

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

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September, 2008

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2008- 2009 Religious Education Program for grades K-8. We want to share with you some preliminary information before we begin the program in October.

Kindergarten through Grade Five will continue to use the catechism series, *Call to Faith*, published by Harcourt. Grades Six through Eight will continue to use Harcourt series, *Living Our Faith*: Old Testament (6th grade); Morality (7th grade), and Church History/Confirmation (8th grade). For your convenience, I have included the **2008-2009 Religious Education Program Calendar**. Hopefully, this calendar will help you plan your family activities around your children's faith formation.

This year, our prayer theme will be the *Tender Loving Care of Christ—“TLC”*.

We know as parents that it takes a lot of *TLC* to raise a child; it takes a lot of *TLC* to encourage a child. It also takes a lot of *TLC* within our St. Elizabeth Ann Seton community to nurture each child's awareness of Christ's love. As a way to build this spirit of *TLC*, we will focus on seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching: Human Dignity, Community, Participation, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, Stewardship of Creation, Solidarity, and Promotion of Peace. Each month a prayer service will be centered on one of these themes and grades K-5 will be given an opportunity to apply this teaching in their lives through a simple family activity. The middle-school students will be involved in Club Serve, which will take place during the second week of their regularly-scheduled class time. The students will discern ways to serve the local community and put their plans into action. In these ways, we hope to spread the message of Christ's tender loving care beyond the classroom setting.

The catechists and the religious education staff are excited to meet you and your children. We are busy preparing a wonderful year: catechists are preparing their classrooms and lesson plans; and you have this month to settle into the academic year. Also, we want to give you an opportunity to attend an important parent orientation meeting before the program officially begins on October 8th/October 9th. (Your child will be placed in a class based upon the day you requested.) Class rosters will be given to you at orientation.

08/11/08

Parent/Student Orientation Meetings will be held on **Wednesday, October 1st (5:00pm—6:00pm)** and **Thursday, October 2nd (6:00pm-7:00pm)**.

All children must be accompanied by a parent. These meetings are *not* teaching sessions. Catechists will be introduced at that time and a brief overview of the program will be presented. Please attend the meeting scheduled on the *same* day of the week for which your child is registered. This way, you will be able to meet the catechist who will be teaching your child. **The 2008-2009 Family Handbook and Curriculum Guide will be distributed at the orientation meetings.**

Please note new hours for Religious Education!

**Religious Education Begins:
Wednesday, October 8th 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
Thursday, October 9th 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

I look forward to working with you and your children. May the tender loving care of Christ be present in all we set out to accomplish this year.

In the love of Christ,

Mrs. Barbara Yugovich
Director of Religious Education