

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH

1401 Coral Ridge Drive • Coral Springs, Florida 33071-5420
Telephone 954-753-3330 • Fax 954-753-8442 • setonparishoffice@gmail.com

Rev. Edward M. Kelly, Pastor
Rev. Randall Musselman, Associate Pastor

BAPTISM

Please visit www.stelizabethannseton.org/sacraments/baptism for dates of future baptism classes.

- According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, baptism is the first sacrament and gives access to the other required sacraments. It is also the act that forgives sins, grants spiritual rebirth, and makes one a member of the Catholic Church. We as Catholics also believe that Jesus requires one's Baptism to receive eternal life.
- Jesus taught that Baptism is necessary for salvation. "No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit" (Jn 3:5). After his Resurrection, Jesus met with the eleven Apostles and gave them the commission to preach the Gospel and Baptize, telling them, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." (Mk 16:16).
- To baptize a child under the age of seven at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, you must be registered and active members of the parish for at least 6 months. The parents of the baby or the person who legitimately takes their place must consent to the child being baptized and there must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion. Regular participation in Sunday Mass is the chief way to inspire hope that the child will be brought up in the practice of the Catholic faith. If such hope is altogether lacking, and the child is not in immediate danger of death, the celebration of Baptism will be delayed.
- Baptisms are normally celebrated at St. Elizabeth twice a month on Sundays at 1:00 pm. The celebration of Baptism must be properly prepared. Parents and sponsors must be instructed on the meaning of the sacrament and the obligations attached to their roles.

Parent's Preparation

For the grace of Baptism to unfold, the parents' help is important. A child is not admitted to Baptism without the consent of both parents.

Parents are required to do the following:

1. Fill out registration form which can be obtained from the link below or the parish office.
2. Both parents must sign the form, giving permission for the Church to Baptize your child.
3. Submit a copy of the birth certificate.
4. Submit written permission from the parish in which you reside or worship, if other than St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.
5. Attend a Baptism Class.
6. Choose Godparents who will participate in the Catholic formation of their child.
7. Have Godparents provide a letter of sponsorship from their local church. The "sponsor form" must be on a church letterhead with a raised seal. In addition, a "Godparent Declaration" must be filled out and signed accordingly.
8. Have Godparents submit proof of their own Baptism, Communion and Confirmation and proof of attendance at a Baptism Class.
9. Educate their children in their faith, especially by the way they live their own Baptismal calling.

The baby is not considered registered for Baptism until ALL requirements are fulfilled, and then the date for the baptism will be confirmed. It is your responsibility to make sure all the requirements are completed at the stipulated times.

BAPTISM CLASS

Parents and Godparents must attend a Baptism class.

- Baptism classes at St. Elizabeth are held once a month at the Deacon's discretion (class days can vary). Please visit www.stelizabethannseton.org/sacraments/baptism for dates of future baptism classes. Pre-registration is required. Classes begin promptly at 7:00pm in the Administration Meeting Room next to the Community Center. It is important to sign in when you enter the room, "letters of attendance" will be issued only to those who have signed in. *We respectfully ask that you make other arrangements for children.*
- If scheduling is difficult, it is not necessary to attend the Baptism class at St. Elizabeth, most parishes in the area hold baptism classes once a month. You will need to contact them for dates and times and determine whether you need to register prior to the class. When classes are taken in another Parish, a certificate or statement from that Church must be presented stating the date of the class.
- Godparents may attend a class at their local Church and provide proof of attendance.

Godparents

Congratulations! You have been asked to be a Godparent/sponsor. The role of a Godparent/sponsor is more than merely ceremonial. It is a ministry and a responsibility. A godparent/sponsor stands for the Church and this representation must manifest an authenticity.

- The Church has requirements that must be fulfilled to act as a Godparent/sponsor. However, the first question is not whether the Church will permit you to be a Godparent/sponsor, but whether you can allow yourself to be one! Can you honestly say you live your faith and model Christ-like living?
- Each one of us must ask, "Does my integrity allow me to stand at the altar and make a public profession that the faith I proclaim in Word is truly a faith that I practice?"
- The role of Godparent/sponsor does not demand that we be a saint, and all of us have need of God's mercy as we travel on our Christian faith journey. It often happens that we are asked to act as a Godparent/sponsor even though we may not be actively practicing our faith. Family members or friends sometimes feel compelled to ask you because of tradition, unaware that you no longer practice your Catholic faith.
- If you are in this situation, we invite you to grow in your faith and uphold your integrity. You could sit down with a priest, deacon, or a practicing Catholic family member or friend who can help you take a new path in your faith.
- Perhaps you are not ready for this honor and new responsibility. If you cannot bring yourself to a renewed practice of faith, then please be honest enough to simply ask your relative or friend to excuse you because you are not able to fulfill this role properly. This is what is meant by a Call to Integrity.
- If we can be of any assistance in your decision or in helping you respond to the grace that this occasion provides you, please contact us. A request to be a Godparent/sponsor can be a graced-filled moment inviting you to turn again to Christ. Every child deserves and needs a good role model.

Remember the issue here is not whether you are a good person with high moral values, but whether you **practice the Catholic faith in accordance with the basic requirements listed below.** To be Catholic you must be involved in worship and the sacramental life of the Catholic Church.

Requirement for Being a Godparent in the Catholic Church ~ Code of Canon Law, Chapter IV (CAN.874)

- Be at least 16 years of age and fully initiated in the Catholic Church having received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- Attend Mass regularly on Saturdays/Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) and Holy Communion with regularity.
- Sincerely try to follow the moral teaching of the Catholic Church.
- If married, married in the Catholic Church.
- If single, living a chaste life and not cohabiting with another person.
- May not be the parent of the child.

Thank you for giving this your best consideration and prayers. This will help you make the best decision and respond well to this Call to Integrity.

Godparent Qualifications

- Ideally, both Godparents will be practicing Catholics, active in their parish and attending Sunday Mass regularly. They must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation, and must be over 16 years of age.
- Each godparent must provide a Sponsor Certificate from their parish, verifying that they meet the above criteria. The "sponsor form" must be on a Church letterhead with a raised seal from their Church. In addition, a "Godparent Declaration Form" must be filled out and signed accordingly. ***All documents must be received in the parish office before a Baptismal date will be reserved.***
- Under difficult circumstances, it is acceptable for only one Godparent to fulfill the requirements outlined above. The other Godparent would be a ***Christian-Witness***; however this person must be a baptized believer.
- ***Note:*** Only one (1) Godparent (sponsor) is required. If you have two (2) Godparents; one must be a male and one must be a female. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton will allow you to have other persons present who you feel would be good Catholic and Christian role models for your child. However, only two can be recorded as Godparents on the official Baptismal Record.

Stipend

- We encourage you to donate to our parish to help us defray our expenses. We kindly ask you to make your donation when you complete the Baptism Registration Form. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
- If your current financial situation is such that you cannot make a donation, please let us know.

Should you have any questions or need assistance, please contact:

Deacon Mario & Olga Lopez

Phone: 954-753-3330

setonbaptism@gmail.com



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

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BAPTISM REGISTRATION

Date _____

Are you registered members of St Elizabeth Ann Seton?

Yes, Family Name _____ Envelope Number _____

No

Other (Members of _____ Parish)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

CHILD'S NAME _____

Child's Gender: Male Female

Date of Birth _____ or Due Date _____

City of Birth _____ State _____

Was Child Adopted? Yes No

FATHER'S NAME _____

Religion _____

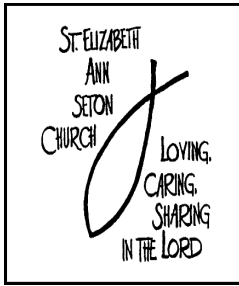
MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME _____

Religion _____

Marital Status _____ Married by a Catholic Priest? Yes No

I choose to have my child baptized. _____
Father's Signature

I choose to have my child baptized. _____
Mother's Signature



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GODPARENT'S

Important Information Regarding the Selection of Godparents

GODPARENT QUALIFICATIONS:

Ideally, both Godparents will be practicing Catholics, active in their parish and attending Sunday Mass regularly. They must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation, and must be over 16 years of age.

Godparents must provide a Sponsor Certificate from their parish, verifying that they meet the above criteria. **In addition, a "Godparent Declaration" must be filled out and signed accordingly. These documents must be received in the parish office before a Baptismal date will be reserved.**

Under difficult circumstances, it is acceptable for only one Godparent to fulfill the requirements outlined above. The other Godparent would be a **Christian Witness**, however this person must be a baptized believer.

GODFATHER'S NAME: _____

Is the Godfather Catholic?

Yes, Parish Attending _____ No

Please check one:

GODFATHER: WILL WILL NOT be able to provide a Sponsor Certificate

GODMOTHER'S NAME: _____

Is the Godmother Catholic?

Yes, Parish Attending _____ No

Please check one:

GODMOTHER: WILL WILL NOT be able to provide a Sponsor Certificate

Note: Only one (1) Godparent (sponsor) is required. If you have two (2) Godparents; one must be a male and one must be a female. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton will allow you to have other persons present who you feel would be good Catholic and Christian role models for your child. However, only two can be recorded as Godparents in the official Baptismal Record.



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GODPARENT/SPONSOR DECLARATION

I [**godparent/sponsor printed name**] _____
affirm in all sincerity that the requirements as set forth are truly fulfilled. I recognize that I will be called to renew the promises of my own baptism, to reject sin and profess my faith in Jesus Christ. I also recognize this requires that I truly practice my faith by attending Saturday/Sunday Mass, by prayer, generous concern for others, and by living an upright Catholic life under the mercy of God. With this in mind, I promise to be the best possible example in word and deed to:

Name of person being baptized/confirmed (Please print)

Signature of godparent/sponsor

Date

FOR SEAS OFFICE USE ONLY

_____ SEAS certifies that the above named person is an active parish member since _____
with envelope number _____.

_____ SEAS certifies that the above named person is registered but inactive (does not use envelopes).

Rev. Edward M. Kelly

Date

REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING A GODPARENT/SPONSOR IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CODE OF CANON LAW, CHAPTER IV (CAN.874)

- Be at least 16 years of age and fully initiated in the Catholic Church having received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
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- Sincerely try to follow the moral teaching of the Catholic Church.
- If married, married in the Catholic Church.
- If single, living a chaste life and not cohabiting with another person.
- May not be the parent of the child.

If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, please sign this form.

REV. 7/13/17

“With God All Things Are Possible.” Mark 10:27



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