



NOVENA IN HONOR OF SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON

Holy Comforter—Saint Cyprian Parish
Washington, DC

*A “Novena” is a prayer repeated over **nine** days, for a particular intention or in preparation for a feast day. It takes its origin from Jesus’ instruction to the Apostles to remain in the City of Jerusalem until they were clothed with power from on high. They prayed for nine days, and on the tenth day (Pentecost) the Holy Spirit came.*

In this Novena we ask you to pray for our Sunday school religious education program which begins on September 23rd. Please ask the intercession of St. Elizabeth Seton, a patron of religious education, for our students, parents and teachers.

*If these prayers are prayed in a group, the roles of leader and “All” are delegated. If the prayer is prayed privately, one simply reads all the parts. **You can start this 9 day novena on any day that you wish and continue each day until you reach 9 days. This novena can be prayed before or after Sunday school begins so we ask you to consider praying this novena at any time.***

Leader: + In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created.

All: And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Let us pray. O God, who did instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise and ever to rejoice in His consolation, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: O Mary, conceived without sin,

All: Pray for us who have recourse to you.

Leader: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Let us pray in the words of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:

All: O Father, the first rule of our dear Savior's life was to do Your Will. Let His Will of the present moment be the first rule of our daily life and work, with no other desire but for its most full and complete accomplishment. Help us to follow it faithfully, so that doing what You wish we will be pleasing to you.
Amen.

Leader: Let us pray to Our Lord Jesus.

All: Lord Jesus Christ, make our hearts and souls to know and understand the grace of the Holy Sacrament of the Altar as St. Elizabeth Ann Seton did. Grant us her fervor in adoration, her ardor in Communion, and her unceasing desire for eternal union with You. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray the Memorare, which was the first prayer honoring Mary that St. Elizabeth Seton learned:

All: Remember, O most compassionate Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your assistance, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother; to you we come; before you we kneel sinful and sorrowful, O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your clemency hear and answer them. Amen.

Leader: Let us pause to ask God for the graces and favors we ask through the intercession of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton during this novena in her honor.

*(For this next section, privately make your personal petitions **and** also join us **each day** by adding the common petition below for that day.)*

- **Day one:** For our parents, the first educators of their children in the ways of faith. May they be strengthened to pray and read Scripture daily with their children, and teach them in the ways of faith.
- **Day two:** For our teachers: in gratitude for them and that they may have joyfully and zealously prepared for their classes.
- **Day three:** For our students, may they rejoice to hear the holy teachings and seek to live the truth they study.
- **Day four:** For our pastor and Minister of Religious Education, may they be guided and strengthened by the Holy Spirit in their planning, teaching and leadership.
- **Day five:** For our Adult Catechetical Programs that prepare converts or provide on-going catechesis for adults. And, for those who teach and those who study and prepare.
- **Day six:** For those preparing to enter the Church through baptism and those preparing to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. For those who teach them and those who are sponsors for them.
- **Day seven:** For those who assist our catechetical programs by preparing materials, providing food and other forms of assistance.
- **Day eight:** For all Catholics, that they be intentional about growing in their faith and learning more as the years go by.
- **Day nine:** For our whole parish, that we realize the importance of Religious education for children, adults, converts and all of us.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Lord God, You blessed Elizabeth Ann 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 Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Prayer of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Lord Jesus, who was born for us in a stable, lived for us a life of pain and sorrow, and died for us upon a cross; say for us in the hour of death, "Father, forgive", and to Thy Mother, "Behold they child." Say to us, "This day you shall be with me in paradise." Dear Savior, leave us not, forsake us not. We thirst for You, Fountain of Living Water. Our days pass quickly along, soon all will be consummated for us. To Your hands we commend our spirits, now and forever. Amen.

Leader: Final acclamations.

All: Elizabeth Ann Seton, you are a Saint for our time. Elizabeth Ann Seton, you are a woman of faith, for a time of doubt and uncertainty. Elizabeth Ann Seton, you are a woman of love, for a time of coldness and division. Elizabeth Ann Seton, you are a woman of hope, for a time of crisis and discouragement. Intercede for our Church and our country. Amen.