

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Preparation: Before beginning the prayer service, give each child a copy of this page and a strip of paper to make into a bookmark. Have each child transcribe Mother Seton's prayer at the bottom of this page onto his or her bookmark and decorate it. On the backs of the bookmarks have students write St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's mantra, which she said on her deathbed: "Be children of the Church." Have students bring their bookmarks and copies of this prayer service to the prayer table when ready to begin.



Leader: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton lived in early America. Although from a wealthy family, she faced a life of change, struggle, and adversity over and over again. Her heart was open to recognize God at work in her life and she never gave up.

All: St. Elizabeth, guide us to do the will of God.

Leader: As a convert to the Catholic faith, she was devout in her love of the Blessed Sacrament. The Eucharist gave her strength to face life as a widow, mother, and leader of nuns. She worked diligently for the sick, the poor, and orphans.

All: St. Elizabeth, guide us to do the will of God the way God wills it.

Leader: St. Elizabeth, foundress of the first American Catholic school, provided a foundation for the Catholic parochial school system we enjoy in our present day. She trained teachers and wrote textbooks. We thank God for Catholic education in our lives.

All: St. Elizabeth, guide us to do God's will because it is God's will.

Leader: It is not always our plan in life that we follow. We can ask for God's help through our petitions, but then we must put our faith in God, who knows what is truly best for all of us.

All: Dear Lord, whatever you bid me do, even if small in itself, if it is the will of God for me, let me do it in the manner God wills it.

Leader: Let us close with the prayer on our bookmarks.

All: O God,

As a little child relies
On a care beyond his own,
Let me thus with thee abide,
As my Father,
Guard and guide.

Amen.

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