

*Dear Parents,*

*Please read and discuss the information in the handbook (or on line) with your child(ren).*

*Your signature is an indication that you have read this handbook and are aware of its contents.*

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*Name of Child(ren) and grade*

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*Parent Signature*

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*Date*

*(Please complete and return **this page** to your child's religious education teacher by September 30, 2019. Thank you.)*

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*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish  
116 Hughes St.  
Swoyersville, PA 18704*

*Rev. Joseph J. Pisaneschi – Pastor*

*Parish Office – 570-287-6624  
Fax: 570-287-4704  
Email: setonpa@aol.com  
Website: setonpa.com*

*Office of Faith Formation – (570) 287-6624 ext. 116*

*Sister Marion Tarone, IHM - Director of Religious Education*

*Email: sistermarion@setonpa.com*

*Weekend Eucharist*

*Saturday: 4:30 p.m.*

*Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.  
and 5:30 pm (Contemporary)*

*Weekday Eucharist*

*8:00 a.m.*

*Reconciliation*

*Saturdays: 3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.  
or anytime by request.*

*Family Masses*

*held on the first Sunday of each month  
(October through March)*

*11:00 a.m. mass or 5:30 pm mass*



*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish  
Swoyersville, PA*

*Religious Education Handbook  
2019– 2020*

## ***Religious Education Program***

### ***Mission Statement***

Our mission is to bring our children together in their celebration of our one Lord, one Faith and one Baptism. We are dedicated to serving God and one another with love and understanding.

### ***MESSAGE TO PARENTS***

It is through participation in the life of a Christian family and a Christian community that children learn to lead Christian lives. Parents have the primary responsibility for the religious education of their children. The Religious Education Program of our parish, along with their instructors, affirm and supplement, but can never replace religious education in the home.

### ***TIME AND LOCATION OF CLASSES***

Parish families will have the option of choosing one of two programs:

Saturdays - 9:00 – 10:15 AM for grades 1 – 8 **OR**

Mondays - 6:00 – 7:15 PM for grades 1 – 8

All classes will be held at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Education Center, Hughes St., Swoyersville.

### ***ATTENDANCE***

Each of the scheduled class times is essential and valuable for our students. Please do not schedule appointments, lessons, or athletic events during class time out of respect for our program and our teachers. Lessons missed will need to be completed as home study.

If your child is ill and unable to be at class, please call the Office of Faith Formation, 570-287-6624 ext 116 as early as possible on the day of class to make us aware of the situation.

Excessive absences may require your child to repeat a given year

## **Sacramental Meetings and Special Events 2019 – 2020**

Nov. 7, 2019 7th Grade Confirmation Parent meeting @ 7:00pm  
Nov. 14, 2019 1st Penance/Communion Parent meeting @ 7:00pm  
Nov. 24, 2019 8th Grade Confirmation Parent meeting after 5:30 Mass

### **Family Masses:**

Oct. 6, 2019 @ 11:00 am All grades  
Nov. 3, 2019 @ 5:30 pm 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Dec. 8, 2019 @ 5:30 pm 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Jan. 12, 2020 @ 11:00 am 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Feb. 2, 2020 @ 11:00 am 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
March 1, 2020 @ 11:00 am 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades

**Stations of the Cross:** March 28, 2020 @ 9:45am (dismissal from church)  
March 30, 2020 @ 6:45pm (dismissal from church)

**1st Penance:** March 14, 2020 @ 10:30 am

**1st Communion Retreat:** March 22, 2020 @ 11:00 Mass - 3pm

**1st Communion:** May 2, 2020 @ 10:00am

**May Crowning:** May 10, 2020 @ 11:00am Mother's Day

**7th Gr. Mandatory Confirmation Retreat:** Oct. 5, 2019 @ St. Ignatius  
9:30 am– noon

**8th Gr. Mandatory Confirmation Retreat:** Mandatory April 2, 2020 @  
St. Ignatius 11:00 – after 4pm Mass

**Confirmation:** May 31, 2020 @ EAS

### **Extra Class: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade only**

Dec. 8, 2019 5:30 Mass --- Enrollment in the Confirmation Preparation +  
class after Mass

Jan. 26, 2020 after 5:30 Mass

Feb. 23, 2020 after 5:30 Mass

March 29, 2020 after 5:30 Mass

## **SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION**

Children of our parish will receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish regardless of the school they attend.

Children who attend public schools are to attend religious education classes regularly. They are required to attend consecutive years of instruction in preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

First Reconciliation is usually received in the Second Grade (or second year of study) during the early part of the second semester, generally during the season of Lent. First Holy Communion is received in the Spring, usually in early May of that same year.

Confirmation will be conferred on students who have completed their sacramental preparation. This Sacrament is administered by the Pastor with the permission of the Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton. The date of Confirmation is determined by the Bishop's office.

All children, from both the Religious Education Program and Parochial School, are required to attend special supplementary sessions and practices for sacramental preparation.

Baptismal certificates must be submitted for students preparing for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Photocopies of Baptismal certificates are acceptable. Children who were baptized at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Holy Name / St. Mary's or Holy Trinity Parishes, Swoyersville, do not need to present a certificate.

In the Diocese of Scranton, meetings are required for parents of children receiving First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Parents will receive further information concerning these parent meetings.

## **DROP OFF, PICK UP, PARKING**

Parents are responsible for transportation for their child to and from religious education classes. **NO CARS ARE TO BE DRIVEN THROUGH THE SCHOOL PARKING AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP STUDENTS.** Please respect the area blocked off for gathering and dismissal. This is for the safety of all of the students. Students can be dropped off and picked up\* near the entrance to the school yard at New St. and Hughes St. All students enter and are dismissed at the parking lot level entrance near the front of the building. (\*Parents of students in grades 1 and 2 are asked to come to this entrance to meet their child at the end of class. Parents of students in grades 3 through 8, please instruct your children as to where they should meet you after class.)

## **CANCELLATION OF CLASSES**

If classes need to be cancelled due to weather conditions, please note the following instructions.

For Saturday classes, please call the Office of Faith Formation, (570) 287-6624 ext. 3 for a recorded message.

For Monday classes, we will follow the cancellation schedule for the Wyoming Valley West School District. If WVW is closed or has an early dismissal **due to weather conditions**, religious education classes on that day are also cancelled. Please note that if WVW has a delayed opening, but dismisses on time, religious education classes will be held as scheduled. *In the event the weather becomes in climate later in the day, after school has already been dismissed, please call the Office of Faith Formation, 570-287-6624 ext 3 for a recorded message as to whether class will be cancelled for the evening.*

## **CURRICULUM**

Students in grades 1-7 will be using the textbook *Christ Our Life* by Loyola Press. *Interactive Chapter reviews are available at [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com). Click on Christ our Life, select the tab for Children and Parents. Choose your child's grade level and chapter you would like to review.*

Students in 8th grade will be using a text book: Dynamic Catholic.com Decision Point

Students preparing for Confirmation will meet in addition to their regular class. Students in their first year of preparation for Confirmation (usually 7th grade students) will meet several Sunday evenings in addition to regular religious education classes, beginning in November.

Diocesan curriculum guidelines will be followed including a session on *Safe Environment for God's Children*, which will be taught as well as the Diocesan Chastity program for all grades.

## **DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES**

In fairness to the teacher and other students in the class, disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. If a problem arises with a student, the student will be sent to the coordinator. If this occurs twice, the student's parent will be called. If there is an additional incident, the parent will be required to accompany the student to class.

## **MASS ATTENDANCE**

Recognizing that participation in the Eucharistic Liturgy is the center of our life as a Catholic Community, parents are urged to assist their children in the fulfillment of their obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

In addition, parents are urged to provide frequent opportunities for their child to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

## ***The Precepts of the Church***

***You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.***

...requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts...by participating in the Eucharistic Celebration... and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

***You shall confess your sins at least once a year.***

...the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness.

***You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.***

...guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.

***You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.***

...assures the times of penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire a mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.

***You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.***

...means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities.

*...from Catechism of the Catholic Church  
(CCC # 2041-2043, 2048)*