

Handbook 2007-2008



"Growing in God's Love"

Mission Statement

Religious Education is an opportunity for the children, youth and adults to grow in their spirituality. We are committed to enriching our students' Catholic identity by teaching, praying, celebrating, and living out our faith.

Updated August 2007



At the heart of our Religious Education program are our volunteers. Over 200 people give generously of their time and talents to make our Religious Education program a success. They continue their own faith formation by attending Catechist in-service meetings and Catechist Certification classes. We wish to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and dedication and ask that you give them your full support, both in prayers and cooperation.

Statements in this handbook are subject to amendment. The Religious Education Office will keep you informed of any changes that may take place.

Fr. Brian Grady Pastor
Fr. Joel Lopez Parochial Vicar

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

June Parisi Coordinator of Religious Education
Religious Education Grades K-8
A Beginning Catholic Development
Vacation Bible School

Wes Slawson Director of Youth Ministry
Confirmation Prep I&II
Youth Ministry 7-12

Patricia Westhoven Assistant Youth Minister

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Religious Education

Office Hours:
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration
To participate in our Religious Education Program, you must be a registered, participating member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. The term “participating” shall mean families who regularly

attend Sunday Mass and participate in the parish by giving of their time, talent, and treasure. We utilize every available classroom at Crystal Lake South High School and registration is done on a first come, first served basis.

Tuition

The tuition for the 2007-2008 school year is: \$145 for one child, \$210 for two children and \$250 for three or more children. An additional \$50 Youth Ministry Support Fee is charged to each family that has any youth in Grades 7-10.

Financial considerations should not be an obstacle for Religious Education. If financial difficulties arise, please contact the Religious Education Office.

Classes

Religious Education classes meet on Wednesdays at South High School. The A session meets from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The B session meets from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Please see the calendar for dates, as well as for any special events you or your child may need to attend. Classes are limited to 18 – 20 students per class. Kindergarten through Grade 2 has a teacher and an aide in each classroom.

Emergency School Closing

If classes need to be cancelled due to inclement weather, please listen to local radio announcements (105.5 FM). Since we use the school building, if District 155 has cancelled school or evening activities, this includes St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Religious Education classes.

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First Communion

A letter will be sent home in November regarding the assignment of times and dates for First Reconciliation, First Communion, as well as First Communion Rehearsals.

Parents are required to attend a First Communion Parent Meeting on:

Wednesday, February 27, 2008 in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Hall



Confirmation

If you have a youth who is preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, you will need to call Wes Slawson, Director of Youth Ministry. Confirmation preparation begins in the 9th grade with completion of the process and reception of Confirmation in 10th Grade.

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SACRAMENT PREPARATION

All sacramental preparations are taught within a two-year process. Two consecutive years gives your child a sense of community and a deeper understanding of the sacraments. It is very important for the child to understand the meaning of the sacraments and how the sacraments empower the child to walk closely with Christ. Home schooling is not offered for sacramental preparation. Preparing

children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion includes attending Mass on a weekly basis. Readiness to celebrate a sacrament is determined by the following:

- § A desire to celebrate the sacrament
- § An age appropriate understanding of the sacrament
- § Participation in the liturgical life of the church
- § A basic awareness and growing understanding of the person of Jesus.

In some cases, if a student is preparing for a sacrament and has too many unexcused absences (5 or more), there may be cause to delay receiving the sacrament until appropriate preparations can be made. An absence is considered unexcused when the child has not been called in, and the work is not made up at home.

A determination of readiness to celebrate the sacrament will be made by the child's catechist, parent and the Coordinator of Religious Education with the recommendation of the Pastor.

First Reconciliation: December 8, 2007

Times will be assigned according to class.
Information will be sent home in November.

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SAFETY

Safety is one of our biggest concerns. For this reason, all safety policies will be strictly enforced. You will need to remain in the pit area while waiting for your child.

There will be NO PARKING in the entryway to the parking lot or in the main parking aisle. You must find a parking space in the lot and walk your child into the building. Please cross the drive with the crossing guard. *Please be courteous and respectful to the crossing guards. They are present for the safety of your child.* All children

and adults must enter and exit Crystal Lake South High School at the flagpole entrance. This enables us to better monitor who is in the building.

All children in 2nd grade or younger must be walked to their classroom with an adult or a responsible, older child. Students in 2nd grade or younger must also be picked up at the classroom by an adult or a responsible, older child. No child will be dismissed to the parking lot.

As mandated by the Diocese of Rockford, we will have at least one fire drill per year. Times are assigned randomly.

Students are not permitted in the classroom without an adult present.

Tardiness/Early Dismissal

For the benefit of your child's religious education as well as common courtesy to your child's class and teacher, please make every effort to be on time and to stay for the entire class time. *Early dismissals are strongly discouraged.*

- § If late by more than 10 minutes, children must be signed in at the desk in the pit.
- § No child will be released *for any reason unless signed out at the pit desk by an adult.* A note is NOT sufficient.

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FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

We will not hide them from their children: we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.

Psalm 78:4



The religious education of your child is a task that cannot be accomplished alone. As parents and caregivers, you are the primary educators of your children. You provide the example for your child by living your faith, attending Mass, receiving the sacraments regularly and praying at home. In partnership with you, we hope to teach your children what it means to be a Catholic Christian. We are here to assist and encourage you in your God given responsibility.

- § Families are expected to be active in the parish and support it in the spirit of stewardship, sharing their time, talents and treasure.
- § Parents are always welcome to visit their student's class. Contact your child's catechist or a member of the Religious Education staff.
- § Regular attendance is essential. Excessive absences or excessive tardiness may indicate a lack of priority given to your child's religious education. If there is a problem, please contact the Coordinator of Religious Education.
- § In the event of an absence, please call the office and let us know your child will be absent. It is the responsibility of the parents and the child to make up any work that has been missed. If this is not done, the absence is considered unexcused.

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FOOD PANTRY WEEKENDS

Everything we have is a gift from God and we are asked to share these gifts. In the spirit of stewardship, our parish participates in collecting non-perishable foods to be distributed to the Crystal Lake or Lake in the Hills Food Pantry. Each month, one or two grades are asked to be special participants for the Food Pantry. DO NOT bring these items to class, as we do not have the resources to distribute them. Please bring them to church on the third Sunday of the month. Of course, you may contribute to the Food Pantry any month.

STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

As you know, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is a stewardship parish. Religious Education is much more than memorizing the 10 Commandments and prayers, it is learning the Catholic faith and how we live that faith in our everyday life. It is our goal to instill in our youngest Catholics the wonderful feeling of joy and contentment that can be experienced when they give of themselves in imitation of Jesus, to their friends and neighbors in love. We pray our children will walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

All children in the Religious Education program will be receiving Stewardship envelopes within the first two weeks of classes. They will be dated in the same way the adult envelopes are and should be put in the collection basket at the corresponding mass. There is a place for your child to indicate how he or she has given of his or her time, talent or treasure for the week. We will not be keeping track of who contributes.

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STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's Religious Education Program is a Catholic Christian educational community. As a member of this community, every student has certain rights, privileges and obligations. In order to protect these rights and maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, it is necessary to develop guidelines which all students are expected to follow. Violations of program regulations and guidelines will not be tolerated.

Expectations

- § We are called to model Christian behavior for all of our young ones, and the students as well are required to conduct themselves in a courteous manner, with respect for themselves and others.
- § Fighting or foul language will not be tolerated.
- § Candy or gum is not allowed at South High School.

Our Junior High Program combines Wednesday sessions and exciting special events. Watch for additional information about our special events.

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| September 26 | January 2, 2008 – NO CLASS |
| October 3 – NO CLASS | January 9 |
| October 10 | January 16 |
| October 17 | January 23 |
| October 24 | January 30 – NO CLASS |
| October 31 – NO CLASS | February 6 – Ash Service at Crystal Lake South HS |
| November 7 | February 13 |
| November 14 | February 20 |
| November 21 – NO CLASS | February 27 – NO CLASS |
| November 28 | March 5 |
| December 5 – Liturgy At Church | March 12 |
| Session A: 4:30 – 5:30 | March 19 – NO CLASS |
| Session B: 6:30 – 7:30 | March 26 – NO CLASS |
| December 12 | April 2 |
| December 19 | April 9 |
| December 26 – NO CLASS | April 16 – Closing Liturgy at Church |
| | Session A: 4:30-5:30 |
| | Session B: 6:30-7:30 |

October 12 – Jr. High Rally at St. Margaret Mary, 7-10pm
November 6 – 2008 Summer Missions Kick Off, 7:30-9:30pm
November 19-20 – Wisconsin Dells Overnight Surfing Outing
December 30-31 – New Year's Bash Jr/Sr High Lock-In