

Name of Faith Group:

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

Denominational / National Affiliations:

Roman Catholic

The basic principles of our faith:

Mission Statement: "...To encourage one another to grow in a faith relationship with Jesus Christ, responding through prayer with love and service to our community."

Principles and practices of our faith that especially motivate our participation in IFC:

Interfaith Participation and Dialogue

Primary community outreach / mission / service / involvement activities:

Listed on the website below.

Website address:

<http://seas-parish.org>

Contact Information:

Very Rev. Grzegorz Cioch, V.F., Pastor

Phone: 970-226-1303

Fax: 970-226-5870

Email: seas@seas-parish.org

Interfaith Representative:

Gordon Hadlow, ghadlow@q.com

Address:

5450 South Lemay Avenue

Fort Collins, CO 80525

Benefits we derive from participation in the Interfaith Council:

Interface with other faith communities.

Interface with other service organizations.

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HISTORY

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Fort Collins, Colorado

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish began in the 1980s, as the growing city of Fort Collins saw rapid growth towards the southeast. It was determined that the town needed another parish to meet the needs of the Catholic faithful. A Mass was held on Thanksgiving Day, 1980, at the Lake Sherwood clubhouse, to introduce Father Kenneth Koeler to Catholics who lived south of Drake Road. Shortly thereafter, Archbishop James Casey of Denver appointed Rev. Koeler to be the founding pastor of the new parish, which would be established in the area of Lemay Avenue and Harmony Road, effective January 15, 1981. The parish would have as its patron St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American born citizen to be canonized a Saint in Rome on September 14, 1975.

The first official Masses for the parish were held on Palm Sunday, April 5, 1981 in the former Fort Collins High School on South Remington. A search for a property to build the new church began, and a 13 acre parcel was purchased at 5450 South Lemay Avenue. At the time of purchase, Lemay Avenue was still a dirt road south of Harmony Road. During the interim period, services were also held at St Luke's Episcopal Church on Stover Street, and Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Lemay Ave. The new church building was completed and dedicated on September 22, 1985, a multi-purpose facility that incorporated worship, fellowship, religious education, and youth activities.

Father Bert Chilson became pastor in 1992, and planning for the expansion of the building began. In 1998, building of the vestibule, offices and a conference room was completed, and in 2003, the new pastor, Father Larry Christensen presided over the dedication of Seton Hall and the Religious Education Center. The next project on the horizon will be the updating of the worship area.

The current pastor is Father Gregory Cioch, and the assistant pastor is Father Joseph Toledo. They are assisted by two deacons, Bill Trewartha and Don Weiss. Today, the congregation consists of over 2300 families, who participate in worship, fellowship, and religious education, to meet our parish mission "to encourage one another to grow in a faith relationship with Jesus Christ, responding through prayer with love and service to our neighbor."