

Baptisms at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

Congratulations on the birth or the anticipated birth of your child! We celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism here twice a month, except for the months of April and December, when it occurs only once. Baptisms begin at 1:15 PM, following the 12 Noon Sunday Mass. The Baptism ceremony is a prayer service and not a Mass. To maintain a sense of prayer and reverence, we cannot schedule more than twelve children at a time.

In order to prepare for your child's Baptism, please read or download the information contained below:

- Call the Parish Office at 737-4388 ext. 103(email:steas5@optonline.net) to schedule a Baptism interview with Brother Ferdinand, Pastoral Associate. At the time of the interview, your child's Baptism date will be officially booked. Dates for 2010 are listed to assist you.
- Parents must attend a Preparation class prior to their child's Baptism. These classes are scheduled for Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9 PM *once a month* in the Parish Hall. At the time of the interview, you will be assigned to a class.
- Choosing Godparents is something Parents do early on for their child. We strongly encourage you to read the Godparent criteria contained here before finalizing your choices.
- Complete Baptism inquiry form and bring it to the interview.

Once again, we offer our congratulations and blessings to you and your family.

Future Baptism Dates (all Sundays)

2010: 1/3, 1/17; 2/7, 2/21; 3/7, 3/21; 4/18;
5/2, 5/16; 6/6, 6/27; 7/11, 7/25; 8/8, 8/22; 9/12, 9/26; 10/3, 10/17; 11/7,
11/21; 12/12.

Godparent/Sponsor Choices

This is a most important decision that Parents are asked to make for their child. Please be aware of the tradition of the Catholic Church regarding these choices. Canon Law states the following:

General Issues:

For an infant (a child under the age of six) to be baptized in the Catholic Faith the following requirements must be met:

- There must be a “founded hope,” that the child will be raised a Catholic (i.e., some reason to believe that the child will be raised as a Catholic). (Canon 868)
- The parents (at least one) must consent to the baptism. (Canon 868)
- The child should be baptized as soon as possible after birth. Parents are obliged to see to it that infants are baptized *within the first weeks* after birth. (Canon 867)
- An infant in danger of death is to be baptized without delay. (Canon 867)
- A saint’s name is strongly encouraged, but is not a requirement. Old Testament names are permissible. However, no name offensive to the Catholic Faith is permitted (i.e., Lucifer, Kareem, etc.)
- The child of parents married outside the church, parents unmarried, or unwed mothers *may* and *should* be baptized. Parents are encouraged to speak to a priest.
- Baptism must occur in the parish church.

Godparents (sponsors)

- There may be one or two godparents (sponsors) to assist the child in leading a good Christian life. There can be no more than two godparents. (Canon 872)
- If there is to be only one godparents, the person may be either male or female.
- If there are two godparents, one *must* be male and the must be female. Two godparents of the same sex are not permitted in church law. **There are no exceptions to this law.** (Canon 873)
- At least one godparent must be a Catholic, and must:
 - Be at least sixteen years of age;
 - Have received Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation;
 - Be living an upright life;
 - Not have left the Catholic Church and joined another Church;
 - Not be either parent. (Canon 874)

An unbaptized person (i.e., one who is Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, etc.) may not be a Godparent or a Christian Witness. The reason for this is that at the baptism a godparent or witness is required to renew the promises made at their own baptism and profess their belief in Jesus

Christ. For obvious reasons, non-Christians cannot make this statement of belief, and so may not be Godparents or Christian Witnesses. **There are no exceptions to this law.** (Canon 874)

Once the baptism has been celebrated, the names of the godparents may not be changed for any reason whatsoever.

Adoptions

If there are two godparents, one must be male and the other must be female. A child who has been adopted may be baptized before the adoption is final, but this requires the permission of the Chancellor of the Diocese. To arrange for such permission, please contact Brother Ferdinand at the Parish Office at 737-4388 ext. 103.

If an adopted child has been baptized before the adoption, then there is no second baptism, but we would be happy to give the child a blessing as you welcome him or her into your lives.

Emergency Baptisms

Sometimes due to medical complications at or shortly after birth, children may be baptized under emergency circumstances. That emergency baptism is valid, and is all that is necessary for the child's salvation. However, after the child recovers, the Church can supply those parts of the baptismal not performed during the emergency baptism.

If your child was baptized in a hospital, the baptism will be recorded in the local parish. You may have the baptismal record transferred to your home parish by applying to the Office of the Diocesan Chancellor.

Miscellaneous:

Donation: a free will offering.

Parents are encouraged to make arrangements during the pregnancy, if possible.

Directions to the Church are available on the web site, if you need to supply them for family members.

The next page is the Inquiry Form.

BAPTISM INQUIRY FORM

(Please bring to Interview)

Child

Child's Name _____

Address _____

Town/Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Hospital: _____

Date for: Parent Preparation Class _____ Baptism _____

Parents

Mother _____ Parish _____

Sacraments received: Baptism Eucharist Confirmation

Father _____ Parish _____

Sacraments received: Baptism Eucharist Confirmation

Godparents

Godmother _____ Parish _____

Sacraments received: Baptism Eucharist Confirmation

Godfather _____ Parish _____

Sacraments received: Baptism Eucharist Confirmation