

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
Department of Religious Education

9 Hillgate
Irvine, CA 92612-3265
854-1000 X225
Fax: 854-0079
email: charlotte@seasirvine.org
sue@seasirvine.org

September 2005

Dear Parents,

Your child who is enrolled in our parish Religious Education program is also eligible to be prepared to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Eucharist (Communion) this year. You are invited to participate in the preparation process if you think your child and your family are ready for this step at this time. At St. Elizabeth Ann Seton we use the following guidelines for determining readiness:

- < A child should have completed a minimum of one year of religious education classes **before beginning** sacramental preparation.
- < Preparation for Reconciliation is given before Eucharist.
- < The child should show a desire and interest appropriate to his or her age. Prayer together at home, coming to Sunday Mass, and a developing relationship with God are all good indicators.

Parent sessions for Reconciliation will be held on **Monday evenings, October 17 and 24** from 7:15 to 9:00 PM. These sessions are for adults only. Grandparents, godparents, and other adult members of the parish may attend, as well as parents.

Following the parent sessions, each parent works with the child at home, using the materials we provide. A workshop for families will be held on Saturday, January 21, followed a week later, on January 28, by the children's communal Reconciliation Service. (Dates for First Eucharist preparation will be available at the time of the October workshops).

If you feel that your child will be ready to receive these sacraments this year, **please call or email Sue at the parish (sue@seasirvine.org, 854-1000 X227)**, so that we will know you plan to attend the preparation sessions. There is a program fee of \$20.00 for the First Reconciliation books and materials.

If you feel that your child is not yet ready, please do not hesitate to wait another year so that he or she will have a more meaningful experience. If you have any questions or concerns, please call any one of us.

Yours in Christ,

Charlotte C. Prather
Director of Religious Education

Mary Lou Hutton
Director of Liturgy

Sue Overdeest
Director of Children's Ministry