

Saint of the Month: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



1774-1821

Feast Day: January 4

Patron: Catholic schools,

those rejected or persecuted for their faith, orphans, widows,
those facing challenges in practicing their faith.

Lord God,
you blessed Elizabeth Seton
with gifts of grace
as wife and mother,
educator and foundress,
so that she might spend her life
in service to your people.

Through her example and prayers
may we learn to express our love for you
in love for our fellow men and women.

We ask this through Christ our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

**St. Thomas Aquinas
Whole Community Catechesis
August 21, 2019**

- 9:00-9:30am Check-In, Refreshments
*See the Conversation Starter Below
- 9:30-10:00am Welcome and Opening Prayer
Breaking Open the Word
- 10:00-10:05am Family Witness
- 10:05-10:50am Breakouts:
Adults: Whole Family Program Q & A
Children/Catechists to Church
- 10:50-11:00am Break
- 11:00-11:20am Kahoots: Liturgical Year Colors
- 11:20-11:30am Video-Saint of the Month:
St. Elizabeth Seton
- 11:30-11:45am Closing Prayer and Song
- 12:00pm Lunch
- *AFTERNOON SESSION to follow lunch.

CONVERSATION STARTER:

1. **Who's Who:** Introduce yourselves and share the parish and town from where you come.
2. **DISCUSS:** As a table discuss what CHANGE feels like. How do you respond to change? Does it feel "fresh and exciting" or like a large pit in your stomach and do you heels dig into the ground? How do you cope with change?

****Check out the "Extra Activities" Table****



A reading from Matthew 13: 31-32

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: The Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Jesus told [the disciples] another parable: "The kingdom of Heaven is like this. A man takes a mustard seed and sows it in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it grows up, it is the biggest of all plants. It becomes a tree, so that birds come and make their nests in its branches."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions to Discuss as a Table:

1. How do you define the word faith?

2. In this parable, how can we understand our personal faith as a mustard seed?

3. In the parable, how is a mustard seed and the manner in which it grows similar to the Kingdom of Heaven?

4. How does this parable relate to sharing our faith with each other and with our youth (through family, community, or religious education)?
