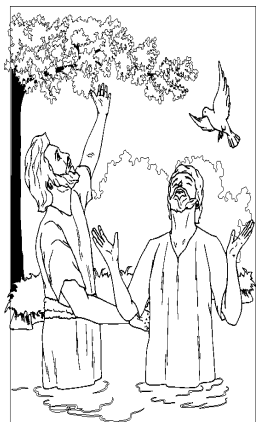


On behalf of our Parish Family, I'd like to welcome you to St. Elizabeth Seton Parish. There

are lots of activities, and lots of ways to get involved. You can get as much out of our Parish as you put in. St. Elizabeth Seton isn't just about Sunday Mass, it's about a way of life, a way of encountering Christ who is present in our Eucharist, in our worship and in our community. Thanks for joining us on this exciting and fulfilling journey. As St. Paul was fond of greeting the early Christian communities, may the grace and peace of God the Father, the love of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you and in your home always.



## Our Mission Statement

We who offer praise and worship as

*St. Elizabeth Seton Parish,*

a faith community journey

as a multigenerational

*people of God*

who welcome all fellow pilgrims into our midst

with

*hospitality, generosity and openness.*

Through our praise and worship and our

awareness of the

*Sacredness of creation,*

and our role as faithful stewards,

we strive to carry on the

*ministry of Christ*

by our full, conscious and active participation in

communal prayer,

our dedication to embracing the liturgy of the

Church in its fullness, and

*our sacramental presence*

within our local community.

We accomplish this by our commitment to the

*spiritual and social well-being*

of our parishioners, by our outreach

to the poor and those in need within our local

and extended community.

Through our active involvement in our

ministries and parish organizations,

*we empower each and every person,*

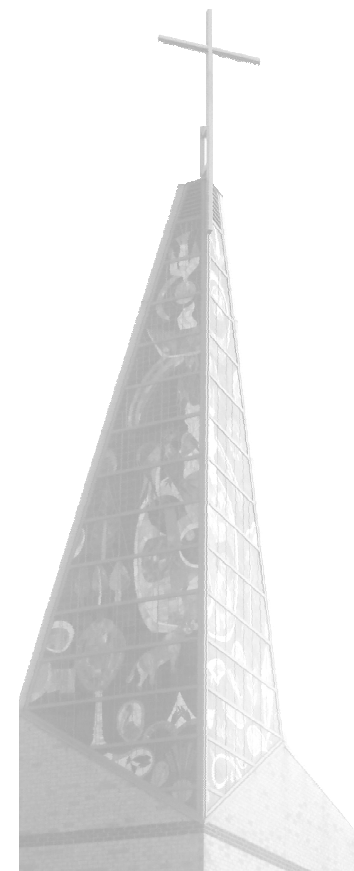
young and old

to express his or her baptism

thereby realizing

*the kingdom of God in our midst.*

# Welcome



**St. Elizabeth Seton Parish**  
**17955 Leslie Street**  
**Newmarket, Ontario**  
**L3Y 8L8**  
**905-853-5009**

# Our Patron

Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton was the first native born American to be canonized by the Catholic Church.

Born two years before the American Revolution, Elizabeth grew up in the "cream" of New York society. She was a prolific reader, and read everything from the Bible to contemporary novels.

In spite of her high society background, Elizabeth's early life was quiet, simple, and often lonely. As she grew a little older, the Bible was to become her continual instruction, support and comfort; she would continue to love the Scriptures for the rest of her life.

In 1794, Elizabeth married the wealthy young William Seton, with whom she was deeply in love. The first years of their marriage were happy and prosperous. Elizabeth wrote in her diary at first autumn, "My own home at twenty-the world-that and heaven too-quite impossible."

This time of Elizabeth's life was to be a brief moment of earthly happiness before the many deaths and partings she was to suffer. Within four years, Will's father died, leaving the young couple in charge of Will's seven half brothers and sisters, as well as the family's importing business. Now events began to move fast- and with devastating effect. Both Will's business and his health failed. He was finally forced to file a petition of bankruptcy.

In a final attempt to save Will's health, the Setons sailed for Italy, where Will had business friends. Will died of tuberculosis while in Italy. Elizabeth's one consolation was that Will had recently awakened to the things of God.

The many enforced separations from dear ones by death and distance, served to draw Elizabeth's heart to God and eternity. The accepting and embracing of God's will - "The Will," as she called it - would be a keynote in her spiritual life.

Elizabeth's deep concern for the spiritual welfare of her family and friends eventually led her into the Catholic Church.

In Italy, Elizabeth captivated everyone by her own kindness, patience, good sense, wit and courtesy. During this time Elizabeth became interested in the Catholic Faith, and over a period of months, her Italian friends guided her in Catholic instructions.

Elizabeth's desire for the Bread of Life was to be a strong force leading her to the Catholic Church.

Having lost her mother at an early age, Elizabeth felt great comfort in the idea that the Blessed Virgin was truly her mother. She asked the Blessed Virgin to guide her to the True Faith. Elizabeth finally joined the Catholic Church in 1805.

At the suggestion of the president of St. Mary's College in Baltimore, Maryland, Elizabeth started a school in that city. She and two other young women, who helped her in her work, began plans for a Sisterhood. They established the first free Catholic school in America. When the young community adopted their rule, they made provisions for Elizabeth to continue raising her children.

On March 25, 1809, Elizabeth Seton pronounced her vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, binding for one year. From that time she was called Mother Seton.

Although Mother Seton was now afflicted with tuberculosis, she continued to guide her children. The Rule of the Sisterhood was formally ratified in 1812. It was based upon the Rule St. Vincent de Paul had written for his Daughters of Charity in France. By 1818, in addition to their first school, the sisters had established two orphanages and another school. Today six groups of sisters trace their origins to Mother Seton's initial foundation. For the last three years of her life, Elizabeth felt that God was getting ready to call her, and this gave her joy. Mother Seton died in 1821 at the age of 46, only sixteen years after becoming a Catholic. She was canonized on September 14, 1975.

