

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON PARISH

Youth Formation (Religious Education) & Sacramental Preparation Parent & Student Handbook 2025-2026

Formation Staff:

Sarah Rose Bishop—Director of Youth Formation
sbishop@seasfw.org
432-0268 X 111

Kim Conte—Director of Discipleship Formation
kconte@seasfw.org
432-0268 X 111

Dear Parents,

At St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, we recognize the family as the Domestic Church and are committed to strengthening the faith of each of our families. This can only be achieved by engaging all members of the family together.

That is why our Youth Formation/Religious Education program focuses on Family Catechesis. This is an effective method of catechesis that involves all members of the family in learning about their faith and sharing it with each other. Learning about faith together gives what is being taught a context and relevance that helps develop a love and understanding for the Catholic faith which, in turn, will provide a basis for a life-long relationship with Jesus and an identity as a Catholic.

Church "facts" and doctrine have their places, but the true role of catechesis is to form our children, and ourselves, as spiritual, moral and discerning persons. That is why there is an emphasis on families worshiping together, having meaningful discussions about faith and faith matters, and developing a personal relationship with Christ.

When you had your child(ren) baptized, you made a commitment to *make it your constant care to bring [them] up in the practice of the faith. See that the divine life which God gives [them] is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in [their] heart.*

—Rite of Baptism, Roman Catholic Church

This mission may seem daunting at first, but with the help of the Holy Spirit and practice, it becomes easier and feels more natural. Curiosity and a desire to know about God and his Son, Jesus, is a natural part of our children's natures and teaching about them is a natural role of the parent - just like helping our children learn to feed themselves or tying their shoes.

My mission is to make sure that you do not walk this journey alone. As Director of Youth Formation, helping parents and their families to grow in faith together is one of the primary goals of my ministry. My mission is to

assist you in forming your children in their Catholic faith. To do this

I will do my best to provide you with helpful information, meaningful catechesis, support materials, and opportunities to grow in community and spirituality.

If there is additional support that is needed, please do not hesitate to ask. I look forward to walking this journey with you and your family and you will continue to be in my daily prayers.

God Bless,

Director of Youth Formation

Table of Contents

Letter to Parents.....	2
Mission Statement.....	4
Home and Parish Involvement and Roles of Parents and Students.....	4
Youth Formation Policies, Procedures & Requirements	
Bad Weather Policy.....	5
Registration and Fees.....	5
Parish Stewardship.....	5
Photography/Video Policy.....	6
Special Needs Students.....	6
Curriculum.....	6
Catechist Requirements.....	6
Student Code of Behavior and Discipline Action Procedure.....	7
Safe Environment Policy.....	8
Youth Formation Grades 1-6	
Class/Meeting Times.....	8
Description.....	8
Arrival and Dismissal.....	9
Homework and Attendance Policies.....	10
Youth Formation Grades 7 & 8	
Class Times.....	10
Description.....	10
Arrival and Dismissal.....	11
Homework and Attendance Policies.....	11
Homeschool Grades 1-8	
General Information.....	12
25-26 Formation Class Calendar for Grades 1-8.....	12
Sacramental Information	
Mission and General information.....	13
Meeting Information for 1st Reconciliation and 1st Communion.....	14
First Reconciliation.....	14
First Communion (including First Communion Retreat).....	15
Confirmation (Sponsor information, service hours, meetings & retreats.....	15
25-26 Youth Formation Sacramental Calendar for Grades 2, 7, and 8.....	16
Diocese Gender Policy.....	16

Youth Formation Mission Statement

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish seeks to accomplish the fundamental tasks of catechesis outlined by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops:

HOME and PARISH INVOLVEMENT

Faith is God's gift to your child, but the realization of that gift takes place in the day-to-day living of family life. The seeds of faith will take root and grow only if you nurture them at home. It is vital that you take an active role in your child's spiritual growth.

At the same time, the Church, and the parish in particular, also has the responsibility of bringing all its members closer to Christ. Our formation and catechetical team are here to support your efforts and to give communal witness to our faith in and love of Christ.

Teaching the message of Jesus

Celebrating the sacred mysteries

Engaging students in prayer

Forming followers of Christ

Fostering community

Developing a sense of mission

Providing opportunities for Christian service

Parental Role

Attend Mass with your children every Sunday.

Pray with your child at home daily.

Be positive and encouraging about classes, meetings and assignments.

Make sure your child completes missed lessons.

See that your child brings his/her textbook and Bible to class.

Volunteer to help with classroom or for needed activities

Attend parent and family meetings and adult education classes.

Feel free to call the Director of Youth Formation if you have any concerns.

Student Role

Bring your textbook and Bible to class each session and take it home afterwards.

Complete all assignments neatly and on time, including those missed because of illness.

Follow the behavior code. (See page 7 of this handbook.)

YOUTH FORMATION GENERAL POLICIES, PROCEDURES and REQUIREMENTS

Student Registration

Student registration for all students in grades 1-8 begins May 1.

Registration Schedule:

Early Registration (July 1—July 31) fee = \$95 per family.

Registration after July 31 fee = \$130 per family.

Catechist Discount fee = \$45 per family

No family will be turned away for the inability to pay their fee. To make financial arrangements please contact Kim Conte in the parish office.

Students are placed in classes by the Director of Youth Formation and not by individual teachers. Any requests or changes must be referred to and approved by the DYF.

Parent/Guardian Financial Support

Parents/guardians of students enrolled in the Youth Formation program are financially responsible to the parish. An annual fee will be charged to help cover the cost of the program.

The program fee must be paid – or other arrangements for payment made with the Director of Formation – prior to the student being placed in a class.

A reduced fee of \$45 is offered for parents who are catechists.

Financial assistance is available for those for which the fee is a hardship

Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure

Families who participate in the youth formation/parish religious education program are expected to practice stewardship of time, talent and treasure.

Time and talent is service to the parish and/or youth formation/ religious education program.

Many opportunities are listed on the Stewardship Pledge Form.

·Treasure is financial contributions for the needs of the parish, the Church and charity.

Photography/Video Policy

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish maintains a website for sharing information related to ministries at the parish. This website may include pictures to highlight participation in these ministries and their activities. For this reason, the parish may determine it beneficial to publish minor children's pictures on the website from time to time. As a policy, names of children are not published unless there are special circumstances and at that time specific parental consent would be requested. **If parents do not wish to have their children to be photographed or to be videoed, they should contact the Director of Youth Formation.**

Special Needs

Students with special needs are always welcome in Youth Formation arrangements can be made for aides, or for a modified curriculum as needed. Information about special needs should be provided to the Director of Youth Formation. This information is held in confidence and shared only as necessary with the child's catechists.

Curriculum

All basal and supplemental texts and materials are available for review in the RE office.

Catechist Requirements

A catechist is a role model of Catholic teachings and values, and must meet the following requirements:

Catechists shall be living within the rules of the Catholic

Participate regularly in Sunday Mass and participate as fully as possible in a sacramental lifestyle.

Adhere to the Catholic Church's teachings on morality and behavior.

He/she shall be a Christian example through witness and prayer.

Catechists are required to attend training meetings to prepare them for this ministry.

Catechists are encouraged to continue their own faith formation through participation at workshops, courses, retreats, Bible studies or other avenues.

They are required to complete all Diocesan requirements for background checks and Diocesan Safe Environment training.

They should work as a team with the Director of Youth Formation, co

-catechists, other members of the faith formation team, the pastoral staff, clergy and parents and to recognize that parents are the primary catechists of their children.

If a catechist is the parent of one of a student in grades 1-6, then they will be provided with the notes from the parent meeting or they can choose to attend the other session.

Student Behavior Code

Please make every effort to be in class on time.

If you are absent, you are responsible for making up the missed work.

No candy, gum or drinks are to be brought into class unless it is for a special event or okayed by the catechist.

Hats are not to be worn in class and the hood of hoodies must be down.

Students are to be respectful and courteous toward catechists, volunteers, classmates, and visitors.

Inappropriate behavior or improper language or comments will not be allowed.

Students will not talk when the catechist is talking

Students are expected to treat books and materials with care, and

to respect parish property and the personal property of others.

No toys or other items of entertainment are to be brought to class without the permission of the catechist.

It is preferable that students do not bring electronic devices to class. If a parent desires a student to have a cell phone, the cell phone must be kept out of sight and silent. Cell phones may be used after a class is over. If a device is used during class, for a purpose not authorized by the catechist, it will be confiscated and brought to the Youth Formation office and returned only to the parent.

Students are responsible for their own actions and will be held accountable for disrespectful and harmful behavior toward others and damage to property.

Disciplinary Action Procedure

If, in any given class period, a student repeatedly distracts the catechist or other students, the following procedure will be put into action.

1. Catechists speaks to the student privately.
2. The student is sent/brought to the office. The student will discuss the incident with the Director of Youth Formation and decide upon a strategy to correct the problem. He/she will also offer apologies as required.
3. If the student is sent to the office a second time, parents will be notified by phone.
4. If the student is sent to the office a third time, or if the incident is serious, the student will not be permitted to return to class until a conference has been held with the parent(s), Director of Youth Formation, and the catechist. The student will be included when appropriate.

Safe Environment Policy

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Youth Formation/Religious Education Program follows diocesan policies and procedures regarding safe environment for students. Everyone involved in the program is expected to treat others in a Christian manner.

All volunteers working with youth undergo a thorough background check and training.

All students will receive age-appropriate instruction as directed by the diocese. Each age-appropriate lesson teaches our students to recognize God's love by helping them understand their own (and other's) dignity in mind, body, and spirit. If you **do not** want your child(ren) to receive this information in class, please notify the Director of Youth Formation before classes begin in August/September.

Any harassment—whether physical, verbal, or sexual—should be reported immediately to the Director of Youth Formation or Pastor.

Youth Formation Grades 1-6

Monthly Class Times for Students and Parents

Student/Parent MONTHLY Meeting Times (Aug/Sept thru April) Sunday: 4:00 pm to 5:15 pm

Monday: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

The intention is that Student/Parent meetings should be held on the first non-holiday Sunday/Monday of each month though this may not be possible because of holidays or school schedules.

Description:

Students in Grades 1-6 and their families will participate in a Family Formation program in lieu of traditional weekly Religious Education classes.

The main goal of family catechesis is to involve the entire family with the hope of developing the family's Catholic Faith as a central part of family life and fostering the practice of faith as a continual journey.

Another benefit of a program like this is that working on lessons at home gives the family greater flexibility to do their lessons when it is convenient for their schedule and disposition.

Families will receive a Family Bible to use as a resource to help complete their lessons with their children at home. In addition they will receive *2-4 individual lessons each month* to walk through with their child.

During monthly meetings, students meet in their classrooms with their catechists and peers to go over a lesson that is pertinent to the current

month's theme. There may be additional activities such as breaking open scripture or other activities that are age/topic appropriate. Parents will be responsible for going over the remainder of the month's topics with their children at home and integrating it into their family faith life.

During the parent-part of the meeting we will go over the pertinent theological points that you will need to know to complete the lessons for the month. In addition, parents may receive supplemental materials for the lessons that will be optional for you to use. Also, some guidance will be provided on which lessons are most important and some input on the best practices on teaching the lessons at home will be provided as well.

Parents should complete all of the four monthly lessons with their children at the family's convenience. Each lesson has various activities and takes about 30-45 minutes to complete in total.

When completed, parents and child should complete the brief review provided at the end of the lesson. The end of lesson reviews should be turned in at the next monthly meeting.

Parents are encouraged to complete as much or as little of each lesson as they feel is needed for their family. Also, parents are encouraged to modify any of the activities to make them particularly meaningful for their children.

ARRIVAL and DISMISSAL

Arrival:

Students and Parents should both come to the cafeteria to begin the meeting. Students and parents will spend the first 15 minutes together gathering and/or completing an activity. After that time students will be dismissed to their classroom and parents will remain to receive additional information needed for the month.

Dismissal:

Students will be dismissed directly from their classroom to a parent. Parents will go to their child's classroom and pick up their child. Catechists WILL NOT release a child to "meet" a parent someplace else in the building unless specific arrangements have been made prior to the class in writing.

Homework:

As stated above, at the end of each lesson there is a brief review. This should be completed and turned in at the beginning of the meeting. Families are expected to do all lessons assigned.

EXPECTATIONS and ATTENDANCE

Expectations:

All children and their families in Grades 1-6 are expected to participate in this program to be ready to prepare for First Reconciliation and First Communion in Grade 2 and Confirmation in Grade 8. Those who do not participate in this catechetical program and wish to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion or wish to enter the Confirmation program in grades 7 & 8 will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Attendance:

At least one parent is required to attend each of the Student/Parent meetings to receive the catechetical information that will be presented to your family. For those who miss a parent meeting for an unavoidable reason, arrangements will be made to provide the needed information for that month. Arrangements can be made to attend the other session.

YOUTH FORMATION GRADES 7-8

WEEKLY CLASS TIMES

Grades 7-8

Sunday: 4:00 pm to 5:15 pm (before the 5:30 pm Mass)

Monday: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

Description:

The 7th and 8th grade program is designed to prepare students for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation in 8th grade. The students meet weekly to discuss relevant faith topics, learn about the Catholic faith in detail, and have conversations with adults and peers about Confirmation in and environment of prayer and community.

ARRIVAL and DISMISSAL

Arrival:

Please plan to arrive prior to your class start time. It is important that classes begin on time and everyone is present for opening prayer.

Dismissal:

Students will normally be dismissed through door 28 of the school. This is the main entrance. Please pull your car along the curb and your child will come to your car. **Please DO NOT park in the parking spaces and have your child walk through the parking lot to your car.**

If you wish to come in to meet your child, enter through Door 2 (Parish offices), walk down the hall and wait for class to dismiss in the atrium. Please exit using Door 2.

Homework

Students may receive homework to reinforce/review the information presented in class and to delve deeper into their personal relationship with Christ. It is the responsibility of the student to complete homework assignments and return them to their catechist on the due date. If homework is not completed on a regular basis, the parents will be notified. **If the failure to do homework is long-term, the grade may not be considered complete at the end of the year.**

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Students are expected to attend all scheduled Faith Formation classes and sacramental meetings/events. Please plan travel, family events and sports participation accordingly. Please recognize that class time includes many activities such as prayers, videos, and group discussions that cannot be made up. **It is important that students attend every class.**

If special circumstances occur that require several absences or an extended absence, please contact the Religious Education office as soon as possible. **Communication is very important in questions regarding attendance and arrangements can be made.**

Acceptable Attendance

If your child is sick, do not send him or her to class. Please e-mail the Director of Youth Formation, Kim Conte, at kconte@seasfw.org or call 432-0268 ext. 111 before class if possible.

Students are expected to make up all the work covered during class. Make-up work can be found at www.seasfw.org/grade-7-make-up-1 or www.seasfw.org/grade-8-make-up-1. **If make-up work is done for a missed class, then the class will not be counted as an absence.**

Because grades 7-8 are considered sacramental formation years, students may not miss more than 2 classes. Additional absences may delay reception of the sacrament(s). If a student completes the make-up work for the missed class, then the absence will not count toward the 2 missed classes.

Procedure when a Student Is Tardy

Students who arrive after class has started should go directly to their assigned classroom where they will be marked tardy on the attendance record. Time missed from all classes will accumulate and could result in an absence.

Procedure when a Student Must Leave Early

Arrangements for all early dismissals need to be made with the Director of Youth Formation (Kim Conte) prior to class. Do NOT ask the catechist to dismiss a student early or go to the classroom to pick up a student. Students must be met at the RE office where the YF/RE Assistant will assist you in picking up your child

**Home School Faith Formation
Grades 1-8**

Families whose children attend school outside of the home but choose to complete their Faith Formation entirely at home may do so on a limited basis.

All Home-based Youth Formation is an interactive program that requires parents and children to work together. Faith Formation is not to be studied independently from the family dynamic.

All Grades have a homeschool learning option that **follows a weekly schedule of study**. Grade 1-7 will use *Alive in Christ* from Our Sunday Visitor and Grade 8 uses *Chosen* from Ascension Press.

Weekly end of chapter reviews for grades 1-7 must be completed and submitted online in a timely manner. Grade 8 reflections for each chapter must be turned in by the dates indicated at the beginning of the year.

Families who do not complete a minimum of 80% of the end of chapter reviews (grades 1-7) at the end of the year may not be able to participate in the Home School Faith Formation program the next year.

For grade 8 there is a significant video component and an important discussion component to the Chosen program. Students and parents are expected to work together on this.

Sacramental preparation materials will be included in the materials for grades 1, 2, 7 & 8 and families are expected to attend respective sacramental meetings.

Sacramental Formation for the Reception of Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation

Mission Statement

The mission of the Sacramental Formation Program at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is to provide the children of our parish an environment that is both educational and spiritual where they can embrace the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation fully. We strive to provide a setting that encourages conversion of heart through focus on prayer, Christian service and learning to live a life that proclaims the Word in speech and action. We believe that families are crucial to the development of a child's faith and welcome the privilege to walk this journey together.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION IN GENERAL

Sacraments are, first and foremost, acts of Jesus, in union with the members of His Body, the Church. The Church, therefore, is responsible for determining the specifics of sacramental preparation and celebration

It is understood that families of children who wish to receive any of the sacraments are participating in the basic life of the Church in the following ways:

- Attending weekend Mass
- Praying as a family
- Participating in Youth Formation/Religious Education Classes or Catholic School
- Living daily a Catholic lifestyle appropriate to one's age and spiritual development.

Students must regularly attend classes in a Youth Formation/ Religious Education program prior to and during their sacramental years. **(For complete details regarding attendance, please see pages 10 & 11 of this handbook.)**

Students must complete grade 1 to celebrate Reconciliation and Eucharist in Grade 2.

Students must complete a minimum of grade 7 in Religious Education to receive Confirmation in Grade 8.

Parents/guardians, sponsors and students are required to attend the preparatory meetings scheduled prior to reception of the sacrament of First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation. Before receiving this sacrament, students must complete sacramental preparation materials with their parents and sponsors.

Students who enter the program in Grades 3–8 and have not received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Eucharist and/or Confirmation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Students who are in grades 7 or 8 and above who are entering the Confirmation program for the first time will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by determining path of catechesis. Previous catechesis and reception of other sacraments will be considered. Evaluation will be done by Director of Youth Formation and Director of Formation/OCIA

Failure to complete the requirements outlined in this booklet may result in the delay of a student receiving a sacrament.

Students with special needs are welcomed into the program. It is imperative that parents and staff work together to provide an environment, possibly on an individual basis, where students with disabilities can receive sacraments.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION REQUIREMENTS

Parent/Child Meetings

Parents, Guardians and students are **required** to attend the preparatory meetings scheduled prior to the reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. This includes the following:

- Grade 1 Family Gathering
- Grade 2 First Reconciliation Meeting
- Grade 2 First Communion Meeting

Dates of these meetings will be announced via e-mail, posted at www.seasfw.org/religious-education and published in the bulletin.

Materials

Before receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, students will be provided with materials (usually in workbook form) that are to be completed at home with their parents. The completion of these materials will be checked during their religious education or school religion class.

First Reconciliation

Usually in mid-November, students will celebrate their first Reconciliation. Multiple priests will be in attendance to facilitate this event, and parents and older siblings are highly encouraged to participate in the sacrament at this time also.

First Communion

First Communion Retreat and Practice

All students receiving their First Communion are required to attend the First Communion Retreat which is a time of prayer, preparation and practice for the students. Parents are encouraged to volunteer to help during this time. This event usually takes place on a Saturday before First Communion. Volunteers need to be Diocesan Safe Environment approved.

First Communion Mass

Families of students receiving First Communion will have a choice of several different Masses on two weekends at the end of April and/or first of May. Masses are filled on a first come, first served basis and will be limited to a certain number of First Communicants.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Confirmation Sponsors

Student sponsor information should be provided before the beginning of Faith Formation Classes. Sponsors should be someone who the candidate relates to spiritually and who is a good Catholic role model.

According to Canon Law sponsors must be:

At least 16 years old, Confirmed, and actively practicing the Catholic faith

Able receive all sacraments and if married, they must be in a Catholic marriage or their marriage has been blessed

A sponsor cannot be a parent

Confirmation Student/Sponsor Meetings

All students who are registered to be confirmed in the Spring of 2024 are required to attend 3 Student/Sponsor meetings with their confirmation sponsor. If their sponsor is unable to attend this meeting, then a parent can attend with the student. Dates for these meetings will be published at the beginning of the YF/RE year. Notification of the meetings will also be sent via e-mail, posted on www.seasfw.org/religious-education and published in the bulletin.

Service Hours

All students who are enrolled in the Confirmation Preparation program (grades 6, 7 & 8) are required to complete service hours. Hours can begin to accumulate beginning May 1 after the completed YF/RE year. All service hours should be logged into the form that can be found at www.seasfw.org/confirmation-service-hours. Families should keep track of progress for the requirements. Requirements are as follows:

Award certificates will be given to those students who complete at least 1.5 times the required number of hours.

Confirmation Retreat

All students who are planning to be confirmed in the spring of 2026 are required to attend a Confirmation Retreat. This is a one-day Saturday retreat held on St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Property. The retreat is held after the first of the year on two separate weekends so students have a choice. Dates for the retreat weekends are published at the beginning of the Youth Formation year. Parents are encouraged to chaperone the retreat. All chaperones must complete Diocesan Safe Environment training.

Confirmation

Confirmation is usually held in the spring (March/April time-frame). The date of Confirmation is determined by the Bishop.

Revised 7/28/2025

Bishop Rhoades has asked all Pastors, Principals and Directors of Religious Education to share with the parents of our students the updated policies on gender identity and sexuality. It is important that everyone is familiar with the Church's teachings on these controversial matters and the values that undergird our policies. The entire document entitled, "Formation of Young People in Catholic Christian Anthropology and Pastoral Accompaniment of Those Who Experience Gender Incongruence or Same-Sex Attraction," can be found on the Diocese website at <https://diocesefwsb.org/genderformation>. It is a very informative and pastoral document.

POLICIES FOR DIOCESAN PARISHES, SCHOOLS, AND INSTITUTIONS REGARDING GENDER IDENTITY AND SEXUALITY

Given the cultural challenges we face, it is necessary that we have clear policies for our parishes and schools regarding conduct related to sexual identity and sexuality. It is important that our Catholic school educators, parish staffs, catechists, youth ministers, and parents who enroll their children and young people in our Catholic schools, religious education programs, and parish youth ministries are knowledgeable of these policies based on the anthropological teachings of the Catholic Church summarized above in this document. These policies are established as binding for diocesan institutions, including all diocesan offices, parishes, and schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Designations and Pronouns:

Any parochial, organizational, or institutional documentation that requires the designation of a person's sex is to reflect that person's God-given sexual identity, that is, his or her biological sex. No persons may designate a "preferred pronoun" in speech or in writing when related to ministry activities of any kind; nor are diocesan institutions to permit such a designation. Only pronouns that accurately reflect a person's God-given sexual identity shall be used when addressing or referring to that person.

Bathrooms and Locker Rooms: All persons must use the bathroom or locker room that matches their sexual identity, that is, his or her biological sex. Individual-use bathrooms are permitted in diocesan institutions and are to be available to all members of the respective communities.

Attire:

Appropriate modesty in dress is expected in a manner consistent with the cultivation of the virtue of chastity. Where a dress code or school uniform exists, all persons are to follow the dress code or uniform that accords with their God-given sexual identity.

Single-Sex Programs and Activities:

Participation in institutional programs and activities (whether curricular or extracurricular, athletics, camps, retreats, etc.) that are designated as single-sex must be consistent with the person's God-given sexual identity. Some programs and activities may be open to participation by persons of both sexes.

Single-sex Accommodations:

Participants in overnight events or programs sponsored or approved by diocesan institutions may only reside in single-sex rooms or accommodations consistent with their God-given sexual identity. The only exception is, of course, accommodations used by persons whom the Church considers validly married and family members.

Conduct:

Chaste conduct is expected and required in our diocesan institutions and at all events and programs sponsored by our diocesan institutions, including at parish or school dances and social activities. Public advocacy for, or celebration of, sexual behavior or ideologies contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church are prohibited. Active, hostile, and public defiance of these

teachings is prohibited since it is harmful to the institution's Catholic identity and mission.

Treatments for Gender Incongruence:

Compassion and sensitivity is expected and required in our diocesan institutions towards those who struggle with gender incongruence or dysphoria. Just as "Catholic health care services must not perform interventions, whether surgical or chemical, that aim to transform the characteristics of a human body into those of the opposite sex or take part in the development of such procedures," so our diocesan institutions are not permitted to cooperate in such interventions, including the taking of puberty blockers, on diocesan property. While we strongly support efforts to alleviate the suffering of those who struggle with their sexual identity, we cannot support interventions which, we believe ultimately harm them. We support pastoral and counseling services to alleviate their suffering and assist them in accepting the God-given gift of their sexual identity.

Protecting the Vulnerable:

All who teach, serve, and minister to young people in our diocese are expected to uphold the teachings of the Church regarding sexual identity, sexuality, and marriage, to affirm their God-given dignity and worth, and to treat them with the love and compassion of Christ. Ministers have a special responsibility to assist those who are hurting or struggling, including those dealing with confusion about their sexual identity or with same-sex attraction. Ministers must not tolerate any ridiculing, bullying, or hostile speech or behavior directed against them.

BAD WEATHER POLICY

In the case of bad weather and classes are cancelled either on Sunday or Monday a text message via flocknote and an email will be sent to all families.

Depending on the nature and timing of the closure the message may be posted on the Youth Formation page of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton website (www.seasfw.org)

Youth Formation Meeting Dates

Grades 1-6: Family Catechesis Student/Parent Meetings

September 7/8	January 11/12
October 5/6	February 1/2
November 2/3	March 1/2
December 7/8	April 12/13

Grade 7 & 8: TBD Mid August/Sept to April 26/27 (Weekly)

YF/RE Grade	Number of Hours	# Different Activities (minimum)	Due Date
Grade 6	6	2	All Students: April 30, 2026
Grade 7	12	4	All Students: April 30, 2026
Grade 8	18	6	February, 2026 Confirmation Interviews

2025-2026 SACRAMENTAL MEETING CALENDAR

First Reconciliation/First Communion

September 21/22: First Reconciliation Meeting

November 19: First Reconciliation

February 22/23: First Communion Meeting:

April 18: First Communion Retreat

April 25/26 and May 2/3: First Communion (select Masses)

Grade 7 (Confirmation Prep)

November 16/17: Theology of the Body Parent Meeting

Confirmation

November 23/24: Confirmation Student/Sponsor Meeting #1

January 11/12: Confirmation Student/Sponsor Meeting #2

February 14 or February 21: Confirmation Retreat

March 22: Confirmation Student/Sponsor Meeting #3 & Practice

April 12: Confirmation