

**ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON PARISH  
RELIGIOUS FORMATION PROGRAM**

**OUR PLAN.....**

***PARENTS + PARISH = PARTNERS IN FAITH***

***WELCOME!***

Formal religious formation classes **begins in first grade** for those attending the local public schools. According to Diocesan guidelines, preparation for First Holy Communion is a two year process with Communion taking place in the spring of level 2. Our program is sequential, much like school, students move from grade to another. Presently, Confirmation is celebrated in the Fall of the 8th grade after a full two year preparation. **Parents** are expected to attend special family events, enrichment sessions throughout the time their children participate in the program. In addition to weekly sessions, children with their families are expected to attend Mass either here or at another Catholic Church if not in the area on the weekends.

Grades 3, 4 and 5 are seen as the transitional years where young people become more aware and active in their Catholic faith learning about the rich Traditions of our Faith, the life of the Church through the Sacraments and God's Holy Word in the Scriptures.

Students who have not attended consistently are welcomed to register but are placed in a Catch up class to transition them into the Confirmation program which begins in grade 6. Year 2 begins in grade 7 which provides immediate preparation for Confirmation, requiring students to offer service hours to both parish and the local community. The year culminates in a Student and Parent interview about their readiness to receive the Sacrament. In the Fall of **grade 8** prior to receiving Confirmation, some final events take place like: a retreat day with a celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and a speaker night event.

Please be aware that we do our best to accommodate students who have special needs and require adaptive measures to learn about their Faith. Older students with no prior religious education are also welcomed into the program. A specialized learning track is offered to catch them up so they may be placed back on grade level.

## **WE HAVE MANY HANDS, BUT ALWAYS NEED NEW FACES!**

All parish volunteers, including our Catechists take part in Virtus training and complete a background check before working with our young people. This is in addition to the training they participate in for teaching "religious ed." Many of our people have been teaching long after their own children have completed the program. We have a very dedicated team of caring people who love to share their Catholic faith with the next generation. However, our program can always use more "hands" as Catechists and Hall monitors. Consider joining this vital ministry and being part of the TEAM! Please contact the Director, ***Michele Hahn*** at the Parish Office for more information.

