



EDGE

April 25, 2022

Hello Parents!

Welcome to Edge! We are so excited to embark on our second year with the Edge program. We learned a lot last year and we really saw God working in the lives of our young people and their families. We can't wait to see what he has in store for this year!

If you're new to the Edge program, here's a quick rundown of our setup:

Edge is ministry for all 6th-8th graders whether or not they are members of St. John Neumann or even Catholic! That means your young people are welcome to bring any of their friends! Edge also meets the requirements of formal religious formation for SJN's 7th and 8th graders, especially as they prepare for Confirmation. Not everyone needs to formally register for Edge as it is an "open door" program, but if you have a 7th or 8th grader who is seeking Confirmation or you'd like to make sure your child completes formal religious formation through 8th grade, **then you should register for Edge!** Registration allows us to see who is seeking Confirmation and how much of the two-year prep program they have completed, and it helps us keep a formal record of which grades your child has completed in religious formation. It also helps us prepare for the right number of teens who are committed to attending Edge every week!

If you're a 9th grader who has completed one year of Edge and is seeking Confirmation in Spring 2023, you do not need to register for Edge this year. Please contact Emily Showler at eshowler@sjncanton.org to learn about your next steps!

Please note these two important dates: All those registering for Edge **must** turn in paperwork and begin attending Edge by no later than **October 9th**. All info specific to Confirmation will be shared at our **Confirmation Info Night on Thursday, September 15th at 6:45PM**. This night includes 9th graders and Catholic school students!

We know that Confirmation is important to you and your child, and we want to do everything we can to help you prepare! *But even the best youth ministry and religious formation doesn't replace our need to encounter Jesus at Mass.* God commands us to worship him every week because he knows it is what our souls need most – to worship God and receive his love. There are so many challenges in our lives that pull us in every direction and can make it seem like a burden or even impossible to come to Mass every week. We get that. If that's you and your family, we invite you to hear again Jesus' invitation to draw close to him and come back. He promises us that if we follow his commands and make him first in our lives, all those other things that we need – rest, work, community, fun – will be given to us too, but this time with overwhelming peace of mind and heart (Matt. 6:25-34). And best of all, we will have Jesus, who is the only source of true Joy and Life! Come and meet Jesus in the Sacrament of Confession, let him take your burdens from you, and then experience his life anew with your Church family in the Eucharist every week! *Mass is a necessary part of preparing for Confirmation because it is a necessary part of following Jesus as Catholics* – it is where we receive healing and strength to live. There is so much joy to be had in Jesus and he doesn't want you or your young people to miss a single drop!

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any of your questions or concerns. We are genuinely thrilled to be walking with you!

In Jesus,

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