Sunday, April 2nd at 4 pm** in the church at St. John Neumann. Here we will share:
 - a. An overview of Confirmation preparation
 - b. Details regarding confirmation names and sponsors
 - c. Some inspiration about what this Sacrament can mean to our lives
 - d. A time of prayer together
 - e. Other important details
2. **Five Wednesday night sessions – Candidates Only**
 - a. **May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**
 - b. Starts at 6:30 and runs to 8:30
 - c. These sessions build on one another so Attendance at ALL 5 SESSIONS is mandatory
3. Service days, a retreat day, and an evening of reflection. Dates in the summer/ fall to be announced.

In previous Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism and Eucharist), your parents and godparents likely took the leading role in requesting the Sacrament. In Confirmation, it is very important that **you make the decision yourself** to receive the Sacrament and therefore receive the gifts and responsibilities that accompany this sign of Christ’s grace. You need to complete two forms to begin the process. One is the registration form (OK to leave sponsor and confirmation name blank for now), and the other is the Statement of Intent.

Please spend some time in prayer over this, and if you are led by the Spirit to be Confirmed this year, please complete and return **BOTH FORMS** by dropping them off at the Religious Education office, put them in the Sunday collection basket or bring them to the meeting on April 2nd.

Hoping the Spirit continues to inspire your life,