

Dear Parents,

We are excited to begin taking registrations for our **2011-12 Youth Ministry Faith Formation Program**. Just like in the past, we will be covering various aspects of our Catholic faith and how they relate to the life of a teenager in today's culture. It all culminates in the opportunity for the teens to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the end of their 10th grade year.

Small Group Times

Sundays 4:30-5:45 p.m. (middle and high school) and 7:15-8:30 p.m. (middle and high school)
Wednesdays 4:30-5:30 p.m. (middle school) and 6:00-7:00 p.m. (middle school)

Children's Ministry will also offer classes on Wednesdays at the 4:30 and 6:00 time frames that will coincide with Youth Ministry offerings (for those families that have kids in elementary and middle school).

GENERAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Registration for a Middle/High School Small Group is done through the Seton Youth Office and is a **SEPARATE PROCESS** from registration for children in Preschool through 5th Grade. The Children's Ministry Office is responsible for registering P3-5th Grade children.
- **Registering for a Middle/High School Small Group is a two-step process:**
Step 1 - Complete the enclosed *registration form* (both sides) and mail it *along with payment* to the Seton Youth Office.
Step 2 - Come to the *gym* on the designated dates below and *sign up* your child *for a specific Small Group (particular time and class)*. Students and parents are given the opportunity to choose which Small Group they will participate in for the year. **Students are not assigned a Small Group by the Youth Office (unlike Children's Ministry)**. Small Groups will be filled on a **first come first served basis** on the designated dates.
- The registration fee will remain \$85.00 per family. Checks should be made payable to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and may accompany *either* your P3-5th Grade Registration Form **or** the enclosed Middle/High School Registration Form.

SMALL GROUP SIGN UP DATES

Middle School and High School Small Group (Class) Sign Up will occur on the same nights so families with kids in both age ranges can sign up both at the same time. In addition, the Children's Ministry Placements will be done and posted by August 27th so that families with elementary age children will know where and when their child was placed prior to having to sign up their middle school children. *Middle School/High School Sign Up Dates – August 28th or August 29th*

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Gym

More specific information and instruction about sign ups will be sent out in August to all those who register. If you still have questions, please contact us at 972-596-5505. In the meantime, take care and God Bless!!!

Seton Youth Ministry Office

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Dear Parents:

First of all, thank you for the great work that you are doing in raising your children up in the faith. With all the pressures and demands of school, work, sports, etc. raising kids is not always an easy task. We also thank you for the tremendous honor and privilege of being able to minister to your teen in our Youth Ministry Program. We are definitely blessed to be a part of their faith journey.

One thing I always tell parents is that they are the most important factor in determining the faith life of their children. This is true of teenagers as well as young children. National studies have shown time and time again that it is the parent's faith life that influences the faith development of their kids (far more than anything else in their life).

In other words, if you want your kids to have a strong faith in God and the Church, then the best thing you can do is to have a strong faith life yourself. If they see you actively praying, learning, forgiving and serving, they will want to do the same (or at least it will make a strong impression on them).

Part of the reason I am telling you this is that I want to encourage you in the good work that you are doing. Secondly, I would like you to consider being a small group leader if you have not already done so.

If you are at all interested or just simply want to know more of what would be involved, please give us a call. **We would love to explain the process, answer any questions that you may have and you can let us know if it is for you or not.** We promise not to pressure you into anything. Either you are called to this ministry or you are not. It is as simple as that and we always want to honor that calling.

Is being a catechist always easy? Nope. There are times it can be very challenging. However, there is also a lot of joy and reward involved as well. Think about a favorite teacher/coach of yours growing up and how they encouraged you, inspired you and made a difference in who you have become. **You could be that kind of person to another kid (or a whole group of teens).** The bonus is that you are modeling that great faith for your own children in a very public way. You will be reinforcing the notion that we are all in the process of continually learning and growing in our faith.

Please give us a call or indicate your interest on the registration form. We would love to hear from you. **Thanks so much for your consideration and God Bless!!!**

Bruce Baumann
Director of Youth Ministry

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