

A note from Deacon Jeff



"We are Blessed" - I am excited to be leading Religious Education for St. Elizabeth

Ann Seton this year. This is a time of change and growth for our parish family and I am glad to be here for this. I am also extremely happy to have Jen Henry helping as Administrator. She has already proven to be a valuable asset bringing energy, technology and a fresh perspective to our efforts.

With new leadership and different resources, there will be, we pray, some good changes to the program. One of the changes will be the religious education program here at the parish will now consist of Grades 1 -6. We expect there to be two first grade classes, and one of each of the other grades. The classes will be every other Sunday and are being coordinated with Fr. John's schedule. This will allow us to make the 8:30 mass a children's mass each day of Religious Ed. We will be encouraging the families with children to attend these masses so we can worship together before class. There will also be a children's liturgy at each of these Mass's for younger children in Grades K-4.

We are excited about the curriculum, mixing the old with the new. The old will be the continued use of the *Be My Disciple* series which was carefully chosen in the past and is a quality program. One of the new changes will also be the sharing with the catechist and the parents the online resources this publisher offers. This will give the catechist more resources and open some options for parents who want to work with their child. One big change will be the program for the second grade class who are preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. It is a brand new program called "*Blessed*" from Dynamic Catholic, which uses animated stories to assist the catechist in helping each child understand, to the best of their ability, the importance of the two sacraments they are about to enter into. Just as this grade will be making better use of video learning we hope to encourage that concept more in the other grades.

We are also excited about the opportunity to educate our 5th and 6th grade young people here at our church Sunday mornings. The catechist, Fr. John and myself, will share our faith and guide them in a more hands on understanding of the mass.

Lastly, with Jen's help we will offer a more digital way of communicating between the parent and the program using apps that utilize text and email contact.

As parents, (my wife and I have two children) it is our responsibility to raise our children in the Catholic Faith. To help them understand it and appreciate it. To encourage them to ask the tough questions and be willing to dig into the depths of the wisdom of the Catholic Church to find answers. Speaking for myself, Jen and the catechist, we are "Blessed" to have the opportunity to assist the parents in helping their children understand their Faith.

If you have a child in these grades and you need some help with this great responsibility we are here for you. You are also welcome to help. (CPSL Clearances are required. Contact Julie at the office for more information on the clearances). Forms are available on the counter in the back of church to register your child and are also available on the parish website www.seasnh.org.

Questions regard the program can be sent to me at jcieslewicz@dioceseofgreensburg.org and Jen at jhenry3@dioceseofgreensburg.org. If you need to talk by phone please call the office at 724-864-6364 and someone will get back to you.

Have a "Blessed" day!

Deacon Jeff Cieslewicz