



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

Basic Group

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 on Jan. 6/9, 2019. Don't miss the Family Advent Activities in the Parish Hall on Dec. 9 2018, after the 8:15am and 10:00am Masses.

Discussion:

What are we preparing for during Advent?

How can our family prepare for to welcome Jesus?

On Page 231, The Immaculate Conception, we read about "original sin." Explain that God made Adam and Eve in his image and gave them freedom. They abused their freedom and opposed God. Discuss what it means to have Freedom. Discuss with freedom comes responsibilities and consequences. Discuss scenarios of choices and consequences; write an example in the space below.

The Catechists will check for completion of pages in the book and discuss the actives. Please return to your faith formation class the week of Dec. 6, 2015

Make your family Advent plans. Commit to family prayer and time together every day. Say the following prayer or choose a different one each day. You can use the prayers in the back of your child's Be My Disciple book.

Parent: Bless us, O Lord, and be with us during Advent.

All: Come, Lord Jesus

Parent: Bless us, O Lord, and shine your love on us.

All: Come, Lord Jesus

Parent: Bless us, O Lord, all the days of our lives.

All: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen

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 3 paper 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 your sibling's pillow, in your friend's 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!**