



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF
ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

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Dear Parents:

As we mentioned in the E-Newsletter, we are excited to embark on our 3rd annual “**Home for the Holidays**” **Advent home packet**. In the last couple of years we have been really encouraged that so many families have commented how nice it was to have this opportunity to share time and faith with their family. Of course, we can and should do this anytime, but this initiative seems to give people more space to do so.

You may remember from previous years. Instead of meeting here for regular Faith Formation sessions, we are providing materials for you and your family to share faith with each other during the Advent season (see next page). No having to juggle schedules and physically come to Seton. You will be able to do the activities - when you want, where you want and in the comfy confines of your home. ***Not only will this save time, but more importantly it will provide a great opportunity to share your thoughts, feelings and faith with one another on a deeper level.***

Find a time that works best for your family... *perhaps it is the time they are normally in their faith formation group.* **Do the activities together as a family and then turn in the Completion Form** to the Children’s or Youth Ministry Office **when you return in January.** (You only need to turn in one Completion Form per family (not matter how many kids you may have)).

Please let us know if you have any questions. We pray that you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas Season!

Enjoy being “Home for the Holidays”
God Bless and we will see you at Mass!

-Seton Faith Formation Staff

5th Grade

Parents and child will read and complete the activities on pages 229 -232 in your Be My Disciple book. Complete the discussion below and return to class January 6th and 9th 2019.

Discussion:

Discuss things that are new... a new game, something they have learned, or a new activity. Why do you think the Catholic Church's Liturgical year begins with Advent?

What are we preparing for during advent?

Discuss the term 'Original Sin', have you heard the term before? What do you think it means? We all inherit Original Sin from Adam and Eve. They choose to turn away and disobey God. We all have 'Free Will' which enables us to desire and then choose what is good. On the other hand, when we refuse to follow God, we do evil and abuse our freedom. Why do you think Mary was born without original sin?

What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ? What can we do each day to show we are followers of Christ?

The Catechists will check for completion. Please return to your faith formation class on Dec. 6 or 9, 2015.

Advent Activity-Light of Love

This Light of Love activity helps your students express love in simple ways. It is based on the popular ‘secret Santa’ or ‘secrete angel’ activities. The main difference is the giver is not ‘secrete’ –unless s/he prefers to be; those that receive ‘love lights’ will know who the gift has come from.

Discuss: Talk to the children about Advent being a time of waiting and preparing. Explain how the lights that we see all around us during the Advent Season remind us of how Jesus came into a dark world of sin to bring the light of love and salvation. Read **John 1:1-9** (from the Gospel proclaimed on Christmas Day.) Explain that some of the most treasured and memorable gifts we give or receive take the shape of words, sometimes followed with actions. Give each child 6 candles and explain that these lights of love are simple, quiet, bright gifts they can give a family member or friend. Children can write a message of care and love on the candles and decorate them during class or take them home and write them as they think of ways to show love and gratitude to others. Examples: “Have a great day”, “I am praying for you”, “You are wonderful friend/sister/brother/mother...etc”, “I am so glad you are my mom/dad”, “I love you”, etc.

Tell the children to place the lights of love in unusual/unexpected places where the receiver is sure to find the: in Dad’s shoe, in Mom’s empty coffee cup, on you sibling’s pillow, in your friends backpack, etc. Emphasize the importance of keeping the lights of love genuine and simple. Family members and friends certainly will cherish their lights of love. They may enjoy them so much they may make them into Christmas Ornaments.

(From Catechist magazine, Nov/Dec 2010 issue)

“Home for the Holidays” - Completion Form

We, as a family, have shared faith and completed the
“Home for the Holidays” activities.

Child(ren)’s Names

(please list all of your kids in the Faith Formation/CREW Program)

What we learned...

Feedback/Input *(positive or negative)* on the process or activities...

Parent Signature

Please turn this page in *(one per family)* to one of the Faith Formation Offices, when you return in January. **Thank you and God Bless!**