

The Mission of the parish of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is:

That all be gathered into the family of God by teaching the truth of the Gospel and relying on the love, forgiveness, and healing of Jesus Christ.

This vision statement answers the question of why we exist as a parish. It comes from the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-21:

“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

Each word in the vision statement points to the Church’s primary role of evangelization.

“That all be gathered” - God calls all his children home. Evangelization takes place by serving the people currently in the parish, and all those outside of the Church. The USCCB states, “The simplest way to say what evangelization means is to follow Pope Paul VI, whose message *Evangelii Nuntiandi (On Evangelization in the Modern World)* has inspired so much recent thought and activity in the Church. We can rephrase his words to say that evangelizing means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself.⁶ At its essence are the proclamation of salvation in Jesus Christ and the response of a person in faith, which are both works of the Spirit of God.” “Jesus is found in our relationship with the community of Jesus—the Church. The way to Christ is through the community in which he lives.” ([What is Evangelization? - Go and Make Disciples | USCCB](#))

“into the family of God” – Throughout salvation history God refers to his relationship with his people as his family. God is our Father and we are his children. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is the place of God’s family. It is a place to grow in relationship with God the Father at Mass, the sacraments, and through other ministries. All of these places are to foster a deeper encounter with the living God to grow in holiness. God’s family is eternal.

“by teaching” - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was a teacher who started many schools. As our patron saint, we honor her and call upon her intercession by including her in the vision statement. Teaching the faith is a key to the mission of evangelization.

“truth of the Gospel” - Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). The primary task of evangelization is to provide the truth of the Gospel Proclamation in a compelling way through witness and testimony.

“and relying on the love, forgiveness, and healing of Jesus Christ” – The first words from Jesus in the Gospel of Mark are, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.” (RSV, Mark 1:15) Above all things, God is love and by his love he offers forgiveness and healing. “Evangelization, then, has different implications depending on our relationship to Jesus and his Church. For those of us who practice and live our Catholic faith, it is a call to ongoing growth and renewed conversion. For those who have

accepted it only in name, it is a call to re-evangelization. For those who have stopped practicing their faith, it is a call to reconciliation. For children, it is a call to be formed into disciples through the family's faith life and religious education. For other Christians, it is an invitation to know the fullness of our message. For those who have no faith, it is a call to conversion to know Christ Jesus and thus experience a change to new life with Christ and his Church.” ([What is Evangelization? - Go and Make Disciples | USCCB](#))

From the Mission of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish flows all the work of the church. How does the staff support the vision in word and deed? How can all the ministries and activities of the parish align with the vision? Finally, how does everyone in the parish understand and live out the vision in their life? The Vision of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton should be understood and experienced by everyone who enters the church by whatever door they enter.