



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

Rev. Edward M. Kelly, Pastor

Rev. Mathew Varghese, Associate Pastor

1401 Coral Ridge Drive, Coral Springs, Florida 33071-5420

Telephone 954-753-3330 • www.stelizabethannseton.org • setonparishoffice@seasrc.org

Baptismal Preparation

We at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton are happy that you want to have your baby baptized. The baptism of your child provides an opportunity for your entire family to reflect on a faith-filled life and spirituality. In bringing your child to the Church to receive this Sacrament, you are saying that you desire to share your living faith with your child. This is a step you are taking to raise your child within the community of believers and to educate them in the Catholic faith.

First Steps

1. Download and fill out a baptismal registration form.
2. Return the completed form to the parish office with a copy of your child's birth certificate.
3. At this time, you will have the opportunity to sign up for a baptismal class on our website.
4. Upon completion of the class the Baptism of your child can be scheduled.

Age of Child

Under ordinary circumstances, parents should see to the baptism of their infants within the first few weeks/months. The first consideration in determining the time is the welfare of the child. If the child is sickly, the baptism should not be unduly delayed.

If your child is seven years or older, we will work with you to find the best pathway that leads your child to the Sacrament of Baptism.

Membership

When you call the parish office at SEAS or come in to talk to us about the baptism of your child, we will look and see if **a.)** you are registered in the parish and **b.)** you practice your faith. If you are not registered, now is the time to register! Once your family is registered, then we ask that you begin your journey to baptism.

Although the Sacrament of Baptism does not have a cost for parishioners, the day of the Baptism you will have the opportunity to make a donation to the church.

Non-Members

However, there are always special cases, and for good reasons, we are happy to work with non-members to provide the Sacraments of the Church to their children. In the case of non-members, we ask for a letter of permission and delegation from the pastor of their home parish.

Baptismal Preparation Classes

It is necessary that both parents attend a baptism class if this is their first child being baptized. If both parents have attended a baptismal preparation class within the last 5 years, we would welcome their participation but do not require that they attend again.

You may attend classes online or at a neighboring parish. Please check their class schedules. A *letter of verification of attendance from that church is required.*

Requirements for Parents

At least one of the parents should be a practicing Catholic willing to commit to the task of rearing their child in the faith of the Church. Parents should accept that they are the first and foremost teachers of the faith.

Often times the baptism of the child encourages the parents to participate fully in the practice and living of their faith. The birth of the child and the desire to have that child baptized serves as a catalyst for the parents to return to a faith filled life within the Catholic community.

Requirements for Godparents/Sponsors

Godparents need to be actively emerged in the Catholic tradition. They serve as models and guides in the life of the child and the parents. They, along with the priest and parents, welcome the child to the community and signify that welcome by marking the child with the Sign of the Cross. Godparents promise to support the parents in raising the child in the practice of the faith.

Choosing a godparent/sponsor is a very personal decision, however, the Church does ask that certain requirements be met:

- At least 16 years of age.
- A practicing Catholic who is baptized and confirmed and has received First Communion.
- Someone other than the parents of the child to be baptized.
- Leading a life in harmony with the Catholic faith and the role they are about to assume.

Note: Only one godparent/sponsor is required. As long as one of the godparents is a practicing Catholic, a baptized practicing non-Catholic Christian may serve as a "Christian Witness" as a second sponsor to the baptism. A Christian Witness is not required to take the baptismal preparation class, but they are welcome to attend.

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Baptism Registration Form

Welcome to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church.

It is a diocesan requirement that the parents and the godparents attend a Pre-Baptismal class in order to schedule a date for the Baptism of your child.

Please call the parish office to schedule the date after all required documents have been obtained and returned to the parish office.

Today's Date _____

FAMILY INFORMATION (Please Print Clearly)

Registered Member ____ Yes ____ No

If No, who is the Registered Member: _____

Child's Full Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Is child adopted? ____ Yes ____ No

Father's Name _____ Father's Religion _____

Mother's Name _____ Mother's Religion _____

Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Married ____ Yes ____ No If Yes, name of church: _____

Home Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Baptism Class Attended ____ Yes ____ No If Yes, Date & Where Attended _____

Father's Signature _____ Mother's Signature _____

GODPARENT INFORMATION (Please Print Clearly)

Godfather's Name _____ Religion _____

Parish Attending _____ If SEAS – Envelope # _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Baptism Class Attended ____ Yes ____ No If Yes, Date & Where Attended: _____

Godmother's Name _____ Religion _____

Parish Attending _____ If SEAS – Envelope # _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Baptism Class Attended ____ Yes ____ No If Yes, Date & Where Attended: _____

Are the godparents represented by a proxy? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, please state names of proxy _____

(Godmother)

(Godfather)

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.

REV 09/2020



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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.
- 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.
- May not be the parent of the child.

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

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