



# SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH • WARREN, OHIO

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

To serve as a godparent or Confirmation sponsor is one of the highest honors and responsibilities of Catholic life. Godparents and Confirmation sponsors serve their godchildren by setting an example of discipleship. Faithful practice is the key criterion for selecting these witnesses. To be asked to serve in these roles conveys esteem and appreciation; however, it cannot be reduced to this. Above all, godparents are prayerful, supportive witnesses to the truth and virtues of our faith.

The Church delineates the following qualifications:

- 1.) There may be one or two godparents for Baptism (only one is required).
- 2.) When there are two, one is male (godfather) and the other female (godmother).
- 3.) Godparents and Confirmation sponsors must be Catholic.
- 4.) Non-Catholic Christians (who have never been Catholic) can serve as Christian witnesses for Baptism.

Godparents and Confirmation Sponsors must be:

- 1.) Not a parent of the individual to be baptized or confirmed.
- 2.) At least 16 years old.
- 3.) Fully initiated through Baptism, Confirmation, and first Holy Communion.
- 4.) Living an exemplary Christian life by attending Mass weekly, being an active, registered member of a parish, and demonstrating moral excellence.
- 5.) Validly married in the Church (if married).

Non-Catholic Christian Witnesses must be:

- 1.) Validly baptized in a non-Catholic church.
- 2.) Living and exemplary Christian life.

Godparents and sponsors who are members of Blessed Sacrament and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton must request a document verifying the above qualifications from the religious education office. If the designated godparent or sponsor is a member of a different parish, his or her pastor must sign a document verifying the qualifications.

I enthusiastically encourage those who would like to serve in these roles to seek my assistance to meet these qualifications. I am happy to help individuals to reconnect with the Church, receive any missed sacraments, and seek marriage convalidation when needed. If a qualified godparent cannot be found among friends and family, we can call upon members of our parish community. May God bless you!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Cicero