Dear Engaged Couple,

Congratulations on your recent engagement and thank you for your interest in having a Sacramental Marriage through the Catholic Church. Parishioners both present and past are most welcomed to be married here. Engaged couples living in the parish would also be welcomed to celebrate their marriage here.

We hope the various points of information contained in this link will assist you in answering many of your questions.

After reviewing the information, please feel free to call the Parish Office (631-737-4388) and we will discuss with you the next steps.
GETTING MARRIED AT
ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON R.C. CHURCH
(Catholic weddings need at least 6 months preparation)

Complete the Faith Survey and return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible so you can be contacted for your Pre-Nuptial Interview (PNI).

**Please secure your wedding date at the church before reserving a reception date.**

HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY CHOSEN WEDDING DATE IS AVAILABLE? This question can only be answered after all documentation is completed and the church fee of $500 is submitted.

Dispensations are required if either party was married before, or if a Catholic is marrying someone of another faith. Please bring these matters to the attention of the priest/deacon arranging your wedding immediately. In some cases, these matters need extra time to process, especially if an annulment is needed. In fact, we are not permitted to schedule a wedding until the entire annulment process has been completed.

Canonical/Civil Requirements

Both the bride and groom must be at least 19 years of age. If either party is not 21 years of age, we are required to have signed permission from the couple’s parents.

LICENSE: You may apply at any town or city clerk’s office in the state of New York. Both applicants must apply in person. A New York state license is required and is valid only for this state. The license is valid for sixty (60) days. KEEP IN MIND THAT: WEDDING CEREMONIES CAN NOT BE PERFORMED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE LICENSE BEING ISSUED. FR. SIKORSKI REQUIRES THAT THE LICENSE BE BROUGHT TO THE PARISH OFFICE 1 MONTH BEFORE THE WEDDING.
TIMES FOR WEDDINGS

FRIDAYS: CEREMONIES ONLY
NO EARLIER THAN 4:30 pm
SATURDAYS: NUPTIAL MASS OR CEREMONY
12:00 or 2:30
SUNDAYS
CEREMONIES ONLY AT 3 PM

REHEARSALS: Usually take place early Thursday evening. Other times are handled on an individual basis.

FEES:
The church fee of $500 is to be paid at the initial meeting with the priest or deacon.

Music: A fee of $300 is paid to the organist/cantor. This fee is due at your initial meeting. You should call Theresa, 6 months to one year prior to your wedding (631-405-9702).

If you wish to bring your own musicians, you must discuss this with Marion in advance. Please note that the parish is obligated to the Parish Music Ministers and their fees must still be paid.

They will gladly be present at the wedding to assist the “guest musicians” with any questions or concerns about the organ or sound system.

Marriage Prep and F.O.C.C.U.S. $100.00

Complete the Pre Cana/Marriage Prep forms enclosed and return it to the Coordinator via the mail.

If you decide to take advantage of the Diocesan Pre Cana, please contact the Office of Faith formation at 516-678-5800 for specific dates/times. Their website may also be helpful: http://www.drvc-faith.org/marriagePrep.html.

Interfaith Pre Cana is also available through the Diocese. Please refer to the above information for specific assistance.
We also need you to submit a certificate that marriage preparation has been completed, **if it was not taken at our parish.**

If you wish to have a relative or family friend who is a priest or deacon preside over your wedding, please ask that person to write our Pastor: **Fr. Allan Sikorski** for delegation.

**PRACTICAL ISSUES FOR WEDDINGS**

Please always be considerate about being on time for your rehearsal and wedding. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to communicate the importance of being on time to their attendants and guests.

The day/time of your rehearsal will be discussed with the presider of your wedding well in advance. Please feel free to contact the Parish office with any questions.

**FLORAL PIECES/DECORATIONS**

It is always appreciated if you wish to leave any baskets for the church. **However we need to know about this prior to your wedding.** Please remind your florist that bows or pew decorations may not be taped to the pews. It is recommended that they use large rubber bands to secure these items. The florist may arrive at the church one hour before the ceremony to set up the pieces. Please confirm the time with the presider of your wedding.

**RELEASE FORMS**

**VIDEOGRAPHER, LIMOUSINE, PHOTOGRAPHER**

Please make sure all released forms have been signed and returned to the Parish office at least 1 month before your wedding. (Forms can be found on the website) Please be sure to instruct all photographers and the videographer to check in with the priest or deacon before the ceremony. **They have the final word in all matters.**
**DRONES**

Drones, in any capacity, are strictly *prohibited* inside the church, above the church, or anywhere near the church.

**RUNNERS**

Aisle runners are strictly *prohibited* because they create a safety hazard.

**Rice, etc.**

The throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti, flower petals and the releasing of balloons are *prohibited inside or outside the church*. Not only does it create a serious hazard, our insurance insists these items cannot be used. We also do not have a maintenance person available for cleanup. We need to be respectful and considerate about other events following your wedding at the Church. Bubbles seem to be the only acceptable alternative.

**PARTICIPATION PROGRAM**

Some couples wish to distribute a booklet outlining the ceremony or Mass. A sample booklet is available in the wedding packet you will receive.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE CHURCH**

You can download directions from the parish website at :http://www.steas.org/

**ONE FINAL WORD.......**

It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to insure that they, as well as all the attendants in their wedding party be alcohol free before the ceremony. Even following the wedding, we must insist that no alcoholic beverages be served while the limos are on church property.
The attire of those in the wedding and those participating as readers or gift bearers need to be appropriate and in good taste for Church. Again, some directions from the bride and groom are necessary and expected in this regard.

After all that is said and done, “You both have come together in this Church so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love in the presence of the Church, its ministers and this community....” With these words, the Church welcomes your wedding day and wants you both to know that we look forward to guiding you in preparing for your marriage.

All the above details are based on an underlying perception of marriage as a Sacrament, an event that is both a personal celebration and a Rite of Church.

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU BOTH AS YOU ENTER INTO THIS MOST SACRED UNION!**

For questions/concerns, please call the office at (631) 737-4388

**Attachments:**

F.O.C.C.U.S./Pre-Cana registration form

F.O.C.C.U.S. explanation

Checklist for engaged couples

Survey-(2) Re-examining My Faith

**FOCCUS IS A SELF-DIAGNOSTIC INSTRUMENT DESIGNED TO HELP COUPLES LEARN MORE ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THEIR UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP. IT IS NOT A TEST NOR MEANT AS A PREDICTOR OF SUCCESS OR FAILURE IN MARRIAGE. IT IS A TOOL TO HELP COUPLES NAME AND WORK THROUGH ISSUES BEFORE MARRIAGE.**
FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study) provides individualized couple feedback on where each partner stands in regard to topic areas important to marriage. The results of the inventory point to issues and areas that may need to be addressed.

FOCCUS I (an online instrument) uses trained facilitator couples to guide the engaged as they look at patterns in their responses, discuss issues and solve problems.

The content for discussion in FOCCUS reflects the current body of knowledge about the elements necessary for a successful marriage. There is also content on key contemporary and specialized needs of couples: couples who cohabit before marriage, dual career marriages, interchurch and second marriages.

FOCCUS was developed to reflect the values and ideals of marriage as sacred. The *Marriage Covenant* questions in FOCCUS deal with permanency, fidelity, unconditional love, openness to children and shared faith in God (From the Facilitator Notebook).

The newly issued: Marriage Preparation Policy” for the Diocese of Rockville Centre issued by the bishop:

“The use of a pre-marital inventory (e.g. FOCCUS) is strongly urged. The Pontifical Council recommends that we make use of pedagogical and psychological aids that have a sound orientation in our efforts toward qualifying marriage preparation. We believe that all couples will benefit from beginning the process of marriage preparation with a pre-marital inventory such as FOCCUS…an instrument such as FOCCUS can help the engaged couple (…..) together with the guidance of sponsor couples and clergy, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of their relationship.
FOCCUS also helps couples identify areas of agreement and disagreement, both with each other and with Church teaching.”

In keeping with the Diocesan Policy regarding Marriage Preparation, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton normally requires the use of FOCCUS by all couples preparing for marriage in our parish.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FOCCUS:**

“How do you register for FOCCUS? Fill out the FOCCUS registration form in your packet and mail it to the Saldiveris.

What will happen next? You will be notified by a FOCCUS coordinator to set up your online FOCCUS session.

Is there a fee? Yes. We are asking each couple to send a $100.00 check to the Saldiveri’s to cover your FOCCUS and Pre-Cana.

What happens after we fill out the FOCCUS instrument? After completing your online FOCCUS session, you will be contacted to schedule an evening within the following 2 weeks, to meet with a facilitator couple at their home, to go over the areas of concerns reflected by the FOCCUS instrument.
PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO THE NAME NOTED BELOW.

Marriage Preparation – FOCCUS Registration Form

Wedding Date______________         Today’s Date___________

Groom: _____________________ Religion: __________Age___

Address/town/zip:________________________________________

Home phone____________________ Cell__________________

Parish: ______________________ Occupation: _____________

Email (Must not be same as bride’s): __________________________

Bride: _________________________ Religion __________Age___

Address/town/zip:________________________________________

Home phone: ____________________Cell: ________________

Parish: ______________________   Occupation: _____________

Email: (Must not be the same as the
groom’s)________________________________

Please complete the form and return as soon as possible! There is a $100 Fee which should accompany this form. Please make the check payable to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. Return both the form and the check to our Pre-Cana Coordinator: Mr. and Mrs. J. Saldiveri

71 Brunswick Rd.
Ronkonkoma, N. Y. 11779

THE SALDIVERIS WILL CONTACT YOU BY TELEPHONE WHEN THEY RECEIVE THIS FORM. Any questions can be directed to them at 631- 585- 8968.
PARISH FOR PRE-CANA SESSIONS &
ONLINE FOCCUS SESSIONS

Marriage Preparation consists of FOCCUS and Pre-Cana Sessions.

1. **FOCCUS** is a valuable tool used at the beginning pf the marriage preparation process to enhance communication between the couple preparing for marriage. Once you return Registration form, you will be contacted by the Saldiveris, our Pre-Cana Coordinators, to verify your information, and to arrange your online FIOCCUS inventory session.

   **Once the session is arranged, you will each receive an email with a user name and password enabling you to complete your online inventory.**

2. **The PRE-CANA SESSIONS** are offered at various times during the year. They are designed to support and guide couples with the Catholic Perspective on Marriage as a Vocation and Sacrament. Couples are shown how to grow in their faith while respecting one another’s religious heritage. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish has trained couples who lead the sessions and guide the engaged couples throughout the process.

   **Next Sessions**
   TBD

WE STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT ENGAGED COUPLES SIGN UP FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. It is not advisable to wait until a few months before your wedding to enroll. For those with unusual work schedules, we recommend contacting the Diocese for other session options.
Engaged couples checklist

RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

ALL ONLINE FORMS ARE TO BE RETURNED TO PAT MYSTKOWSKI AT THE PARISH OFFICE. YOU WILL THEN BE CONTACTED BY FR. SIKORSKI OR ONE OF OUR DEACONS TO ARRANGE THE PRE-NUPTIAL INTERVIEW (PNI). YOUR WEDDING DATE CAN ONLY BE SECURE ONCE WE HAVE A NEWLY ISSUED BAPTISMAL FOR BOTH THE BRIDE AND GROOM, A CHECK FOR $500 MADE OUT TO ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CHURCH, AND ALL REQUIRED PAPERWORK (annulments, defective forms...)

COMPLETED FOCUS REGISTRATION FORM MAILED TO THE Saldiveri’s with $100.00 check (Must be done at least 1 yr. in advance of your wedding).

SIX MONTHS TO ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE: Contact musician Theresa Santos (631-405-9702) to discuss wedding music and any other special arrangements you may need.

SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE: Contact the clergy performing your wedding for assistance with: setting date/time for rehearsal and for help in planning or choosing prayers, blessings and readings for your wedding Mass or ceremony.

ONE MONTH BEFORE: BRING WEDDING LICENSE TO THE OFFICE.BRING ALL RELEASES (videographer, photographer, limo) TO THE OFFICES.

ONE WEEK BEFORE: ATTEND REHEARSAL AND CLEAR UP ANY LAST MINUTE CONCERNS. BEFORE THE REHEARSAL, BE SURE TO KNOW THE ARRANGEMENT OF YOUR PROCESSION WITH THE BRIDESMAIDDS AND USHERS AND WJHERE APPLICABLE, FLOWER GIRL OR RING BEARER. THIS WILL SAVE A LOT OF TIME
Re-Examining My Faith
for Engaged Couples (Bride’s copy)

Name____________________________________Age:_____

Please complete this survey fully. As you answer the multiple choice questions, put a check mark near the statements that best describe you.

★ This instrument was designed to help engaged couples to reflect on their faith as they begin preparation for their wedding day and their future lives as married couples.

★ Re-Examining My Faith is an instrument whereby you can express your views on what is important to you about your future marriage and how we may be able to answer some of your questions about your relationship to God and to the Catholic Church.

★ Re-Examining My Faith is not a test; it is not about passing or failing. It is about reflecting on your marital relationship and your faith in God. We ask you to answer ALL the multiple choice questions. Put a check mark ✓ near the statements that best describe you and your views or write your own comments.

★ This will only take about ten minutes to complete. Please complete the survey alone. We are not looking for agreement. There are no right or wrong answers.

★ While this survey was designed for Catholics, people of other faiths are also asked to complete it. Since you are marrying a Catholic, your views on God, on the Church and on family life are very relevant to your partner and to us. Please do your best to answer each question.

★ Your answers to questions 10 and 11 are very important to the priest or deacon as he prepares to meet you for the first time. Requests for information will be ready and available to you at that first meeting. It is essential to return both questionnaires so an appointment may be made to schedule your wedding date on the Church calendar.
Your Religious Experience

1. Religious Influence
   The people who have most influenced me in coming to know God and having faith in God are:
   □ Both My Parents
   □ a religion teacher
   □ a Catholic school teacher
   □ Mother
   □ a religious person
   □ a family member
   □ other

2. I consider myself:
   □ a good human being
   □ a Christian
   □ a Catholic
   □ all of the above
   □ none of the above

3. Religious Services
   □ I attend Mass
   □ I attend another type of religious service
      □ weekly
      □ occasionally
      □ seldom

Your Perspective on Marriage

4. Which of the following statements best describes your understanding of the importance of marriage? Check those statements which most nearly express what is important to you. The answers you give will form the basis for a discussion with your priest/deacon.
   □ Marriage should be celebrated as soon as possible after the couple gets engaged.
   □ Marriage is a life-long relationship.
   □ Marriage is a relationship based on loyalty and love.
   □ Marriage should not be celebrated until the couple receives proper preparation.
   □ other
5. What difference will it make to you in having your marriage blessed in the Church?
☐ I will be closer to my spouse.
☐ I will be closer to God.
☐ I will receive special graces to help me live my marriage.
☐ I will have a solid foundation for our future together.
☐ Other

6. Your Perspective on being a Catholic
6. What does it mean to belong to the Catholic Church?
☐ Belonging to the Church is a matter between God and myself. Once I have been baptized and know the fundamentals of the Faith, it is up to me to simply stay away from serious sin and go to Mass on Sunday.
☐ Belonging to the Church is like belonging to my own family. It’s an important part of my life.
☐ Belonging to the Church includes being registered in the parish near where I live.
☐ Belonging to the Church means accepting the teachings of Jesus and patterning our lives after them and becoming involved in my parish.
☐ Other

7. What does it mean to raise children in the Catholic Faith?
☐ The Church is responsible for the education of the children. Once parents have baptized their children, their job is to send the children to Religious Education classes once they reach the first grade level in school and let someone else teach their children about their faith.
☐ Parents have the responsibility and privilege to share their values, including faith in God, with their children by words and by example.
☐ Parents provide a positive and religious example in their homes for their children as well as in their parish by having their children participate in religious education classes and in Sunday worship.
☐ Parents ensure that their children receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly.
☐ Other
Your Future Marriage

8. Noted below are the personal qualities I consider most important in the person that I wish to marry.

(Check those that apply to your future spouse)

☐ Responsible
☐ Loyal Mature
☐ Loving
☐ Dependable
☐ Shares My Faith
☐ Independent
☐ Other

Your Family of Origin

9. A. The two things I learned about married life from my parents' marriage that I want to make real in our marriage are:


B. The two things I learned about family life from my parents that I want to make real in our family are:


C. The two things I learned about God and my religious heritage from my parents that I will share with my spouse and children are:


Here is How We Can Help You

10. At the parish of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, we are a warm and welcoming community of people caring for each other. How can we help you to become a closer part of this parish family? Check the appropriate boxes below.
☐ We will not be living in this area after our wedding but will register at another parish.
☐ Provide me with a copy of the parish bulletin containing the Mass schedule.
☐ Provide me with a census card so we may register as parishioners.
☐ Other ____________________________________________________________

11. How can we assist you in your faith life? Check the appropriate boxes below.

☐ Provide me with information about prayer.
☐ Provide me with information about Baptism for adults.
☐ Provide me with information about receiving First Communion and/or Confirmation for adults.
☐ Provide me with information on what it means to be a Catholic; have a strong faith in Jesus.
☐ Provide me with information on the Bible and what Catholics believe about Sacred Scripture.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.
Re-Examining My Faith
for the Groom

Name______________________________Age:____

* Please complete this survey fully. As you answer the multiple choice questions, put a check mark near the statements that best describe you.

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   □ Both My Parents  □ a religion teacher
   □ Father            □ a Catholic school teacher
   □ Mother            □ a religious person
   □ a family member  □ other

2. I consider myself:
   □ a good human being
   □ a Christian
   □ a Catholic
   □ all of the above
   □ none of the above

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   □ I attend Mass
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   □ other ____________________________________________________________
5. What difference will it make to you in having your marriage blessed in the Church?
   □ I will be closer to my spouse.
   □ I will be closer to God.
   □ I will receive special graces to help me live my marriage.
   □ I will have a solid foundation for our future together.
   □ Other

   **Your Perspective on being a Catholic**

6. What does it mean to belong to the Catholic Church?
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   □ Belonging to the Church includes being registered in the parish near where I live.
   □ Belonging to the Church means accepting the teachings of Jesus and patterning our lives after them and becoming involved in my parish.
   □ Other

7. What does it mean to raise children in the Catholic Faith?
   □ The Church is responsible for the education of the children. Once parents have baptized their children, their job is to send the children to Religious Education classes once they reach the first grade level in school and let someone else teach their children about their faith.
   □ Parents have the responsibility and privilege to share their values, including faith in God, with their children by words and by example.
   □ Parents provide a positive and religious example in their homes for their children as well as in their parish by having their children participate in religious education classes and in Sunday worship.
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8. Noted below are the personal qualities I consider most important in the person that I wish to marry.

(Check those that apply to your future spouse)

☐ Responsible  ☐ Loyal
☐ Mature       ☐ Loving
☐ Dependable   ☐ Shares My Faith
☐ Independent  ☐ Other_  

Your Family of Origin

9. A. The two things I learned about married life from my parents’ marriage that I want to make real in our marriage are:

B. The two things I learned about family life from my parents that I want to make real in our family are:

C. The two things I learned about God and my religious heritage from my parents that I will share with my spouse and children are:
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□ Provide me with a copy of the parish bulletin containing the Mass schedule.
□ Provide me with a census card so we may register as parishioners.
□ Other ____________________________

11. How can we assist you in your faith life? Check the appropriate boxes below.

□ Provide me with information about prayer.
□ Provide me with information about Baptism for adults.
□ Provide me with information about receiving First Communion and/or Confirmation for adults.
□ Provide me with information on what it means to be a Catholic; have a strong faith in Jesus.
□ Provide me with information on the Bible and what Catholics believe about Sacred Scripture.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.
Please complete this form and submit it with your “Re-Examining My Faith” forms:

Connection to this parish:
Do you want the Marriage to take place at a Mass?  YES  NO

Day of Marriage: Sunday  Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday
Date:  Time:

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<th>BRIDE</th>
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<td>Mother’s maiden Name</td>
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<td>Mother’s Religion</td>
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<td>Is this Your First Marriage?</td>
<td>YES  NO</td>
<td>YES  NO</td>
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<td>If the answer to the above was “NO”:  a. How did the marriage end (divorce, death, etc)?</td>
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<td>a.</td>
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<td>b. If married in the Church, has an annulment been granted?</td>
<td>b.YES  NO</td>
<td>b.YES  NO</td>
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