

St. Elizabeth Seton Religion Curriculum – 2009/2010

The religious curriculum at St. Elizabeth Seton uses the Christ Our Life series. For an overview go to: http://www.loyolapress.com/assets/col/79244_COL_Spiral%20Curriculum.pdf.

Kindergarten – Introduction to Faith

Students learn the basics of faith. Because of their Baptism they are ready to understand the importance of the faith by everyday experiences. The text also includes the importance of prayer and the meanings of a few prayers and how they are part of our Catholic heritage. It invites students to participate more fully in liturgy by everyday activities. We also introduce the students to some liturgical life such as listening to scripture, participating in prayer as well as many others. We build morals in our students by talking about making good choices, being aware of evil, self discipline and respecting others. This text also raises children's awareness of the needs and feelings of the people in their families, community, and the world. Textbook: Christ Our Life series, "*God Loves Us*" (Loyola Press).

Grade 1 – Salvation

The program provides a simple overview of the mysteries of our faith. Through learning of the goodness of God, and the love of Jesus, the students respond to God in friendship and prayer. The students will become aware of God's presence and goodness in their lives, in others, in the world, and in His church. The students will also respond to God's goodness by loving Him and others. Prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Morning Offering, Glory Be, Stations of the Cross, Guardian Angel. Textbook: Christ Our Life series, "*God is Good*" (Loyola Press).

Grade 2 – Eucharist and Reconciliation

The curriculum prepares the children for their first celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. They are taught about God's loving care for them especially through the sacraments. They are invited to respond to God's call in loving service to him and to others. The children receive the sacraments in their parishes and the year culminates in a Mass and reception. Textbook: Christ our Life series, "*God Cares For Us*" (Loyola press).

Grade 3 – The Catholic Faith

Students learn the main truths Catholics believe and express in the Apostles' Creed. They are taught: God calls us to follow him, the promise God made to us, God created us to share in his life and that he sent his only Son to save us. Finally, they learn how Jesus gave us his life so that after death we too will have a life with God in his Kingdom. We also teach about the Rosary, Liturgical Calendar, and Saints. Textbook: Christ our Life series, "*We Believe*" (Loyola press).

Grade 4 – Ten Commandments and Beatitudes

The curriculum focuses on how God calls us to live with him forever. The commandments are taught as signs of God's love, and the Beatitudes are introduced as Jesus' way to happiness. The children are led to a greater appreciation of the sacraments and are encouraged to respond joyfully to God's call to live in the spirit of his love. Students are expected to memorize the 10 commandments. We study the order of the Mass and how to take part fully and with joy. We cover the liturgical year in our Church, including Feast of All Saints, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost. Also, we continue to develop our prayer lives, become more familiar with the Bible, and study about the Saints. Textbook: Christ our Life series, "*God Guides Us*" (Loyola press).

Grade 5 – Liturgy of the Mass and Sacraments

Students gain a deeper understanding of how we worship God through the sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Holy Orders, Matrimony, and Anointing of the Sick. They learn the meaning of worshiping God in community, including prayer and service. Through the study of the liturgy, the students become aware of Christ's work of salvation. They learn to participate more fully in order to give thanks and praise to God. We also explore some of the major feast days and holy days, certain saints, and other Catholic traditions such as the Rosary and Stations of the Cross. Textbook: Christ our Life series, "*We Worship*" (Loyola Press).

Grade 6 – Old Testament

Students study the Old Testament and its meaning for Catholics. This course guides the students to see in Jesus the fulfillment of all that God the Father has promised, as well as the perfect response to his love. The students are encouraged to respond to the Lord's call to enter into a loving relationship with God and with the Church. This response manifests itself in love and care for all people. Textbook: Christ our Life series, "*God Calls a People*" (Loyola Press).

Grade 7 – New Testament

Students learn about the New Testament and how its lessons apply to their daily life. They study the four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, and the Letters in order to understand God's saving action in the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Themes that are explored include God, Jesus, the Church, the Sacraments, and morality. Textbook: Finding God series, "*Following Jesus*" (Loyola Press).

Grade 8 – The Church

This course focuses on the study of God's faithful love as it is revealed in the Church founded by Jesus Christ. The text is designed to help students grow in their knowledge and love of the Church. Students are encouraged to see how their own lives reflect the beliefs and commitment of the Church community by participating in the worshiping life of the Church through personal prayer, Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours and Reconciliation. They become involved in the Church's mission through performing works of service for their church, community and family. Textbook: Christ Our Life series, "*The Church Then and Now*" (Loyola Press)