



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Baptismal Guidelines

Baptism of Infants and Children:

1. It is an obligation to be a registered member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton to seek baptism, otherwise a meeting must be scheduled with the Pastor for proper permissions.
2. First-time parents and second-time parents (if it has been more than 5 years since the previous baptism class attended) preparing for the baptism of their infant are expected to participate in a preparation class prior to the baptism of their child.
3. Preparation classes are scheduled on the first Tuesday of each month unless otherwise noted on the schedule. Class registration is not required.
4. If they are able, Godparents are also encouraged to participate in this class as well.

Sponsors for Baptism by Canon Law of the Catholic Church (Canons 872-874):

1. In the baptism of infants, parents take responsibility for choosing godparents who will serve as good examples for living the Catholic way of life and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.
2. Though selection of two godparents is customary, there must be only one male godparent or one female godparent or one of each.
3. A godparent must have completed his or her 16th year of age.
4. A godparent must be a confirmed Catholic and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with this function.
5. A godparent must not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared (i.e. married outside of the church, etc.)
6. A baptized non-Catholic Christian can be chosen as a Christian witness provided there is at least one Catholic godparent.
7. A godparent cannot be a parent of the one to be baptized.
8. Non-baptized persons may not serve as witnesses or godparents.

The Role of the Godparent:

People sometimes choose godparents for purely social reasons. And sometimes parents experience social pressure as a result, feeling obligated to choose a particular relative or friend to stand as godparent to their child because they do not want to offend this person or make him or her feel left out. The Church understands this dilemma, but insists that social reasons cannot be the main consideration in the selection of a godparent.

People sometimes choose godparents for another reason. They think of godparents as designated legal guardians – persons who will look after their children if something should happen to them. This is not necessarily the case. The Church maintains that choosing a godparent for this reason should not be the chief consideration.

The godparent's role is simply and solely to assist the parent in giving the child a Catholic upbringing. Therefore, choosing godparents for your child is very important.

The Responsibilities of Godparents:

- Before baptism: godparents should check on the level of their own faith and practice;
- During baptism: they join with the parents and the community in professing the faith of the Church – the faith into which the child is being baptized;
- After baptism: godparents can exercise their responsibilities in two ways:
- By praying each day for their godchild and for his or her family;
- By witnessing the Christian life through their example.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish encourages parents who are preparing for their child's baptism to pray for God's help and guidance, and to ponder carefully their choice of godparents. If you are unable to come up with any suitable godparents, the Pastor can help provide options from our parish family to help support you!

Scheduling Baptisms:

1. Baptisms are scheduled as follows:
 - Saturday following the 4:30pm Mass
 - Sunday following the 9am Mass
 - Other Days/Times as scheduled and available with our Priests
2. Please contact Beatriz in the Church office to schedule a Baptismal date.

*Please remember that it is customary to give the priest a stipend as a sign of thanksgiving for baptizing your child.