

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICIES

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901 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT

It is the policy of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton parish to maintain a well defined mission statement for its Religious Education program:

The faith formation department exists to provide and promote religious formation for our community. Our goal is to foster a climate of faith for all parish members so that they may enter into a closer relationship with God, each other and the Christian community.

We seek to nurture faith, witness, and worship from cradle to grave, in accordance with the guidelines of The National Directory of Catechists, Sharing the Light of Faith, The Catechism of the Catholic Church and the dictates of the Diocese of Gary and the Holy See.

Faith formation is critical to the children (students) of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Admission to the Religious Education/Faith Formation Program is open to all children. Participants are required to attend formation classes one year prior to receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. The Confirmation preparation program begins in the seventh grade. Confirmation is received in the fall of freshman year.

Sacramental reception may be delayed for a particular candidate when deemed appropriate by the Pastor due to circumstances unique to the candidate.

A copy of the baptismal certificate of the child is required during the registration process.

902 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICIES

It is the policy of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish that our Religious Education/Faith Formation Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or national origin. Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish accommodates those with physical or mental disabilities. Everyone is welcome.

A handbook will be provided to at least one parent (guardian) during registration. This handbook provides specific information relating to fees, loss of textbooks, behavioral/discipline procedure policy, arrival procedure, tardiness policy, traffic dismissal, attendance/absence policy, sacramental policy, weather closing policy, custody policy, abuse procedure, search and seizure policy, health and safety policy, communicable disease policy, accident or illness procedure, foul language discipline procedure and a food/treat policy.

903 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS

Given the importance of the youth it is our belief that the youth be provided the best faith formation experience. This requires Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Religious Education Director to be properly trained and dedicated to providing the best faith formation experience. It is the policy of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton that the Religious Education Director be trained to the standards required by the Diocese of Gary.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton relies on a volunteer staff and recognizes the instructional talent found within Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Given the commitment of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish to providing the best faith formation training, it is the policy of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish that all Religious Education instructors, instructional aides, volunteers or any other staff member whose duties may be associated with the youth of the parish be VIRTUS trained in accordance with Diocesan policy. Appropriate training must be completed and certification obtained prior to any child related event.

904 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEXTS

As Religious Education texts change, it is the policy of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish to utilize an approved Religious Education text. Texts will be chosen from the list of approved texts by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Religious Education texts utilized by Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parrish will be reviewed by the Director of Religious Education and the Consultative Education Advisory Board every three years. Recommendations for a change in the text books should be submitted to the Pastor for approval after input is solicited from the Education Commission and the Pastoral Council.

905 HOME SCHOOLING POLICY

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Religious Education Department is dedicated to helping those parents that choose to home school the religious education of their children. As an alternative to the classroom faith formation method, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish recognizes that

some families may have special circumstances that override the classroom faith formation method.

It is the policy of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton that all home schooling requests be made in writing to the Director of Religious Education. The Director of Religious Education will review the request and meet with the Pastor or his designee with a recommendation. The Pastor or his designee will conduct a thorough examination of facts and determine the suitability of the request. The Pastor or his designee will provide his decision to the Director of Religious Education who will contact the requestor within five (5) days of the request. Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Religious Education will provide resources, guidance and support to make this experience beneficial for everyone. Specific policies relating to home schooling may be found in the Home School Policy Handbook.

906 CONSULTATIVE EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton has adopted the use of a Consultative Education Advisory Board. This board (or commission) is to be comprised of two parents of students in the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Religious Education Program (disinterested parties), one mature adolescent (16 – 19 years of age), one elementary catechist, one intermediate catechist and two parishioners not related to a student in the program.

The Consultative Education Advisory Board members will be chosen and submitted by the Director of Religious Education for the Pastors approval. Members will be appointed to serve on the Consultative Education Advisory Board for three years and may serve consecutive terms.

The Consultative Education Advisory Board is used for the purposes of disciplinary procedures that fall within the scope of the Religious Education program and to review Religious Education policy changes recommended by the Religious Education Director prior to their promulgation. The Consultative Education Advisory Board will meet at the request of the Pastor or his designee.

Specific rules regarding disciplinary rules, the appellate process and formal review may be found in the Consultative Advisory Education Advisory Board Handbook.