

## **St. Eulalia Parish – Religious Education Curriculum**

The Diocese of Scranton requires each child enrolled in Religious Education to receive at least 30 hours of instruction each academic year. Below is a brief outline of what children enrolled in St. Eulalia's Religious Education Program learn each year.

### **Kindergarten**

Students learn the basics of creation, that God created everything in the heavens and on the Earth and under the Earth. They practice properly blessing themselves. Students are taught the meaning behind Christmas and Easter. How God loves each and every one of us so we are kind to each other.

### **First Grade**

This is the first year of the 2-year program required for children to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The goal at the end of First Grade Religious Education is for all children to know their four major prayers: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be and Act of Contrition. Students also get an overview of the Bible and how the liturgical year is organized. Students are taken to the church to see the altar and baptismal fount and choir loft, areas within the church they normally cannot see during Mass. Students learn about the rosary and the trinity.

### **Second Grade**

This is a major year for students as they receive two sacraments -- First Reconciliation in December and First Holy Communion in May. Teachers need to cover a lot of material with the students so they understand the sacraments and are well prepared. Although many adults may recall their First Reconciliation or First Penance or Confessions with fear, our teachers are wonderful at making sure the children understand there is nothing to be afraid of. We try our best to make sure each student is well prepared and make the experience a comfortable and welcoming one. The year culminates in the beautiful sacrament of First Holy Communion.

### **Third Grade**

Building upon the excitement of First Holy Communion and the base of knowledge students received in Kindergarten, First and Second grades, students in the Third Grade continue to learn about the church's liturgical year and holidays. They are taught about the rosary and bible.

### **Fourth Grade**

As each grade builds from the previous, the students learn more in-depth about the Bible, its use, praying the rosary and saying it reverently. The Ten Commandments are studied with a breakdown of each commandment, and the beatitudes, teaching the students how to live and bring about the kingdom of God.

### **Fifth Grade**

Students use the Bible to learn scripture, its interpretation of chapters and verses; explaining the seven sacraments' meaning and symbols, celebrating God's life and love through each one. Sacraments of Initiation, Healing, and Service are introduced to the students.

**Sixth Grade**

Students discuss Sacred Scripture, the Old Testament consisting of 46 books, and New Testament consisting of 27 books, with its stories of people and topics. The sacraments, the commandments, the beatitudes, and the corporal and spiritual works of mercy are all studied at this grade level.

**Seventh Grade**

Seventh Grade students begin the preparation process for the Sacrament of Confirmation which is a 2-year program. The students by now have a better understanding of weekly scriptures and how they can apply the teachings of our faith to the world around them. In preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation each candidate prepares to research a saint whose name they will chose, a sponsor (someone who will mentor the candidate), and church and community service hours so as to better understand with faith comes action.

**Eight Grade**

During this year students prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation bestowed by the Bishop in the Spring. Students must research and choose their confirmation name, invite an adult to be their sponsor, perform 20 hours of church and community service, and attend a scheduled Confirmation Retreat. Our dedicated teachers ensure the students are prepared to confirm their faith before the parish community.

Although some see receiving of Confirmation as a "graduation" from Religious Education, and in the sense that students no longer have to attend weekly classes, we like to think that everyone continues their own personal education in our Catholic Faith throughout their lives. Following Confirmation students are invited to actively participate in the Parish of St. Eulalia's thru ministry (as altar servers or lectors), service, Youth Group and more.