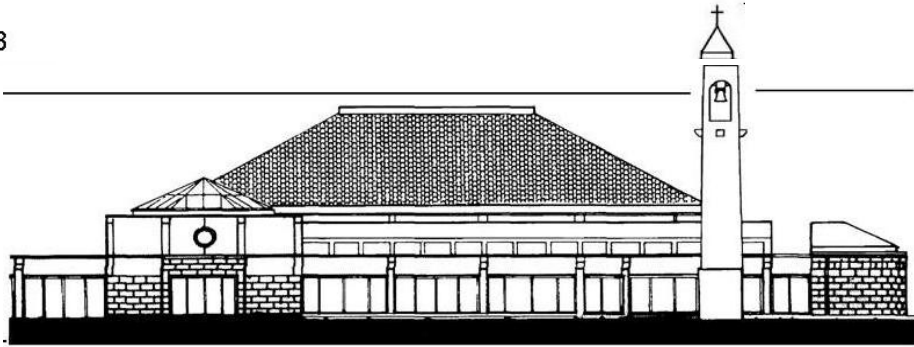


Church of St. Joseph  
1154 Seminole Avenue  
West St. Paul, MN 55118

# LINK



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## **Q&A with Dick Miller, Parish Photographer Extraordinaire**



**Tell us a little bit about yourself? Where are you from? Where did you go to school? Is your family from this area?**

My parents/grandparents, as well as my wife's, are from the West Side of St. Paul and our families were members of Holy Family Maronite Church that is located on the West Side of St. Paul. I attended St. Matthew's and Assumption grade schools, Hill High School and UW-River Falls.

Anne and I were married at Holy Family. Prior to the birth of our first son, we decided to join St. Joseph's in West St. Paul because of the reputation of both church and school. We both attended Catholic grade schools and high schools and knew how important it was to give our children the same opportunity. All three of our boys went to St. Joe's.

### **How did you first get involved in photography?**

After retiring from West Publishing, I was approached by a small publisher in Minneapolis to help with odds and ends in the office part-time. Taking photos at state and/or national conventions became one of my responsibilities. When you have a good camera the rest is easy...point and push the button.

### **You seem to be everywhere. What do you like most about taking photos of events at the parish?**

The people! Current and past priests are great. They are very warm, caring and passionate about their faith. I have heard many times from others that have visited St. Joseph's that they feel welcome when they attend Mass or various activities. It's a vibrant parish!

## **What do you like to do in your free time? What are your interests?**

I enjoy almost all sports and now, at my age, it's more sitting and watching.

## **What else would you like parishioners to know about you?**

I recently joined the Knights of Columbus. Our council services five parishes: St. Joseph's and St. Michael's of West St. Paul; St. Matthew's, and Our Lady of Guadalupe on the West Side of St. Paul and Holy Family Maronite Church in Mendota Heights (formerly on the West Side of St. Paul). I attend "Regular Joes Who Pray" every Tuesday morning and I have an assigned Eucharistic hour of adoration. My wife and I are extraordinary ministers of the Holy Eucharist, and we serve on the teaching committee for our seminarian, Tim Lawrence. I love St. Joe's!

## **School News: Catholic Schools Week & Open Houses Kick Off New Year**



January 31 through February 6 is designated as Catholic Schools' Week. St. Joseph's School will be celebrating with a variety of activities. Students will be participating during weekend masses the weekend of January 30 and our Junior High Choir will be providing the music ministry at the 9 a.m. liturgy.

St. Joseph's School Board is hosting two open house events during Catholic Schools' Week. Parishioners are invited to visit the school on Sunday, January 31, from noon to 2 p.m. Administrators, School Board members, faculty and staff will be available to answer questions and lead tours of the building. A second open house will be held Wednesday, February 3, from 9 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. Visitors are welcome to observe all classrooms.

A Kindergarten Information Night is scheduled for Monday, February 8, at 7 p.m., in the Msgr. Foran Great Room. We encourage all interested parishioners to attend - we know you will be impressed. St. Joseph's offers all-day, every day kindergarten. (A half-day program may be offered if there is sufficient interest.)

Our very successful, faith-based preschool will host a Preschool Registration / Information meeting on Tuesday, January 26, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, January 31, at 2 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the school's cafeteria. Come hear about several new programming options. For more information, please call Annie Broos at (651) 789-8300.

St. Joseph's offers before and after school care in our building through a program run by the YMCA. This program has been a great service and support to our families. Information will be available during our open houses. It is also available from the YMCA by calling (651) 457-0048.

We would love to have your family become part of our school community. Registration for the 2010-2011 school year will take place in February. Financial assistance is available and we are committed to making a Catholic education possible for all interested parishioners. Please call the school office at (651) 457-8550 for additional information or to set up an appointment with the School Principal, Jane Nordin.

## **How has St. Joseph's Changed Your Life?**

Have you been affected in some way by our parish? Has an event, a person or an experience had such a profound effect on you that it's changed you, your faith or your perspectives in some way? Let us know.

We'd like to include these types of stories in future issues of the Link, on the parish website or in the weekly bulletin. Please send your story, along with your name, phone number and email address, to the Link editor, Bridget Zappa, at [bczappa@comcast.net](mailto:bczappa@comcast.net). Photos make great story companions. Please send any appropriate photos with your story submission

Please note that we may not be able to publish every story, and that every story may be edited.

## **Featured Saint for January: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**

*Editor's note: Beginning with this issue, The Link will highlight the life of a saint whose feast day is that month.*

Feast Day: January 4, 1821

Elizabeth Bayley Seton was the first native born American to be canonized by the Catholic Church.

Born two years before the American Revolution, Elizabeth grew up in the "cream" of New York society. She was a prolific reader, and read everything from the Bible to contemporary novels.

In spite of her high society background, Elizabeth's early life was quiet, simple and often lonely. As she grew a little older, the Bible was to become her continual instruction, support and comfort; she would continue to love the Scriptures for the rest of her life.

In 1794, Elizabeth married the wealthy young William Seton, with whom she was deeply in love. The first years of their marriage were happy and prosperous. Elizabeth wrote in her diary at first autumn, "My own home at twenty-the world-that and heaven too-quite impossible."



This time of Elizabeth's life was to be a brief moment of earthly happiness before the many deaths and partings she was to suffer. Within four years, Will's father died, leaving the young couple in charge of Will's seven half brothers and sisters, as well as the family's importing business. Now events began to move fast - and with devastating effect. Both Will's business and his health failed. He was finally forced to file a petition of bankruptcy. In a final attempt to save Will's health, the Setons sailed for Italy, where Will had business friends. Will died of tuberculosis while in Italy. Elizabeth's one consolation was that Will had recently awakened to the things of God.

The many enforced separations from dear ones by death and distance, served to draw Elizabeth's heart to God and eternity. The accepting and embracing of God's will - "The Will," as she called it - would be a keynote in her spiritual life.

Elizabeth's deep concern for the spiritual welfare of her family and friends eventually led her into the Catholic Church.

In Italy, Elizabeth captivated everyone by her own kindness, patience, good sense, wit and courtesy. During this time Elizabeth became interested in the Catholic Faith, and over a period of months, her Italian friends guided her in Catholic instructions.

Elizabeth's desire for the Bread of Life was to be a strong force leading her to the Catholic Church.

Having lost her mother at an early age, Elizabeth felt great comfort in the idea that the Blessed Virgin was truly her mother. She asked the Blessed Virgin to guide her to the True Faith. Elizabeth finally joined the Catholic Church in 1805.

At the suggestion of the president of St. Mary's College in Baltimore, Maryland, Elizabeth started a school in that city. She and two other young women, who helped her in her work, began plans for a Sisterhood. They established the first free Catholic school in America. When the young community adopted their rule, they made provisions for Elizabeth to continue raising her children.

On March 25, 1809, Elizabeth Seton pronounced her vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, binding for one year. From that time she was called Mother Seton.

Although Mother Seton was now afflicted with tuberculosis, she continued to guide her children. The Rule of the Sisterhood was formally ratified in 1812. It was based upon the

Rule St. Vincent de Paul had written for his Daughters of Charity in France. By 1818, in addition to their first school, the sisters had established two orphanages and another school. Today six groups of sisters trace their origins to Mother Seton's initial foundation.

For the last three years of her life, Elizabeth felt that God was getting ready to call her, and this gave her joy. Mother Seton died in 1821 at the age of 46, only 16 years after becoming a Catholic. She was canonized on September 14, 1975.

*Reprinted from [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)*

### **Prayer**

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, for ever and ever.