

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

Baptismal Policy/Requirements

BAPTISM OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN:

1. First and second time parents preparing for the baptism of their infant are expected to participate in a preparation class prior to the baptism of their child.
2. Preparation classes are scheduled on the second Monday of the month.
3. Godparents are encouraged to participate in the class.
4. Catholic godparents will provide the Certificate of Eligibility signed by the pastor of the parish where they are registered. This form will be given to the parents to give to the godparents.

SPONSORS FOR BAPTISM - (AS STATED IN CODE OF CANON LAW):

- 1.) In the baptism of infants parents take responsibility for choosing a godparent or godparents who will serve as good examples for living the Catholic way of life.
- 2.) Although the selection of two godparents is customary, only one godparent is required for baptism. A godparent can be either male or female. If two godparents are chosen, one must be male and one female.
- 3.) A godparent must have completed his or her 16th year of age.
- 4.) A godparent must also be a fully initiated Roman Catholic who is free to celebrate the sacraments. A godparent must be a confirmed Catholic who has also received First Communion and is leading a life in harmony with the Catholic faith and the role of a sponsor.
- 5.) A baptized non-Catholic Christian can be chosen as a Christian witness provided there is at least one Catholic godparent.
- 6.) A godparent cannot be a parent of the one to be baptized.
- 7.) A godparent cannot be bound by any canonical penalty.
- 8.) Non-baptized persons may not serve as witnesses or godparents.
- 9.) Role/Responsibilities of the Godparent (Please see reverse side.)

SCHEDULING BAPTISMS:

1. After the class, please contact Maria in the Church office to schedule the date for the Baptism.
2. Baptisms are generally not scheduled during Lent except in emergencies.
3. Schedule for Parent Classes is on the reverse side.

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.

Only *one* godparent is necessary, although traditionally there are two: a godmother and a godfather.

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 to 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.

SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON PARISH BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASSES SCHEDULE FOR 2010

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
January 11	7:00 - 8:30 P.M.	School Library
February 8	7:00 - 8:30 P.M.	School Library
March 8	7:00 - 8:30 P.M.	School Library
April 12	7:00 - 8:30 P.M.	School Library
May 10	7:00 - 8:30 P.M.	School Library
June 14	7:00 - 8:30 P.M.	School Library
July 12	7:00 - 8:30 P.M.	School Library
August 9	7:00 - 8:30 P.M.	School Library
September 13	7:00 - 8:30 P.M.	School Library
October 11	7:00 - 8:30 P.M.	School Library
November 8	7:00 - 8:30 P.M.	School Library
December 13	7:00 - 8:30 P.M.	School Library

Policies for Baptisms of infants and children are on the reverse side.