



Saint of the Week

Elizabeth Ann Seton

1774–1821

Feast Day—January 4

Raised Episcopalian in colonial New York City, Elizabeth married William Magee Seton, a merchant. The couple had five children. William died in 1803 in Italy, where Elizabeth learned about Catholicism from the family who gave her hospitality. Wars had bankrupted the family's shipping business. After becoming a Catholic in New York in 1805, the

now-poor Elizabeth was abandoned by old friends, but accepted the offer of a Baltimore priest to open a school for girls there. In 1809 she founded the U.S. Sisters of Charity, whose schools and orphanages grew in number. She became the first native-born U.S. saint in 1975 and is the patron of converts.



Saint Elizabeth Seton,
you knew the beauty of all human life
when you carried a child in your womb
and when, as a young widow,
a teacher, and founder of the Sisters of Charity,
you sought to live the Gospel of Life.
Inspire us, intercede for us, and be with us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

You know the sacrament of Holy Matrimony;
Teach us to support all families with faith and
truth.

You know the love of a good spouse;
Intercede for all newly married couples.

You know the stirring of the child in your womb;
Intercede for every unborn child.

You know the miracle of giving birth;
Pray for mothers tempted by abortion.



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The prayer to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is part of a Novena to Three American Saints for Life published at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/novena-to-three-american-saints-for-life.cfm>.

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