



*Celebrating
The Sacrament of Baptism*



*Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
Shrub Oak, NY*



Five Easy Steps to Baptism

- 1. Read** this parish leaflet carefully.
- 2. Talk** with your spouse about a convenient date for baptism ceremony and the mandatory Baptism Instruction Class for Parents (11:00 AM, 2nd Saturday of each month)
- 3.** When the godparents you have chosen have their pastor's letters, **come to the rectory Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 5:00**, with the following:
 - “Baptism Registration Form (attached)
 - “Sponsors’ Eligibility Letters”
 - a \$50 voluntary offering in the (attached) envelope to support the parish’s work and to defray the cost of the personalized candle, medal, holy card and certificate we present to each family.

We must have these documents before we can schedule a baptism date.

4. No arrangements are made by telephone.

5. Plan ahead to *arrive early* for the celebration out of respect for our clergy and other families. Photographs and video are permitted during the ceremony, but we ask photographers to be *sensitive* to the sacred nature of the place and liturgy.

January 2009

CONGRATULATIONS!

All of us here at the parish rejoice with you, your family, and your friends at the birth of a unique person, made in God's image! We are honored to assist you in the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, the "gate of life" for your little one. Since a child is baptized into, and will be nourished in, a parish community, **we expect you and your family will worship with us every Sunday.** If you have been away from the practice of the faith, this is the opportune time to return with your little one. You will always be welcome here!



PARISHIONERS

"Your parish" is the Catholic Parish in which you *now* live, or where you worship on Sunday. Don't belong to your parish? Register at the rectory as soon as possible.

Pastors may only baptize their own parishioners, ensuring that each of them is cared for as they mature spiritually. **Seton parishioners** are those who live within Seton parish boundaries, **or** who have chosen to be a part of our parish, and are spiritually nourished here through regular worship on Sundays.

Non-Parishioners With a letter of permission for your child to be baptized outside his/her own parish, we will be happy to accommodate you.

GODPARENTS ARE *PRACTICING CATHOLICS*

“Godparent” is *not an honorary title* we give our friends or neighbors; it is a very special person who pledges before God to support you in educating your child in the Catholic faith.

Godparents must obtain a “Sponsor Eligibility” Letter from their present parish priest, indicating **they are at least 14 years of age, have received Confirmation, (if married) married in the Catholic Church, and faithfully practice the Catholic faith.** There must be at least one Catholic sponsor for each child. Other baptized, non-Catholic, Christians may act as “Christian witnesses” and stand next to the godparent.

SCHEDULE OF BAPTISMS

The Sacrament of Baptism is regularly celebrated on the **1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month at 1:30pm, and on the 4th Saturday at 12:00 noon.**

To reserve a date, you must bring the completed “Baptism Registration” form (attached), at least one “Sponsor Eligibility” letter, and if you wish, the Voluntary offering (\$50, suggested) to the rectory, Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 5:00. The other sponsor letter must be received at the rectory *before* the baptism.

*Preparation **Prior to the Baptism, all parents (expectant parents too) who have never attended the one-hour “Baptism Instruction Class for Parents” at Seton, are required to sign up at the rectory and then attend the 11:00 class on the 2nd Saturday of any month in Our Lady Memorial Chapel. You may bring your baby with you to the class.***